

Joint Waste Management Board Partnership General Update

Projects

Legal dispute

The ongoing legal dispute with Biffa has yet to reach a suitable resolution. After a legal letter swapping game by solicitors, the dispute reached a natural impasse where the next logical step is mediation with an impartial, legally appointed, third party to make a decision between each side's cases. To mitigate any further legal costs, SWP approached Biffa without legal representation to suggest one final contract meeting to discuss a final attempt at resolution before resorting to mediation. Scheduled for late October due to diary conflicts of key personnel, SWP will make a final case to Biffa in the hope of clarifying the situation, as we believe poor internal communication at Biffa has resulted in a confusion of what SWP requires and the creation of a separate third methodology neither side wishes to adopt.

Noise policy

Health and safety is a standing item on SWOG meeting agendas, which recently features discussion on noise issues. Without time during these meetings to dedicate in depth discussion to this issue, a dedicated standalone meeting is schedule for 25th October to begin works on the creation of a SWP wide policy on Noise as a risk under health and safety protocols, in response to recent HSE (Health and Safety Executive) pressure for protection during the collection of glass.

Fly-tipping approach

As a recent outcome of JWMB discussions, SWOG are investigating the idea of creating a Partnership wide policy on fly tipping, following models created by Suffolk and Surrey Waste Partnerships. This project at an early stage and will be developed over coming months.

In addition, the collation of fly tipping data for review will now be conducted by Kay Cocks, Partnership Manager, and submitted to JWMB meetings as part of the usual Performance report. This impartial collation will back date information to April 2015 to look at trends over time. The Performance report will remain as an informational tool – any further discussion on implications with HWRC charging is considered to be a separate agenda item, led by the County Council.

Strategy post 2020

The Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for the Partnership was written in 2007 and refreshed in 2013, both of which end in 2020. As we are fast approaching this deadline, SWOG are considering options for drafting a new strategy post 2020. Annual action plans per council are being collated and will be discussed by Officers, as well as quotes for Partnership wide composition analysis (last undertaken in 2007), to form the basis of discussions for our future planning. It is expected that this will be discussed at JWMB once the current Holistic Savings report is issued, in order to use the report findings as a starting point for the Partnerships strategic direction of travel.

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General news

LARAC

Andrew Bird, Head of Waste at Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council, has been the Chair of LARAC (the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee) for the past few years and his term ends in November. Staffordshire representation is still in place on the LARAC Committee with Dan Roberts (Waste Officer at South Staffordshire Council) as the West Midlands Exec Member and Dianne Hewgill (Recycling Officer at Staffordshire County Council) as the Policy Officer.

SWP Promotion

Recently, Dan Roberts at South Staffordshire Council and a CIWM qualified trainer, presented at a CIWM (Chartered Institute of Wastes Management) online webinar on harmonisation, alongside WRAP and other councils. Dan's presentation showcased an overview of our recent holistic savings work as a partnership and was very well received by the audience.

Alongside Dan, Kay Cocks, Partnership Manger, will be delivering a more in-depth presentation on our recent work at SWP at a CIWM event on Local Authority Partnerships on the 8th November in Birmingham.

Partnership Forum

Since NAWDO (National Association of Waste Disposal Officers) held a one off Partnership Forum several years ago, no further follow up meetings have been planned. NAWDO members at Staffordshire County Council has volunteered to host another Forum meeting and are in the process of organising alongside SWP. An original date for November has been pushed back to avoid clashing with the CIWM event mentioned above.