



MEMBERS' GROUP
Hertfordshire Waste Partnership (HWP)

MINUTES

Meeting at Campus West, Welwyn Garden City at 2pm
Monday 25th January 2010

Present:

Cllr Paul Mason	Broxbourne BC
Cllr Terence Milner	East Herts C
Cllr Jean Heywood	Hertsmere BC
Cllr Derrick Ashley (Chairman)	Hertfordshire CC
Cllr Lynda Needham	North Herts DC
Cllr Geoff Churchard	St Albans DC
Cllr John Gardner	Stevenage BC
Cllr Phil Brading (Vice-Chairman)	Three Rivers DC
Cllr Alan Burtenshaw	Watford BC
Cllr Colin Couch	Welwyn Hatfield BC

Officers:

Jeff Stack (BBC), David Austin (DBC), George Robertson (EHC), Richard Brown (HCC), Ray Greenall (HCC), Steve Burton (HBC), Vaughan Watson (NHDC), Andrew Robertson (SADC), Marcel Coiffait (SBC), Peter Brooker (TRDC), Alan Gough (WBC), Durk Reyner (WHBC), Anne Freimanis (Chairman, Directors Group), Duncan Jones (Partnership Development Manager), Linda Whitehead (WasteAware Co-ordinator) and Clare Haworth (Minutes & Support Officer)

Item

Action

1 Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Bert Chapman (Dacorum BC) and Cllr Derek Scudder (Watford BC).

2 Minutes of the 26th October 2010 Meeting / Matters Arising

- 2.1 The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

- 2.2 Item 7.2 – Since the October HWP meeting, 25 further bids had been submitted for the remaining funding in the WICG and 21 had been approved by the Member subgroup. A small amount of about £4,000 was left in the fund which could be useful to fine tune the projects due to be completed in the coming year. It had been a successful exercise and Duncan Jones would report in 12 months time on outcomes with respect to grants awarded versus recycling tonnages captured. The Chairman thanked everyone for their contribution to the project.

DJ

- 2.3 Item 8.1 – The consultant had recently produced the draft report on the Alternative Financial Model and this would be discussed by the HoWG on the 4th February. The revised report would then be sent to the Directors' Group prior to their specially convened meeting on the 11th February. Initial impressions were that the recommendations seemed to meet the major requirements and further discussion was needed to sort out the small details. It was confirmed that £1.96m would be returned to the collection authorities this year. The group were reminded that due to the proximity of the new financial year any changes to the AFM would not be implemented until 2011/12. A report would be presented to the April HWP meeting and it was hoped that any revised model would be signed off at the July HWP meeting.

DJ

3 Opportunity for the Public to Address Meeting

- 3.1 There were no members of the public present.

4 Updates and announcements

- 4.1 Broxbourne – Were planning to pilot kitchen waste collections across a couple of wards and if successful it would be rolled out across the borough.
- 4.2 Hertsmere – Were introducing glass recycling into their kerbside collections and Fixed Penalty Notices for chewing gum, litter and cigarette butts were now being issued.
- 4.3 Welwyn Hatfield – There had been an increase in recycling since the introduction of food waste and cardboard collections. In 2010 all options would be reviewed in order to further increase recycling performance.
- 4.4 St Albans – Had decided not to collect mixed plastics for the time being due to a lack of revenue funding. However, the situation would be kept under review.
- 4.5 East Herts – The Alternate Refuse Collection scheme which started in November, had bedded down very quickly and was going well. An advert would be going into the European Journal on the 1st February for a contract to cover street cleansing and waste collections
- 4.6 Three Rivers – The Scrutiny Committee had looked at moving from weekly to fortnightly refuse collections but the small bins currently in use were an issue. There was a desire to go to weekly with the organic collections but savings would need to be made with the residual waste first. The snow and ice conditions had prevented collections for three days but the use of spikes on the refuse collectors shoes and chains on the wheels of refuse vehicles had helped them to continue collecting through some of the adverse conditions.

5 HCC Procurement Programme (Richard Brown)

- 5.1 The group confirmed that it had received the links to the latest newsletter which had been sent out and Richard Brown recapped that four companies had been invited to submit more detailed proposals by April 2010 as follows: MVV Umwelt GmbH, Shanks PFI Investments Ltd, E.ON Energy from Waste AG and Veolia ES Aurora.

- 5.2 By October, HCC would settle on which two would be taken forward to the next stage. The preferred bidder would be selected by early 2011 and the facility is due to be operational by April 2015. The Chairman thanked the Members' Advisory Group for their work on the project.

