
MINUTES OF THE NORTH WALES REGIONAL WASTE PLAN REVIEW
REGIONAL TECHNICAL GROUP (RTG) HELD ON 16th JANUARY 2006 AT
12.30pm AT THE OPTIC TECHNIUM CENTRE, ST ASAPH BUSINESS PARK.

Present for:

Conwy County Borough Council

Ceri Thomas (CT)

Denbighshire County Council;

Mike Pender (MJP), Claire MacFarlane (CM), Alan Roberts (AR), Samantha Davies (SD) (Admin)

Flintshire County Council

Andy MacBeth (AM), Gary Nancarrow (GN), Bob Sheffield (BS)

Gwynedd County Council

Dafydd Gareth Jones (DGJ), Mike Parry (MP)

Anglesey County Council

Mike Evans (ME)

Wrexham County Borough Council

John Ellis (JE), Ruth Richards (RR)

Powys County Council

Andy Bull (AB), Roanna Manson (RM)

Welsh Assembly Government

Sue Martin (SM), Adrian Jones (AJ)

Wales Environment Trust

Richard Carter (RC)

Snowdonia National Park

Gareth Lloyd (GL)

Federation of Small Businesses

Neil Taylor (NT)

Cylch

Katie Trent (KT)

Conwy & Denbighshire NHS Trust

Amy Bird (AB),

Environment Agency Wales (EAW)

Cathy O' Brien (COB), Rhiannon Jones (RJ)

Welsh Development Agency

Gwenllian Owen (GO)

CBI

Peter Walmsley (PW)

CIWM

Medwyn Williams (MW)

CCW

Andrew Dale (AD)

1. Apologies

Tony Sykes, Conwy County Borough Council
Ceri Thomas, Gwynedd County Council
John Williams, Anglesey County Council
Clive Sproule, Cheshire County Council
Lynda Bigland, Environment Agency Wales
Peter Evans, Gwynedd Council
David Edwards, North Wales Chamber of Commerce
Jim Rollinson, University of Wales, Bangor
Henry Roberts, N W Economic Forum
Adrian Cooper, Shropshire County Council
Zoe Lenkiewicz, Wales Waste & Resources Research Centre
Eddie Adderley, NHS Trust
Rob Lewis, WRAP
Colin Priestley, WESA

2. Minutes of last meeting

On page 7 under Gwynedd, enquiries were received regarding expansion of the waste transfer station at Cibyn, Caernarfon.

On page 7 under Snowdonia National Park the first paragraph should read "Committee are minded to approve a proposal on a site in Bala, subject to a flood assessment".

3. Matters Arising

AJ made the group aware that FM had not yet liaised with Andy Rees regarding the facility capacities questionnaires. AJ stated that the questionnaires won't be distributed for at least 2 months and will raise the issue with FM and Andy Rees.

MP asked the group whether they wanted contact to be made directly with the Wales Spatial Plan Officer and Member groups, to raise the issue of waste as a priority for North Wales. The group requested that a letter be sent to both the Officer and Member groups.

MP to action

COB raised the issue that there needs to be an exploration of the interface between the Regional Waste Plan process and the WSP at local level.

4. Employment/Industrial Land Data

MJP made the group aware of the letter received from Carwyn Jones AM and that a meeting has been arranged for 28th February 2006 with Aled Davies (WDA), in Newtown, to discuss the matter further. MJP stated that following the meeting on 28th February the employment land can be raised at the North Wales Economic Development Forum and that Regional Coordinators could visit Local Authorities along with the WDA to discuss individual sites. The group agreed to this process.

MJP to action

GO stated that the issue of employment land for waste is also being raised internally within the WDA.

MJP requested that if the group were aware of any further examples of available WDA-owned land, they should bring these forward.

5. Hazardous Waste Supplement (HWS)

MJP stated that only three responses were received on the consultation of the Hazardous Waste Supplement. The main issues that were raised were:

- Uncertainty on forecasting hazardous waste arisings
- Emerging technologies
- Low level of hazardous waste arisings
- Proximity/question of commercial viability & capacity in neighbouring regions
- Merits & ability of the Regional Coordinators to provide more detailed locational criteria.

MJP stated that there is no need to progress with this document at present. COB raised the issue of availability of hazardous waste facilities in the region and has

the group checked the availability of other regions capacity. MJP stated that he would check the information on capacity.

MJP to action

MJP stated that he would advise the RMG to approve the Hazardous Waste Supplement subject to the above information being received.

MJP to action

The group agreed to this procedure in approving the Hazardous Waste Supplement.

The group discussed the desirability of advising Local Authorities to promote the principal of self-sufficiency.

