

## Staffordshire Local Government Association

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STAFFORDSHIRE AND STOKE-ON-TRENT JOINT WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD HELD ON 23 MAY 2017 AT CIVIC CENTRE, CANNOCK

Present:

**Cannock Chase District Council**

Cllr. J. Preece  
Mr. S. Schofield

**Stafford Borough Council**

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

**East Staffordshire Borough  
Council**

Ms. K Cocks

**Staffordshire County Council**

Mrs. C. Ruskin-Brown  
Mr. T. Cooper  
Cllr. Mrs. G. Heath  
Mr. C. Jones

**Lichfield District Council**

Cllr. I. Eadie

**Staffordshire Moorlands District  
Council**

Mrs. J. Redfern

**Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough  
Council**

Mr. A. Bird  
Mr. T. Nicoll

**Stoke-on-Trent City Council**

Cllr. A. Dutton  
Ms. C. Gibbs

**South Staffordshire District Council**

Cllr. Mrs. M. Bond (Chairman)  
Mrs. J. Smith

**Tamworth Borough Council**

Mr. A. Barratt

**Also in attendance:** Mr. C. Hoy (Ricardo Energy & Environment); Mr. J. Lindop (Staffordshire County Council).

**Apologies:** Cllr. Mrs. A. Beech (Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council); Cllr. A. Forrester (Staffordshire Moorlands District Council); Cllr. Mrs. J. Goodall (Tamworth Borough Council); Mr. S. Khan (East Staffordshire Borough Council); Mr. J. Pressland (Cannock Chase District Council); Mr. C. Thomson (Staffordshire County Council).

#### **PART ONE**

#### **Minutes**

42. **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

## **Matters Arising**

43. In reply to a question from the Chairman, the County Council's Group Manager Sustainability and Waste Management informed them that following meetings with Staffordshire MPs, representations had been made to the Department for Environment Fisheries and Food regarding the need to correct an anomaly in their guidance which precluded the inclusion of Incinerator Bottom Ash in Waste Disposal Authorities' in England recycling statistical returns.

## **Implications of Elections 2017**

44. The officer representative of Stoke-on-Trent City Council informed them that her Authority had recently appointed Cllr. A. Munday as their representative on the Board and Cllr. A. Dutton as his substitute.

## **Strategic Waste Management Board Action Plan** (schedule 1)

45. The Board considered a report of the Chairman of the Staffordshire Waste Officers' Group regarding progress made towards delivery of the Strategic waste Management Board Action Plan during Quarter 3 2016/17.

With regard to N191: Residual Household Waste Collected per Household, the Partnership had experienced mixed performance when compared to Quarter 2 2016/17 with three authorities collecting less waste and four authorities increasing the amount collected. However, all Authorities had improved their performance with regard to percentage of household waste sent for recycling over the same period.

With regard to N192:% of Household Waste Sent for Re-use, Recycling or Composting, performance had been less encouraging with all Partners experiencing a decrease in waste when compared to Quarter 2. Members therefore noted that the percentage of waste sent for composting had declined significantly during the quarter.

The County Council's Group Manager; Sustainability and Waste Management commented that performance by Partners during Quarter 3 had mirrored national trends and should they continue, it was doubtful Staffordshire would meet the European Union's Waste Framework Directive recycling target of 50% by 2020.

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

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

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

- Holistic Financial Savings for Staffordshire (on-going project);
- Stafford Borough Council Contract Procurement (on-going project);
- Mixed Recycling Facility Contract Issues (on-going project);
- Partnership Forum (new project).

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

### **Holistic Savings for Staffordshire** (schedule 2)

#### **(a) Waste and Resources Action Programme Funding Update**

49. The Waste Partnership Manager informed them that all Partners had now signed the formal Agreement with the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) for additional support to explore the opportunities for implementing the findings of the WRAP study identifying preferred options to separately collect food waste from some or all of the households in Staffordshire who currently received kerbside household waste collection services. This was on the basis that there would be no alternation in their current arrangements until after the above-mentioned work had been completed.

The Board then received a Powerpoint presentation (slides attached at Appendix A to the signed minutes) from Chris Hoy of Ricardo Energy & Environment on the project support from WRAP setting out (i) a summary of Phase 1 and its findings; (ii) the success of the Phase 2 application in attracting additional funding; (iii) the objectives of Phase 2; (iv) an outline of the stages in Phase 2 including the scenarios for further investigation; (v) timescales and deliverables and; (vi) the governance arrangements established to oversee Phase 2.

During his presentation, Mr. Hoy highlighted the two main options which were to be explored during Phase 2 ie (i) food waste and chargeable garden waste collection service and; (ii) chargeable garden waste collection service only, for households in Staffordshire who currently received kerbside household waste collection services. A questionnaire would shortly be circulated to all Partners so that the data previously submitted for Phase 1 could be reviewed and updated as necessary and the various assumptions to be used, agreed.

In the discussion which ensued the officer representative of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council expressed his concern regarding the timescale for completion of the various stages of the project having regard to (i) the expectations of the Staffordshire Chief Executive's and; (ii) the political sensitivities surrounding the 2018 Local Elections. Continuing he said that it was vital no further slippage occurred in the delivery of holistic savings for Staffordshire. In reply, Mr. Hoy acknowledged these concerns but said he was confident the Steering Group would ensure the agreed timetable was adhered to. With regard to the Questionnaire in particular, Partners would be asked to respond by a given deadline after which, if no reply was received, default assumptions would be used so that the project could move forward.

