

PROJECT PROGRESS REPORTS

Closed projects

Veolia Four Ashes joint campaign for 2015/16

The 2015/16 campaign is now completed and being used by the County Council as no Collection Authorities wished to uptake the campaign.

CPC training collaborations

The training broker offered no financial savings and therefore the Transport Officers decided not to take forward the options of joint procuring CPC training due to the constrictions of planning, but are open to it in the future and remain considerate of other authorities should ad hoc opportunities arise.

Calendars

The joint creation / delivery of calendars was discussed at SWOG and deemed only suitable for the potential to procure a forfillment contract via a framework, however this was such a low priority given more pressing work in the arena that the project has halted and will be resurrected at a more suitable time.

On-going projects

Holistic savings for Staffordshire

The last JWMB saw the presentation of the Local Partnerships report – from this 4 work streams were created; a DEFRA contract review of Four Ashes, WRAP project on food waste, working group on chargeable garden collection, and a working group on residual frequency. These are discussed in the new projects sections.

Bulky waste

SWOG discussions are taking place to asses the potential for a county wide bulky waste collection service which focuses more heavily on reuse, to offer consistency and efficiency for residents, with a central point of contact, and a singular pricing structure. Options include outsourcing (piggybacking on the to the reuse aspect of the FCC HWRC contract), creating a third sector based framework, or harmonising methods but remaining collections as per individual authorities.

FCC are not currently able to offer any assistance but are not adverse to the idea in the future. So progression is moving towards the potential of a third sector framework.

Food Partnership

Following the creation last year of the educational resources on food waste reduction, the packs have been delivered by our partners. Following the creation f the Staffordshire Food Partnership,

SWP has become actively involved in the food waste task group and in meeting new partners to deliver the resources on our behalf.

Furthermore, SWP has recently met with the North Staffs Community Food Group, many of whom are keen to use our resource and collaborate on future food waste initiatives.

Guidance on food waste is also being provided to the Stoke on Trent City Council's bid to become a 'sustainable food city'.

All these contacts will prove very useful should the authorities wish to undertake a separate food waste collection service, in helping us to deliver our messages etc.

SBC contract procurement

SBC are hiring Kay Cocks at the day consultancy rate for specialist technical assistance to the procurement of their collection and processing contract, acting as a critical friend. So far, Kay is spending up to 1 day a week on this project, attending board meetings, writing minutes, drafting the specification and aiding in the creation of the procurement documentation. This work level is expected to continue throughout the year, with peaks and troughs during the procurement process.

MRF contract issues

Unfortunately, the issues with the Biffa MRF contract are yet to be resolved, despite many official letters back and forth from both parties. The councils involved remain hopeful of a swift solution as discussions progress. This matter has not been aided by recent management changes at Biffa.

New projects

Veolia Four Ashes joint campaign for 2016/17

Work is now underway for the next year's campaign, however this will be directly managed by the contract staff at the County Council to ensure a more useable end result for all councils. The focus upon this campaign is a process diagram design to show what happens to out waste streams, as an educational resource.

Bartec user group

SWOG agreed that a specialist user group for all Bartec using councils would be beneficial. The meeting of the user group offered many discussions on best practice, lessons learnt, and opportunities to share resources / training. One major outcome is the potential to secure a full contract for the authorities, however initial investigation suggests there may be issues with official contracts in procurement regulation.

Fly-tipping procedures

Transport Officers have requested a specific meeting with FCC and the county council to full understand the issues with fly tipping and ensure county wide consistency. This meeting is opened up to any street cleansing colleagues.

Garden waste working group

A working group focusing on chargeable garden waste collections met on 10th June at Newcastle's depot, attended by representatives from the County Council, Newcastle Borough Council, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, and Lichfield and Tamworth Joint Waste Service. The group had a lengthy discussion about barriers, opportunities, efficiency, and benchmarking. The group will table a report at JWMB.

Residual frequency working group

The working group on reductions in residual collection frequency / capacity met on 15th June at the Four Ashes incinerator, attended by representatives from the County Council, Stoke on Trent City Council, East Staffordshire Borough Council, Newcastle Borough Council, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, Lichfield and Tamworth Joint Waste Service, and South Staffordshire District Council. The group had lengthy discussion on collaboration, holistic savings, knock on affects to other contracts, restrictions, and needed information. As such, the group determined the WRAP work will feed into this project. The group will table a report at JWMB.

WRAP collaboration

Work with WRAP to become a Local Authority case study for their consistency project, receiving free support for modelling (as recommended in the LP report and the proposal at JWMB) has commenced. We are one of only 6 projects being undertaken with WRAP, estimated to receive up to £60,000 worth of free consultancy.

WRAP have agreed to our proposal in a meeting on 7th June and are drafting a full scoping document, whilst collating the required data and information from councils. It is expected that, following a confirmation discussion with the project manager next week, the final report will be available for October / November.

DEFRA review

DEFRA / WIDP are currently undertaking a free review of the Four Ashes contract (as recommended in the Local Partnerships report). Jim Busby, our lead from DEFRA, is working with the County Council to review the contract. By the time JWMB occurs, the 2 day interview period should be completed and general feedback given straight away (no report date yet advised). Chris Jones at the County Council will update at JWMB.

Annual reporting

The collation of the annual financial data is being requested, prior to inclusion in the Autumn update annual report.

Potential future projects

Wheeled bin framework

From discussion during SBC contract procurement meetings, the idea of having a SWP single provider framework for wheeled bins has developed and will be discussed by SWOG to assess the projects potential to offer both avoided costs (as ongoing staff time and regular procurement works) and savings (a better unit price) as well as the potential to include a rebate for external use of the SWP framework.

Additional

External advice

A number of authorities outside Staffordshire have requested advice on how to become a partnership like us, after hearing of our success at collaboration without enforcing a standard system. As such, Kay Cocks has been advising authorities on how to adopt our model of working.