GN asked whether the group would accept Flintshire County Council's comments on the HWS consultation as they were received after the consultation period. The group agreed they would accept and incorporate the comments into the HWS.

RR suggested that the group vote regarding supporting creating provision for facilities. BS seconded this but the group agreed that a vote was not necessary and support should be given for greater provision of facilities for all waste streams. RC stated that not creating treatment provision restricts economic development, which links back to the Wales Spatial Plan priorities.

The group agreed that this issue could not be addressed just by the HWS but needed to be taken forward by the Regional Members Group, and that lobbying of the WSP groups should be continued.

MJP to action

6. WAG/RPS Mapping Areas of search exercise

MJP stated that all Local Authorities should have received the letter and DVD for the mapping areas of search exercise.

SM added that Snowdonia National Park had been omitted from the mapping exercise and that RPS is rectifying this and is in the process of obtaining the information from Snowdonia NP. GL advised SM that they are experiencing difficulties in opening the DVD. SM advised GL that the computers must be of a certain specification for the DVD to work and RPS have offered visit the Local Authorities if the Local Authorities are experiencing difficulties with the DVD. MJP stated that as Regional Coordinators Denbighshire County Council will visit the Local Authorities to offer technical advice on the mapping exercise.

MJP to action

SM stated that once the required data for SNP had been digitised, updated versions of the DVDs would be issued to the North region.

GL raised SNP's concern regarding the identification of Regis sites as first areas of search. This information is taken from the EAW's database and includes closed landfill sites, some of which are now inappropriate for waste facilities. GL requested that the unsuitable sites be removed from the maps. COB explained that the decision to include all Regis sites had been made by the project Steering Group and that there was an issue regarding the order of layers and which should override others.

GL confirmed that he had contacted Mark Watson (EAW) to requested removal of the unsuitable sites. This is a matter for agreement of the RTG and would need a clear list of sites to be removed, including justification for their removal.

7. Sustainability Appraisal (SA)/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)/Other Exercise & 8. Regional Waste Plan Review

MJP raised items 7 and 8 as one item.

MJP raised the general point that the SA/SEA process will affect the Regional Waste Plan as it will be used as a framework for providing development consents and will inform development plans by 2010. However, it is not a delivery mechanism and can only help enable delivery.

SM raised the issue that the Regional Waste Plan is a non-statutory document but does have a legal basis as a material planning consideration. There is therefore uncertainty as to whether the RWP requires and SEA and WAG are seeking a legal opinion to clarify this.

MJP made the group aware that the waste management options for the Plan need to be converted into spatial options.

The Wales Spatial Plan, North East sub-regional strategy and Conwy-Denbighshire strategy make no reference to waste.

EAW informed the group that they are considering facilitating a Regional Waste Management Strategy Group which would address the current gap in the regional waste planning process. DGJ informed the group that Peter Evans (Gwynedd) has not yet been able to convene the North Wales Waste Management Group.

MJP drew the group's attention to the attached report 'North Wales Regional Waste Plan Review – Content & Approach'.

The group discussed the waste management options identified in the report. The discussion centred around two issues:

- whether different areas of land take would arise from each option,
- whether the options excluded other opportunities which may arise.

BS requested that the options be altered to include Mechanical Heat Treatment. COB was unsure as to whether there was any proposal to include this technology within EAW's WRATE life-cycle assessment tool. This could potentially be included but would have funding implications. It was suggested that this be assessed through a 'best fit' to the existing technologies to be included in the software.

AB requested that an option 2D be included – Anaerobic Digestion – as this is Energy from Waste technology. AB also queried that suitability of option 3E as Anaerobic Digestion would normally be carried out prior to Mechanical Biological Treatment. The group agreed that although this process may be unusual, it is possible and should be retained within the option.

COB confirmed that the WRATE software is based upon treating municipal-type waste and can't assess other waste streams such as tyres, WEEE, batteries etc. The software should be available internally by the end of February.

The group also requested that active agreement from Members be sought, regarding the statement that a 'do more' approach of achieving 2020 landfill targets in 2013 be taken.

MJP to action

The group discussed how GIS maps should be used in producing Areas of Search for regional/sub-regional facilities. CM suggested that a key diagram approach to mapping be employed. The issue of whether the Review is required to map available B2 (general industrial use) sites or to produce a list was raised.

MJP made the group aware of the potential for delays in producing the Review. It was agreed that these needed to be discussed further with WAG and the South East/South West Regional Coordinators.

MJP to action

The group queried whether the Regional Coordinators could take on the SEA work required. MJP agreed to clarify this with the Regional Coordinators in SE and SW Wales.

MJP to action

GO offered to provide MJP with examples of SEAs carried out on other regional strategies.

