

Staffordshire Local Government Association

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STAFFORDSHIRE AND STOKE-ON-TRENT JOINT WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD HELD ON MONDAY 22 JULY 2015 AT COUNCIL OFFICES, CODSALL

Present:

Cannock Chase District Council

Mr. J. Presland

Staffordshire County Council

Cllr. C.G. Heath

Mr. J. Howard

Mr. C. Jones

Mrs. C. Ruskin-Brown

East Staffordshire Borough Council

Mr. P. Farrer

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Mrs. R. Dodd

Lichfield District Council

Cllr. I Eadie

Mr. N. Harris

Stoke-on-Trent City Council

Ms. C. Gibbs

Cllr. T. Follows

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council

Cllr. A. Beech

Mr. T. Nicoll

South Staffordshire District Council

Mr. S. Alexander

Cllr. M. Bond

Mrs. J. Smith

Stafford Borough Council

Cllr. F. Finlay

Mr. H. Thomas

Tamworth Borough Council

Mr. A. Barratt

Also in attendance: Mr J. Lindop (Staffordshire County Council), and Ms K. Cocks (Staffordshire Waste Partnership Officer).

Apologies: Cllr. Mrs. P. Ackroyd (East Staffordshire Borough Council); Mr. I. Benson (Staffordshire County Council); Cllr. A. Dudson (Cannock Chase District Council); Cllr. A. Forrester (Staffordshire Moorlands District Council); Mrs. N. Kemp (Staffordshire Moorlands District Council); Mrs. D. Tilley (Lichfield District Council); Mrs. S. Talbot (Staffordshire County Council); Ms. M. Thurgood (Tamworth Borough Council)

PART ONE

Minutes

67. **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

68. There were no matters arising which were not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.

Joint Waste Management Board Sub Group - Update (Schedule 1)

69. The Board received the minutes of the Joint Waste Management Board Sub-Group meeting held on 1 July 2015 for information which included progress reports in respect of the following projects:-

- Food Waste Prevention Project Group (closed project);
- Developer Bin Policy (closed project);
- Fleet Procurement (closed project);
- Dry Recyclables Processing Contract Procurement (on-going project);
- Four Ashes Joint Campaign (on-going project);
- Holistic Savings for Staffordshire (new Project)

Members noted the good progress which had been made in various projects, including those which had been completed since their previous meeting. With regard to the Food Waste Prevention Project, Fun Food Packs had been launched and circulated to all Partner Authorities. The packs had also had also been made available on the Staffordshire Waste Partnership Website and publicised in the press.

The Developer Bin Policy, the Waste Guidance for Developers document had been completed and issued to all Partner Authorities for implementation as necessary. Included in the document was a method of payment for Councils wishing to charge for the provision of bins.

With regard to Fleet Procurement, East Staffordshire Borough Council had recently let their fleet contract to Gulliver's with assistance from the Staffordshire Waste Partnership Officer who had moderated the tender evaluation process as an impartial advisor. The Waste Partnership Officer had also assisted the Borough Council during a potential legal challenge by the second place tenderer and offered to moderate Lichfield District and Tamworth Borough Council's tender evaluation for their Fleet contract.

70. **RESOLVED** – That the reports be received and the progress on projects made to date be noted.

Strategic Waste Management Action Plan - Performance Report (Schedule 2)

71. The Board considered a report of the Chairman of the Staffordshire Waste Officers' Group regarding the progress made towards delivery of the Strategic Waste Management Action Plan.

From the data which had been received, most Authorities had collected less residual waste per household (NI191) in this period (quarter 4) when compared to quarter 3 2014/15. This trend was also reflected in the year end statistics. However, performance under NI192: "Household Waste Sent for Reuse, Recycling or Composting" had also declined for all Partners when compared to quarter 3 2014/15. With regard to NI193: "% of municipal waste landfilled", the County Council's performance indicated a slight reduction (0.34%) in the current period compared to Quarter 3. Members noted that the quarterly statistics for Stoke-on-Trent City Council were unavailable although the year-end total was 10.62%.

Members were pleased to note the decrease in residual waste collected but looked forward to an improvement in the statistics for waste recycled and sent to landfill. They were agreed over the urgent need to continue promoting the message of 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle' with the public for both environmental and financial reasons.

72. **RESOLVED** – That the report be received and noted.

Reports for Information (Schedule 3)

73. The Board received a Briefing Note from the Staffordshire Waste Partnership Officer – Waste Management Savings (as submitted to the Staffordshire Chief Executive's Group at their meeting on 9 July 2015).

The note had been prepared following a request by Members at their previous meeting and set out the background to the discussions which had already taken place regarding Staffordshire County Council's aim of achieving financial savings of £1.5m in their waste management operations over the next five years (as set out in their Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015-2020). The Authority had initially proposed that (i) a reduced level of Green Waste Credits (GWC) should be paid to District and Borough Councils in instances where they were intending to charge for Green Waste collections (to ensure that both collection and disposal Authorities benefitted from the additional income received) and; (ii) the abolition of the automatic annual 3% inflationary increase in credits paid to Waste Collection Authorities.

