



MEMBERS' GROUP
Hertfordshire Waste Partnership (HWP)

MINUTES

Of a meeting held at Campus West, Welwyn Garden City at 1.30pm
Monday 26th January 2009

Present:

Cllr Brian Hill	Broxbourne BC
Cllr Bert Chapman	Dacorum BC
Cllr Derrick Ashley (Chair)	Hertfordshire CC
Cllr Jean Heywood	Hertsmere BC
Cllr Lynda Needham	North Herts DC
Cllr Mike Ellis	St Albans DC
Cllr John Gardner	Stevenage BC
Cllr Phil Brading (Vice Chair)	Three Rivers DC
Cllr Derek Scudder	Watford BC
Cllr Clare Berry	Welwyn Hatfield BC

Officers:

Jeff Stack (BBC), David Austin (DBC), George Robertson (EHC), Anne Freimanis (Chairman, Directors Group), Richard Brown (HCC), Ray Greenall (HCC), Glen Wooldrige (HBC), Steve Burton (HBC), Vaughan Watson (NHDC), Andrew Robertson (SADC), Marcel Coiffait (SBC), Karl Murdoch (TRDC), Alan Gough (WBC), Durk Reyner (WHBC), Duncan Jones (Partnership Development Manager), Clare Haworth (Minutes, Partnership Support Officer)

Item

Action

1 Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Paul Mason (BBC) and Cllr Terence Milner (EHC)

2 Minutes of the 13 October 2008 Meeting / Matters Arising

- 2.1 The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and there were no matters arising.

3 Updates and announcements

- 3.1 St Albans – reported a recycling rate of over 48% and that the new twin bin system was in operation.
- 3.2 Broxbourne – reported a recycling rate of 40% and the roll out of the final phase of the purple sack scheme.
- 3.3 Dacorum – reported a recycling rate of 48%.

- 3.4 North Herts – reported a recycling rate of 45%.
- 3.5 East Herts – Had agreed to roll out the new collection system, to include food waste, around the district. It was hoped that this would go live from October this year and was dependent upon the In-Vessel facilities becoming operational as envisaged.
- 3.6 Herts CC – referred to the update which had been provided by Michael Shaw on In-Vessel Composting facilities for the County.

4 HCC Procurement Project (Richard Brown, Alan Gough)

- 4.1 Richard Brown introduced the update on the waste procurement project and confirmed that the timeline had taken into account that a contractor may need time to carry out an environmental impact assessment on an alternative site to the reference site.

5 Governance (Anne Freimanis)

5.1 i) Intermediate Inter-Authority Agreement (Richard Brown)

Richard Brown introduced the report and the recommendations 3.1 and 3.2 were agreed as below:

- 3.1 That the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership Members Group endorses the draft Intermediate Inter-Authority Agreement attached to this report and commends the draft to each of the constituent HWP authorities for formal approval.
- 3.2 That the Directors Group ensures the draft Agreement with any supporting documentation is taken through the relevant approval processes of each council and is signed and sealed as appropriate.
- 5.2 Each council then outlined the dates by which the approval should be achieved:

East Herts – There was a report going to the Executive Committee on the 10th February 09 that would in turn go to Council on the 4th March 09. It had already been informally reviewed by the Executive and supported.

Watford – The Councillor had delegated authority to approve it.

Stevenage - The Councillor had delegated authority to approve it.

Hertsmere – It would go to the Executive Cabinet on the 11th March.

North Herts – The Councillor had delegated authority to approve it.

Dacorum – The Councillor had delegated authority to approve it.

Broxbourne – It would go to the Policy and Resources Committee on the 10th February for approval.

Three Rivers – The Public Services Policy Committee would consider it on the 5th February with the final decision made by the Executive Committee on the 9 March.

Welwyn Hatfield – It would be reconsidered next week and would go to the Cabinet Meeting on the 27 February.

Herts CC – Delegations to approve the IIAA were in place.

- 5.3 It was emphasised how important this agreement was for the taxpayers of Hertfordshire. The project team had a meeting with HM Treasury on the 17th

March with the decision on the award of PFI credits being made one week later (24th March). Preparation of the OJEU documents, of which the IIAA is a part, needed to be completed by the 13th April.

5.4 ii) Assessment of Strengths and Weaknesses of the HWP (D. Jones)

Duncan Jones introduced the report and the recommendations were considered as follows:

3.7 – agreed.

3.15 – there was concern by some that the form of words made each authority beholden to a joint decision making process for every decision on their waste services together with the danger that the practicalities of service deliveries for that authority would not be considered above the most cost effective solution for the partnership. It was clarified that the Partnership Development Manager would not be seeking to delay decisions and would facilitate joint working only where appropriate. It was amended to read – ‘that procedures be established through the offices of the Partnership Development Manager to facilitate (and streamline) the joint procurement of relevant capital assets and waste related services, subject to best value considerations by individual authorities. This recommendation brings into line current practices with one of the intended areas of responsibility for the Partnership Development Manager.’ The recommendation was then agreed and each Member committed to providing information to the partnership in relation to its waste operations.

4.6 – agreed.

4.12 – was amended to read ‘As part of longer term work on new governance arrangements for the Partnership, Directors and Members reaffirm their commitment to the MOU and to work together in a coordinated fashion as agreed in the MOU. It was then agreed.

4.17 – agreed

4.29 – The recommendation was withdrawn on the basis that commitments in the MOU are sufficient and would not preclude the Partnership Development Manager from pursuing the aims of this and continuing work on governance arrangements.

6 Trade Waste Policy (Duncan Jones)

6.1 The report was welcomed by the group and the trade waste policy was approved for formal adoption by the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership with the following small amendment. On p.5, point 1, ‘for their existing customers’ would be removed. The Directors’ Group would resolve the issue of starting profit and loss accounts for trade waste and the policy would be reviewed in one year.

AF

6.2 Cllr Brading requested if Herts CC could review their policy of trade waste at HWRCs. RB would come back with a report on the issue but provided a brief outline of why trade waste was not accepted at HWRCs in Hertfordshire, namely: legislation, previous problems with abuse, a trade waste service being beyond the

RB

statutory remit of Herts CC and being better suited to the waste trade to handle.

7 Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant (Duncan Jones)

- 7.1 The revised selection criteria were noted and it was reported that there was around £600,000 left in the fund. There had been no bids for trade waste yet which would be funded to 75% and it was anticipated that all the money would be committed by the next meeting.

8 Herts Recycling Newspaper Consortium (Durk Reyner)

- 8.1 The Chair thanked Durk Reyner for his work on securing this contract which had achieved additional levels of income for Hertfordshire. Confidential figures were distributed at the end of the meeting.

9 Current Issues with Recycling Markets (Duncan Jones)

- 9.1 There was a brief discussion with the comment that it was hoped that prices would recover with the industry not reverting to a cartel based on a greater understanding of the alternative costs faced by local authorities. The recommendations were agreed.

10 HWP Work Programme (Duncan Jones)

- 10.1 The update report was noted and the recommendations agreed.

11 AOB

- 11.1 None

12 Next Meeting

- 12.1 The next meeting would take place on Monday 27th April at Welwyn Garden City.

The meeting closed at 3pm