GO to action

The group discussed the question regarding whether waste policies within development plans would require SEA as the Regional Waste Plan has already undergone this assessment.

The group discussed the requirements of HIA. It was queried as to whether an assessment should be applied to all the options or just the preferred option. WAG agreed to provide clarification on this matter.

AJ to action

9. Site Visits to waste management facilities

MJP advised the group that there is a site visit to the Cleanaway hazardous waste incinerator in Ellesmere Port on 19th January 2006 (organised by CIWM), which certain Members will be attending. MJP will report back to the group on the site visit.

MJP to action

10. LA Update on Waste Management facilities/development plans

Denbighshire County Council

Delivery Agreement for the development plan has been agreed by WAG. The LDP issues papers are out for consultation at present. It is expected that consultation on a preferred strategy will be conducted at Easter.

There is a joint procurement exercise for residual waste between Denbighshire County Council and Conwy County Borough Council and a preferred bidder has been identified.

Denbighshire utilise the Llanddulas and Pen y Bont landfill sites. Tenders have also been invited for a composting facility. Discussions are also underway regarding a green waste composting facility in DCC/CCBC.

The opening of Hafod landfill has been delayed until June 2006 and the site owners are reluctant to guarantee its availability to North Wales authorities after September 2008 (due to the upcoming end of contract with the site operators).

DCC and CCBC are minded to procure a new contract for waste disposal after 2010, in pursuit of better technology than landfill.

Flintshire County Council

There is currently a consultation on proposed modifications to the UDP, to be followed by public enquiry. There is debate over the adoption date due to the SEA process. Therefore there may be a move to starting an LDP after public enquiry.

In December 2005 four reports went to the Council's Executive, including the draft waste strategy and a report on future technologies. Currently in discussions with DCC and CCBC regarding the use of Deeside Industrial Park.

It is proposed to stop accepting Commercial & Industrial waste at landfills in the County. There is also no potential for landraise on a previously identified site on DIP. Waste will therefore need to be moved out of the county once existing capacity is exhausted.

Conwy County Borough Council

A planning application for a bulking station at Gofer has been approved and is planned to open early 2006. A report on the waste management strategy is going to cabinet in February.

Gwynedd County Council

There is no additional information on progress with the UDP. Applications for a civic amenity site and a MRF have been approved. Funding has been secured for four CA sites and two in-vessel composting sites – work will be starting soon on a CA in Llandygal.

The closure date for Cilgwyn landfill site has not as yet been determined. The PPC application appeal on this site has been held in abeyance due to changes in guidance on landfill site closures – GC and CGMA are currently working on a justification plan. Discussions are also underway regarding developing more capacity at the site.

SLR consultants will be revisiting the fourteen sites identified for waste management facilities, due to questions regarding the suitability of some facility types. Objections have been received on the fourteen sites although the majority are mainly related to one particular site.

Snowdonia National Park

Currently consulting with stakeholders on the Delivery Agreement and Community Involvement Scheme. Comments are currently being awaited from the Environment Agency regarding the flood consequence assessment for a CA site in Bala.

Powys County Council

The UDP enquiry will be held in May/June and will be followed by the Inspectors Report at the end of 2006. Adoption of the UDP is scheduled for 2007.

Currently out to tender for a local composting facility.

Wrexham County Borough Council

The LDP Delivery Agreement will be out to consultation during February/March, with approval being timetabled for 31st July.

A pre-application submission has been made for Pen y Bont landfill, for the site to continue operating until October 2014 (but with no increase in void space). No information has been received on the delay at Hafod landfill and although the council continues to receive legal opinions on the site, the permission remains valid.

Nothing further to report on the development of an MRF but are looking at potential sites. The council is currently making good progress towards achieving the Waste Strategy targets.

Anglesey County Council

There is landfill capacity until Spring/Summer 2006 and residual waste will then have to be exported. A planning application is expected for an in-vessel composting facility (to take green and kitchen waste).

11. AOB

AJ stated that WAG is organising new technologies training, scheduled for March. It is intended to provide two sessions of two full days for planning, waste management and economic development officers and to hold the sessions in Mid-Wales. It is also hoped to provide an overview for Members via some half day sessions. AJ stated he would advise the RTG once dates and further details have been arranged.

AJ to Action

AM advised the group that there has been a consultation document published from WAG and WLGA proposing to change the LAS targets for the 22 Local Authorities in Wales. FCC will be objecting strongly to the proposed changes within the consultation document.

12. Timetable/future meetings

The next meeting will take place on 28th March at Optic Technium Centre, St Asaph with lunch at 12.00pm and the meeting will start at 12.30pm.

Meeting ended at 4.25pm

