

Staffordshire Local Government Association

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STAFFORDSHIRE AND STOKE-ON-TRENT JOINT WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2016 AT COUNCIL OFFICES CODSALL

Present:

Cannock Chase District Council

Cllr. J. Preece
Mrs. N. Samrai

Stafford Borough Council

Cllr. F. Finlay
Mr. P.H. Gammon
Mr. H. Thomas

East Staffordshire Borough Council

Cllr. P. Ackroyd
Mr. P. Costiff
Cllr. R. Grosvenor
Mr. P. Farrer
Mr. A. O'Brien

Staffordshire County Council

Cllr. Mrs. C.G. Heath
Mr. C. Jones
Mrs. C. Ruskin-Brown
Mr. C. Thomson

Lichfield District Council

Cllr. I. Eadie
Mr. R. King

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Cllr. A. Forrester
Ms. N. Kemp
Mr. K. Parker

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council

Mr. A. Bird
Mr. T. Nicoll

Stoke-on-Trent City Council

Mr. B. Brockbank
Mr. D. Parton

South Staffordshire District Council

Cllr. Mrs. M. Bond (Chairman)
Mr. D. Heywood
Mrs. J. Smith

Tamworth Borough Council

Mr. A. Barratt
Mr. Harris

Also in attendance:), Mr. M. Gardner (Waste and Resources Action Programme); Mr. C. Hoy (Ricardo-AEA), Mr J. Lindop (Staffordshire County Council) and Ms K. Cocks (Staffordshire Waste Partnership Manager).

Apologies: Cllr. Mrs. A. Beech (Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council), Mr. B. Brockbank (Stoke-on-Trent City Council), Mr. T.Clegg (Stafford Borough Council), Cllr. T. Follows (Stoke-on-Trent City Council), Ms. C. Gibbs (Stoke-on-Trent City Council), Cllr. Mrs. J. Goodall (Tamworth Borough Council).

PART ONE

Minutes

18. **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2016 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Joint Waste Management Board Sub Group – Update (schedule 1)

19. The Board received progress reports in respect of the following projects from the Staffordshire Waste Partnership Manager:-

- Fly-tipping procedures (closed project);
- Annual Reporting (closed project);
- Veolia Four Ashes Joint Campaign for 2016/17 (closed project);
- Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs Review (closed project);
- Holistic Financial Savings for Staffordshire (on-going project);
- Food Partnership (on-going project);
- Stafford Borough Council Contract Procurement (on-going project);
- Mixed Recycling Facility Contract Issues (on-going project);
- Bartec User Group (on-going project);
- Bulky Waste (on-hold project).

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

Strategic Waste Management Action Plan – Performance Report (schedule 2)

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

East Staffordshire Borough Council, Lichfield District Council, Cannock Chase District Council, South Staffordshire District Council and Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council had all experienced increases in "N191:Residual Household Waste Collected per Household" during Quarter 1 2016/17 when compared to the same period in 2015/16. The statistics also indicated a similar position when compared to those for the previous Quarter ie Quarter 4 2015/16. However, the position with regard to "N192:% of Household Waste Sent for Reuse, Recycling and Composting" was more encouraging. Those Partners who had submitted data had experienced significant increases when compared to the previous Quarter ie Quarter 4 2015/16.

During the discussion which ensued Members noted that the Quarter 1 figures for Stafford Borough Council and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council were not available. Therefore, Mr. Nicholl requested that going forward; all Partners submit the required data in good time so as to enable its inclusion into future performance reports to the Board.

22. **RESOLVED** – (a) That the report be received and noted.

(b) That all Partners ensure that the data required for inclusion into future performance reports to the Board be provided to the Partnership Manager in good time.

Household Waste Recycling Centres – Charging for Non-Household Waste

23. The Board received an oral report from the County Council's Director of Economy Infrastructure and Skills on the implementation of a scheme of charging for non-household waste received at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs).

The County Council did not have a statutory duty to dispose of any waste generated by Staffordshire residents other than that which arose from their normal day to day occupation of homes. Furthermore, the legal definition of domestic waste did not extend to rubbish from 'Do-it-Yourself' jobs and garden maintenance. Therefore, with effect from 1 November 2016, the County Council had introduced a policy of charging for some types of non-household waste (including soil, rubble, plasterboard and tyres etc) from private individuals at their HWRCs. It was intended that any receipts generated from this policy would be used towards the cost of treatment/disposal of the waste. It would also help to ensure that HWRCs were not used by commercial enterprises seeking to dispose of trade waste free of charge.

Members noted that under the charging scheme, soil/rubble was priced at £3 per bag, plasterboard £4 per bag and tyres £4 each. Full details of all the charges had been made available at HWRCs and on the Staffordshire Web. Payment was required to be made by debit or credit card at the point of deposit.

During the discussion which ensued, Members highlighted the numerous objections which they had received from residents to the introduction of the above-mentioned charges. The representative of Cannock Chase District Council went onto to refer to a motion his Authority had recently passed expressing (i) their opposition to the charges; (ii) their concern over a consequential increase in fly tipping and the cost of its removal (which would fall to District/Borough Councils) and; (iii) the lack of consultation undertaken by the County Council prior to the change in policy taking effect.

The officer representative of East Staffordshire Borough Council enquired how the County Council intended to monitor the effect of the policy on the incidence of fly tipping to which the Director said he would be working closely with the Staffordshire District/Borough Councils in this respect. With regard to consultation, he said that the matter had been discussed at meetings of the Staffordshire Waste Officers' Group (SWOG) and Joint Waste Management Board. However, no concerns had been raised.

However, the officer representative of Stafford Borough Council said that fly-tipping in his area had increased since the introduction of the charging policy.

The Chairman acknowledged the concerns which had been expressed and requested that an item on the operation of the policy since its introduction be included on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Board.

The County Council's Director of Economy Infrastructure and skills undertook to ensure that future consultation on policy changes which had a significant impact on the work of Partners was both timely and made at an appropriate level. With regard to acceptable payment methods at HRWCs he said that the number of complaints received from the public about the current arrangements would be monitored and the credit card only policy kept under review, as appropriate. The Director also clarified that he had previously discussed the charging policy with Stoke-on-Trent City Council having regard to the potential for an increase in Staffordshire residents using City sites.

24. **RESOLVED** – (a) That the report be received and noted.

(b) That a report on the operation of the policy of charging for non-household waste at Staffordshire HWRCs since its implementation be brought to the next meeting of the Board.

Date of Next Meeting

25. **RESOLVED** - That a further meeting of the Board be held on at Civic Centre, Cannock on a date and at a time to be arranged in January 2017.

Exclusion of the Public

26. **RESOLVED** – That the public be excluded for the following items of business which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Local Government Act 1972, indicated below.

PART TWO

WRAP Project – Modelling Report (exemption paragraph 3)

27. and 28. The Board received an exempt (i) presentation from external consultants Ricardo-AEA and; (ii) briefing note of the Staffordshire Waste Partnership Manager on the results of the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) funded project looking at service options to provide holistic financial savings for Staffordshire and took decisions thereon.

CHAIRMAN