

HERTFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

MEMBERS' GROUP 13th July 2009

Item 13: Work Programme

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1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present a revised Hertfordshire Waste Partnership (HWP) work programme for the period 2009 – 2012 taking into account changes since the last update.

2 Background

- 2.1 The work programme was last presented on the 27th April 2009. Since then a number of work streams have come to an end and a number of new ones have been initiated. The updated programme reflects these changes as discussed below.

3 Main Changes

3.1 Residual Waste Treatment Programme

- 3.1.1 DEFRA approved the Outline Business Case on 27th March 2009 and as a consequence the County Council was successful in its bid for (£115.3 million worth) PFI credits following a lengthy competitive process. The County Council was one of only 2 waste disposal authorities to be awarded the credits in this round.
- 3.1.2 The procurement of new treatment facilities is part of the HWP's Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) which also includes a target to increase recycling to at least 50% by March 2013. The HWP is making good progress against this target, with 44% of household waste currently recycled.
- 3.1.3 The County Council will now begin the formal procurement process to develop a new treatment facility. **Section 1 – Residual Waste Treatment Programme** has been updated and itemises the main work streams key to this element from now until December 2012 and takes the HWP from the initial bid phase (now underway) through to contract execution.

3.2 Refuse Collection (Domestic & Trade Waste)

- 3.2.1 Following agreement of the trade waste policy in January 2009, the HWP work programme has been revised with the next key stage being an assessment of what recycling services have been implemented in pursuit of the policy since approval.
- 3.2.2 To support this process towards the end of the year the Heads of Waste group (HoWG) will examine issues around calculating and sharing any LATS benefits accrued as a result of trade waste recycling.

3.3 Joint Provision of Collection Services

- 3.3.1 The joint procurement and strategic alignment of waste collection services is a key feature in the JMWMS (core objectives 3 and 8), and Memorandum of Understanding (clauses 4.1 and 5.6). Joint service procurement is also a golden thread linking the Terms of Reference for the Director's group and the HoWG.
- 3.3.2 In pursuit of the above in November 2008 a report to the HoWG invited expressions of interest in the joint provision of collection services. At the time East Herts and North Herts confirmed an interest.
- 3.3.3 The same report was presented to the Directors group in December 2008. Consequently the deadline for expressions of interest was extended to the end of the calendar year, however, none were received.
- 3.3.4 As a result, following discussion, East Herts and North Herts have agreed to consider conducting a feasibility study into letting a joint contract for waste and recycling collections and street cleansing. Subject to discussions on specific details, it is envisaged that a study could be conducted during the next few months with a final report due by the end of the summer.
- 3.3.5 Of particular interest and importance to the HWP will be the assessment of the current market for waste collection and street cleansing services which will form part of the study. This will include an examination of how the market is likely to react to joint contracts of this nature compared to responses to individual tenders.
- 3.3.6 A study would also include an assessment of the likely savings to be had (if any) which would determine whether or not there is a business case to take the project forward.
- 3.3.7 Based on anticipated timescales the results of this process could be reported to the Director's meeting in December and to Members in January 2010.

3.4 Bulk Collection & Reprocessing of Dry Recyclables

- 3.4.1 Building on the success of last year's joint contract for the sale of newspapers and magazines officers from Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council and the HWP have initiated a process to examine and (subject to approval from the HoWG) tender the sale of glass bottles and jars, cans and plastic bottles along similar lines.
- 3.4.2 An initial exploratory meeting with one of the UK's largest compliance schemes has already taken place which has helped to define the issues that need to be considered when assessing how best to present the tender to the market.
- 3.4.3 The HoWG will continue to work on this project throughout the summer with updates due to be presented to the Director's group in September and December this year; and the Member's group in January 2010.