The Member representative of Stafford Borough Council questioned why there was provision for only one representative from District/Borough Partners in the constitution of the Steering Group. In reply the Waste Partnership Manager clarified that the previous meeting of the Group had been called at short notice. However, any Partner who wished to be represented at future meetings was welcome to attend.

With regard to Lichfield District and Tamworth Borough Councils' recent decision to implement a chargeable Garden Waste service with effect from January 2018 ie in advance of the conclusion of the WRAP project, the officer representative of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council requested sight of the relevant reports/information which had led the Authorities to make this decision having regard its likely importance for Phase 2. In reply the Member representative of Lichfield District Council undertook to share this information, as requested.

However, whilst the officer representative of South Staffordshire District Council reiterated the need for consistency across the Partnership, he commented that the outcome of Phase 2 should not be prejudiced or constrained by Lichfield and Tamworth's decision.

50. **RESOLVED** – (a) That the presentation and progress made in the Phase 2 WRAP project be noted.

(b) That Lichfield District and Tamworth Borough Councils share any relevant information regarding the adoption of their new Garden Waste collection policy with the Partnership so that appropriate account could be made in Phase 2 having regard to the need for consistency and in the interests of joint working.

#### **(b) Hanford Update**

The Board received an oral report from the elected representative of Stoke-on-Trent City Council who informed them of the progress which had been made in respect of new arrangements for the disposal of household waste in the north of the County, following the end of the Hanford Incinerator contract in 2020.

Discussions had been held between the County Council and City Council regarding the various options available going forward. It was hoped that both Authorities would agree a Strategic Vision for the Project during the summer 2017 following which a more detailed options appraisal could be completed and he undertook to keep the Board updated on future developments in this respect, as necessary.

In reply to a request from the officer representative of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, it was agreed that they should be included in all future discussions between Partners regarding arrangements for a replacement waste disposal contract in the north of the County.

51. **RESOLVED** – (a) That the oral report be noted.

(b) That Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council be invited to participate in all future discussions between Partners on the future arrangements for the disposal of household waste in the north of the County, as requested.

### **(c) Strategy Development Post 2020**

52. The Waste Partnership Manager informed them that their Waste Management Strategy ran until 2020. She therefore sought their views as to when they wished to commence work on a new Strategy notwithstanding the significance and scope of their current work programme.

In the discussion which ensued Members agreed that the refresh of the Waste Strategy should be undertaken after the completion of the Holistic Financial Savings in Waste Project so that it could properly take account of any new policy which might emerge from this work.

53. **RESOLVED** – That work commence on refreshing the Partnership Waste Strategy after completion of Phase 2 of the WRAP project.

### **Household Waste Recycling Centres – Update**

54. The Board considered a Powerpoint presentation (slides attached at Appendix B to the signed minutes) from the County Council's Group Manager; Sustainability and Waste Management on the operation of a scheme of charging for non-household waste received at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HRWCs) which had been implemented on 1 November 2016.

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. Therefore, they 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 receipts generated from this charging policy would be used to offset the cost of treatment/disposal of the waste collected and also help to ensure that HWRCs were not used by traders seeking to dispose of waste free of charge.

During his presentation, the Group Manager set out the waste charges applicable to householders at HRWCs ie (i) soil/rubble £3 per bag; (ii) plasterboard £4 per bag or 180cm x 90cm sheet and; (iii) tyres (on or off rim) £4 per each. He then made reference to data relating to the incidence of fly tipping in the County during the quarter which indicated that it had remained relatively static when compared to the previous quarter.

However, the Group Manager said that whilst that the statistics for South Staffordshire had been unavailable it was hoped to included them in the next update report to the Board.

The Member representative of Cannock Chase District Council said that his Authority's experience of fly tipping during the period was at odds with the position indicated by the data. The officer representative of South Staffordshire District Council concurred with this view stating that a lack of information regarding the new policy had contributed to the problem in his area. In reply, the Group Manager said that the data contained in his presentation was based on the statistics supplied by each District and Borough Council. In addition, the County Council had undertaken a publicity campaign including press statements, leaflets, information on the Staffordshire web and at HWRCs.

In response to further questions from Members, the Group Manager indicated that the volume of residual waste collected at HWRCs during the final quarter of 2016/17 had also remained static. In addition, there had been no issues reported from neighbouring Waste Disposal Authorities regarding an increase in fly tipping or waste collected. However, there had been a number of complaints from Staffordshire residents about eg a lack of consistency in the application of the Policy and methods of payment. It was hoped that both these issues would be addressed in the near future.

In reply to a question from the Member representative of Lichfield District Council, the Group Manager said that whilst the County Council currently had no plans to review the provision of HWRCs in the County, should this position change, District and Borough Partners would be kept fully informed.

In conclusion, District and Borough Members expressed their view that the operation of the County Council's new charging policy appeared to be causing much disruption locally whilst not making a significant contribution towards meeting the Authority's financial targets.

55. **RESOLVED** – (a) That the presentation be noted.

(b) That the continued operation of the County Council's policy of charging for non-statutory domestic waste at HRWCs in the County be monitored.

(c) That the next HWRC update report to include Quarter 1 2017/18 fly tipping statistics be brought to the September/October meeting of the Board.

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

56. **RESOLVED** - That a further meeting of the Board be held at Civic Offices, Newcastle-under-Lyme on a date and at a time to be arranged in July 2017.

**CHAIRMAN**