

PROJECT PROGRESS REPORTS

Closed projects

Food Partnership

The Food Partnership was led by the County Council but the Officer in charge has now moved jobs and the partnership has lapsed with no one taking over.

On-going projects

Holistic savings for Staffordshire

Following the last JWMB meeting, several work streams were generated. At the meeting, the WRAP / consultancy modelling report was presented and discussed, which created amendments to the report before final issue.

Following the discussion around the expression of interest for future funding with WRAP, which led to concern around timings. The original plans for WRAP funding centre around the next financial year, which JWMB decided was pushing the project back in time. Following the meeting, discussion with WRAP continued and resulted in a development of the current project and alteration to the expression of interest. WRAP agreed to extend the current modelling project by offering us a further £5,000 funding immediately to continue the modelling. This allowed the consultants to extend the scenarios modelling to include a more detailed approach to options for charging for garden waste. The results of this modelling have been added to the existing report and will be sent to JWMB as a paper for the next meeting.

The expression of interest was adapted to note the extension of the current project. The remaining work centred around developing a financial mechanism and was submitted to WRASP for consideration. WRAP have expressed their interest in our work idea and SWP are meeting with WRAP to flesh out plans to take things forward, where future funding will be agreed. The meeting is scheduled for 23rd January, so more information will be noted at JWMB.

At JWMB, the discussion noted concern with our PFI credits due to the negative affect charging for garden waste has on recycling performance when our credits are heavily linked to performance levels and promised targets. The County Council have taken the lead on writing to DEFRA, as the main council contracted for the PFI credits. After discussion with DEFRA, the letter was submitted at officer level rather than raising the concerns as a political issue, based on advice from DEFRA. A response has been requested prior to the next JWMB meeting, so it can be discussed at the meeting.

For further information on charging for garden waste services, SWP are visiting two Waste Collection Authorities in Leicestershire who currently charge for garden waste collection after previously offering a free service. The two visits are scheduled for mid January for officers, who will report back for discussion at JWMB.

SBC contract procurement

The procurement has now reached the ISIT stage, with four bidders being taken through from the initial tendering stage, following evaluation of bids from 6 potential contractors.

MRF contract issues

Dispute resolution with Biffa is still underway but progress is being made. Agreement has been made and legal inclusion into the contract has begun, however it is now on hold to solve a further issue with following a discrepancy with calculations.

Bartec user group

The user group has met for a third time, this time incorporating back office staff to open up the established knowledge sharing channels in place between the councils. Official procurement is commencing with Lichfield and Tamworth's Joint Waste Service.

WDF letter

Following a response on previous concerns, SWP is submitting an additional letter to Waste Data Flow with concerns from the WDF users, to relay usability issues in depth.