3.5 Joint Governance

- 3.5.1 Following approval at the HWP Member meeting on the 26th January 2009 the Intermediate Inter Authority Agreement, (IIAA) is currently on its way round each of the HWP constituent authorities for signature. At the time of writing North Herts, Stevenage, Welwyn Hatfield and HCC were still to sign the document. It is anticipated that this process will be completed by mid July 2009.
- 3.5.2 The IIAA's first review is due towards the end of the calendar year with a report to the HoWG in November and the Director's group in December.
- 3.5.3 Once the signing process has been completed work will begin to scope out issues that need to be addressed in final Inter Authority Agreement. To support this process, and picking up previous discussions, a requirement to feedback to the Member group on a regular basis has been incorporated into each HWP meeting from October 2009 to October 2010.
- 3.5.4 Linked to the previous point will be a review of the Alternative Financial Model (AFM) which is scheduled to take place this summer with reports due to the Director's and Member's groups in December and January. Care will need to be taken over any changes to the AFM (or indeed the wider financial relationship between collection and disposal) so as not to adversely affect any budgets which have already been formally agreed by the constituent authorities.
- 3.5.5 To further inform this process and in pursuit of commitments in the Memorandum of Understanding (clause 5.2) work continues on assessing different options for migrating the governance structure of the HWP towards a joint decision making body.

3.6 WasteAware Campaign

- 3.6.1 There have been a number of significant developments with the WasteAware campaign since the last update to the work programme in March 2009.
- 3.6.2 This includes securing over £15,000 worth of 'in kind' funding that has been provided by Tesco's to support both this year's 'Love Food Hate Waste' theme as well as individual projects / service developments being rolled out by the constituent authorities.
- 3.6.3 The WasteAware group will be working on how to utilise this funding between now and the end of the summer with reports to be made to the HoWG, Director and Member groups' later in the year. It is hoped such funding sources can be secured on an annual basis underlining the need to ensure that the funding granted this year is fully utilised with appropriate recognition given to Tescos.
- 3.6.4 The revised programme also provisionally includes a re-run of the previously successful IT take back scheme, which was short listed in last year's National Recycling Awards. Whilst various logistical issues have to be over come before this can happen, the WasteAware group anticipate being able to schedule an event sometime during February / March 2010.
- 3.6.5 Since the work programme was last presented, as reported elsewhere on the agenda, a significant amount of work has taken place to incorporate the residual waste communications strategy into the WasteAware campaign. This has necessitated a refreshing of the WasteAware logo to accommodate recovery as the '4th R'.
- 3.6.6 To support this work brand guidelines are being developed with the intention that they are formally adopted by the HWP by the end of the year. Further reports to the HoWG, Director and Member groups on this issue are scheduled for later in the year.

3.7 Waste Strategy Review

- 3.7.1 Since the work plan was last updated a performance review (presented elsewhere on the agenda) has assessed likely gaps in performance taking into account tonnage changes in 2008/09, commitments detailed in the Data Collection & Analysis report (produced last year) and what 50% recycling would look like in each constituent authority.
- 3.7.2 This analysis has shown that a number of the constituent authorities based on current performance may not achieve 50% recycling by 2012. Consequently given this analysis as well as the degree of change experienced in 2008/09 each constituent authority has been asked to provide a summary of the actions they intend to take to plug these gaps. This will be reported at the October meeting.

3.7.3 However, the JMWMS is not simply about tonnages. Therefore beginning in August this year the HoWG will start to scope out the basis for a full review of the JMWMS to be completed in 2010. Updates will be tabled at the Directors' meetings in September and December with a report to Members in January 2010.

3.8 Other

3.8.1 Following up on discussions at the last Director's meeting and in compliance with the Terms of Reference adopted in April 2008 the HWP work programme now includes consideration of work plans by both the HoWG and Director's group in December / January each year.

3.8.2 December meetings of the Director's group will consider 2 year rolling work programmes for the HoWG, which will in turn inform the consideration of work programmes for each group that reports to the HoWG.

3.8.3 The January meeting of the HoWG will consider 2 year rolling work programmes for each of the sub groups including WasteAware, Streetscene, Operations and Data.

4 Recommendations

4.1 That the revised work plan be endorsed.

4.2 That the Member's group comments on any additional work streams that they feel should be incorporated into the plan and / or proposed changes to timings for individual elements.