However, following the meeting of the Board on 23 March 2015 at which Members had opposed the proposals stating that there was no political appetite to introduce a chargeable service at present, various other options had initially been considered including (i) freezing the annual 3% inflationary increase in GWC for three years; (ii) linking the annual increase to the Consumer Price Index and; (iii) recalculating the rate of GWCs which had originally been fixed in 2006.

In addition, the note detailed all other possible options for achieving disposal savings (having regard to the onus being on the Waste Disposal Authority) together with holistic longer term waste management savings for the entire Partnership in order to provide cost effective services for the residents of Staffordshire going forward. These included financial adjustments and soft measures such as a review of staffing levels and salaries etc.

74. **RESOLVED** – That the briefing note be received.

Dates of Future Meetings

75. **RESOLVED** – That further meetings of the Board be held in

- October 2015 on a date and at a time to be arranged, at District Council House, Lichfield;
- January 2016 on a date and at a time to be arranged, at Civic Offices, Merrial Street, Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Exclusion of the Public

76. **RESOLVED** – That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) as indicated below.

PART TWO

Achieving Savings in Waste Management

(exemption paragraph 3)

(Schedule 4)

77. The Chairman of the Staffordshire Waste Officers' Group introduced Dr. David Greenfield, an advisor to the Waste Network Co-ordinators, who had a wide knowledge of Local Authorities nationwide that had been required to make savings in their waste management and other operations. Dr. Greenfield had offered to help facilitate the Board's discussion of the issues set out above, as an impartial advisor, with a view to ensuring suitable actions were taken to avoid cost shunting and achieve holistic savings for all partners.

The Board then received the following oral reports/PowerPoint presentations:-

- Savings (attached as Appendix A to the signed minutes) from Chris Jones, Team Manager: Waste Policy and Climate Change.
- Joint Working (attached as Appendix B to the signed minutes) from Dr. Greenfield and the Staffordshire Waste Partnership Officer.

During his presentation, Mr Jones explained that the County Council had already achieved significant savings in waste management in recent years including (i) £70,000 from the re-classification of Clinical Waste; (ii) £3m from a reduction in landfill and; (iii) £240,000 from a new Household Waste Recycling Centre (HRWC) Contract. In addition, income had been generated from the implementation of Schedule 2 charges relating to the collection of waste from non-residential premises.

Further measures identified for implementation included the introduction of charging for non- household waste at HWRCs and the retender of the Hanford Waste to Energy Contract. However, the remaining options available for achieving the £1.5m target set out in the Authority's Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015-2020 were limited and centred around modifications to the current HWRC contract eg rationalisation of site provision and the introduction of permitting schemes.

The meeting then adjourned so that Members could examine the various options in greater detail in an informal setting. With the assistance of the Staffordshire Waste Partnership Officer, they focused on short term options as set out above. Meanwhile officers from all Partner Authorities together with Dr. Greenfield focussed on the longer term with a view to achieving savings for all Staffordshire residents.

Following the recommencement of the meeting, the Vice-Chairman took the Chair owing to the Chairman having a prior engagement at her Authority.

The Waste Partnership Officer reported that during their group session, Members had provisionally agreed to seek approval from their respective Authorities' Cabinets to annual increases in Green Waste Recycling Credits for 2016/17 and 2017/18 being in line with the Retail Price Index. In addition, the representative of the County Council had agreed that her Authority should re-examine their policy with regard to HWRC provision with a view to releasing further savings where appropriate.

The Member representative of Lichfield District Council said that District and Borough Partners had provisionally agreed to re-examine their waste minimisation strategies with a view to seeking further reductions in the volume of residual waste generated, including undertaking further publicity campaigns to achieve desired outcomes, if required.

Dr. Greenfield informed the Board that during their group session officers had agreed to (i) establish a baseline cost for the waste collection service at their respective Authorities; (ii) explore opportunities for greater joint working between Partner and neighbouring Authorities and for an options appraisal to be prepared for consideration by Members at the appropriate time and; (iii) Having regard to the circular economy whereby growth was decoupled from the use of natural resources, examine how the waste collection and disposal functions could be future proofed against changes in demand and financial constraints of Partners.

78. **RESOLVED** – (a) That Partners seek approval to Green Waste Recycling Credits for 2016/17 and 2017/18 being in line with the Retail Price Index rather than an automatic 3% increase as at present, with a view to reporting back to the next meeting of the Board, so that a Partnership-Wide decision may be made.

(b) That District and Borough Partners re-examine their Waste Minimisation Strategies with a view to seeking further reductions in residual waste including undertaking additional publicity campaigns, if required.

(c) That the Waste Partnership Officer informs the Chief Executive's Group of the above-mentioned proposals.

(d) That the Waste Partnership Officer produce a plan of action and baseline costing spreadsheet using a standard methodology together with any other required documentation to form the background assessments for presentation to the Board at their next meeting in October 2015.

CHAIRMAN