6 HWP Performance Indicators (Duncan Jones)

- 6.1 Duncan Jones introduced the progress report and added that the tonnage gap to reach 50% recycling (if everything else remained equal) had been reduced from 32,500 to 21,300 tonnes. He cautioned that much of this could be attributable to a decline in residual waste stemming from the recession but the addition of food waste and cardboard collections in East Herts and Stevenage had had a positive impact on recycling tonnages
- 6.2 He did caution that if there was an upturn in the economy then it would be usual to see an increase in residual waste. However it would be good to break the link between economic prosperity and consumption where possible.
- 6.3 As per the recommendations, the report was noted and it would be updated at the HWP Member's meeting on the 26th April. **DJ**

7 Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant (Duncan Jones)

- 7.1 Duncan Jones updated the report slightly to say that in 2.3, 21 projects had now been completed. The Chairman congratulated the group for approaching the grant in a spirit of partnership and the Member subgroup for devising an excellent set of criteria by which to dispense the funding. The recommendation to submit a further update to the 26th April meeting was agreed. **DJ**

8 HWP Strategy Review (Duncan Jones)

- 8.1 The group supported the approach as described in the report and the recommendations were approved as follows.
- 8.2 The review process would be documented by way of a technical paper thus avoiding the need and cost of undertaking a strategic environmental assessment and consultation exercise at this early stage. This series of reports would inform a more detailed exercise post - general election.
- 8.3 The Members' group confirmed that the review should cover the areas detailed in paragraphs 6.1 - 11.2. As Europe was moving towards more carbon based targets, it was felt that it could be useful to consider a similar set of objectives and target dates at some point in the future.
- 8.4 Duncan Jones would ensure that Members were kept informed of progress of the review as necessary, and this could include updates by email in between the series of HWP meetings. **DJ**

9 Packaging Consortium (Durk Reyner)

- 9.1 Durk Reyner introduced the report. It was explained that glass tonnages recycled as part of the consortium would deliver the highest value. It was acknowledged that there had been an upturn in the markets and some might be tempted to try and receive a higher income on the spot market for some of the other materials. However Members were encouraged to stick with the consortium for longer term rewards based on delivering the tonnages previously committed to during the procurement process as detailed in Appendix A to the report. Once the paper contract was aligned with the packaging contract the consortium would be dealing with around 70,000 tonnes of material. In the future this would give the partnership serious influence in the market place and potentially there could be offers to build a MRF or transfer station in Hertfordshire which would give the partnership more choices in how to handle its waste.
- 9.2 Durk Reyner confirmed that there was a guarantee to collect the materials for the length of the contract (2 years + 1 annual extension). St Albans explained that it would cost £150,000 to set up a new round for mixed plastics collections, which they did not currently have the budget for.
- 9.3 Duncan Jones would monitor the packaging tonnages and report on this separately. The Chairman thanked the officers involved for their work on this. **DJ**
- The recommendations were agreed as follows:
- 9.4 The Members' group concurred with the need to equalise the range of plastics collected across the County as discussed in paragraphs 4.1 – 4.9 of the report and a progress report would be submitted to the Members' Group in due course. **ALL**
DJ
- 10 Trade Waste Policy - Update (Duncan Jones)**
- 10.1 There was some discussion as to how important schools felt it was to have a uniform recycling provision across the county. Most however thought it would be worthwhile and it was agreed that for the next meeting officers would draft a potential policy for a uniform schools service for the partnership to look at. Each authority could then consider the implications. **DJ**
- 10.2 The group noted the consultation of Schedule 2 and would be mindful of the potential changes to the Schedule. A worst case scenario could be a 2% increase in municipal waste tonnages across the county which could have an impact on LATS. Duncan Jones advised District Councils to be mindful that LATS could be recharged to them, if increases in cost continued.
- 10.3 The recommendation to present a further update to Members in due course was agreed. **DJ**
- 11 Flytipping (Duncan Jones)**
- 11.1 Duncan Jones explained that he was currently in the data - capturing phase in the development of a new protocol. Linkages to a situational crime panel run by EA had been made and a progress report would be brought back in April. **DJ**

12 HWP Work Programme (Duncan Jones)

12.1 It was acknowledged that Members would need notification of the date of the partnership event well in advance. **CH**

12.2 Cllr Heywood enquired about the possibility of recycling of nappies given that they made up about 4% of the waste stream, despite the promotion of the Reusable nappy campaign. Duncan Jones would investigate the numbers but felt that Hertfordshire would not have sufficient volume to justify the investment in a recycling plant or separate vehicles.

12.3 The subject of graffiti removal (3.5.1) was raised and it was agreed that this was a historical problem which was still very much an issue. With a limited budget Hertfordshire Highways prioritises work which has a health and safety requirement such as road repair, whilst residents still want their environment to be neat and tidy. It was suggested by the Chairman that the Infrastructure and Planning Partnership would be the best forum for this issue to be discussed. **DJ**

13 AOB

13.1 None

14 Next Meeting

14.1 Monday 26th April 2010 at Campus West, WGC.

The HWP meetings needed a new host for 2011-2012 and everyone would consider whether they could volunteer to host if they had not done so already. **ALL**

The meeting closed at 3.25pm

Dates for HWP Meetings 2010

Members' Meetings

25 Jan 10

26 Apr 10

12 Jul 10

25 Oct 10

Directors' Meetings

14 Dec 09 – Dacorum

29 Mar 10 - Stevenage

21 Jun 10 – North Herts

27 Sept 10 - TBC