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MINUTES OF THE NORTH WALES REGIONAL WASTE PLAN REVIEW  
REGIONAL MEMBERS GROUP (RMG) HELD ON THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> JANUARY  
2006 AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM, TREM CLWYD, RUTHIN AT 10.00AM

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Members present for:

***Conwy County Borough Council***

Councillor Brian Cossey (BC)

***Denbighshire County Council;***

Councillor Eryl Williams (EW), Officers Mike Pender (MP), Claire MacFarlane (CM), Samantha Davies (SD) (Admin)

***Angelsey County Council***

Councillor John Williams (JW)

***Gwynedd County Council***

Councillor Emyr Pugh (EP)

***Flintshire County Council***

Councillor Kevin Jones (KJ)

**1. Apologies**

Councillor Joy Shearer (JS), Powys County Council  
Councillor Andrew Bailey (AB), Wrexham County Borough Council  
Barry Bond (BB), Conwy County Borough Council  
Councillor Arthur Todd (AC), Snowdonia National Park

**2. Minutes of last meeting**

The group agreed that this was an accurate record

**3. Matters arising**

Nothing to report.

#### **4. Employment/Industrial land data**

MJP advised the members of the letter received from Carwyn Jones AM. A meeting has been arranged for 28<sup>th</sup> February with WAG, Aled Davies (WDA) and SE and SW Wales Regional Coordinators to further discuss the issue. MJP advised the group that he proposed visiting each Local Authority after the meeting to through each available site individually. The group requested that a Member representative attend on 28<sup>th</sup> February. MJP advised that he would pass this request onto WDA and WAG for any objections. EW stated that he would be willing and able to attend.

**MJP to action**

KJ stated that he doesn't accept the use of the term 'incinerator' as used in Carwyn Jones' letter and believes the response on the matter of the DIP to be ambiguous. KJ stated that he would request Andy Macbeth draft a response on the point.

**KJ to action**

#### **5. Hazardous Waste Supplement**

MJP highlighted the issues of the document: -

- Uncertainty of hazardous waste
- Wider definition than previously
- Forecasting of hazardous waste arisings
- Low levels of hazardous waste arisings
- Proximity of facilities in North West England
- Commercial viability of creating new facilities
- Self Sufficiency in the region
- Ability and merits in providing further detailed locational criteria.

The group discussed the desirability and potential for achieving regional self sufficiency and felt that there was little to be achieved by ensuring self sufficiency for its own sake. KJ highlighted the issue that there is a financial implication as no grant aid is available for cross border facilities. The group agreed that they support the principle of regional self sufficiency but given the proximity of facilities in North West England and the low level of hazardous waste arisings in North Wales it is unlikely to be 'Wales' regional.

The Members agreed to approve the Hazardous Waste Supplement subject to clarification on available facility capacity in North West England.

#### **6. WAG/RPS Mapping Area of Searches Exercise**

MJP highlighted that WAG is required to comply with the EU Waste Directive, through identifying sites for waste management facilities, and intends to achieve this by ensuring all-Wales coverage of LDPs by 2010. It is intended that the Regional Waste Plans identify Strategic Search Areas (and specific sites if possible) through use of the RPS maps. MJP stated that it is therefore essential that we ensure that the GIS maps are working and sites/areas are filtered through to the LDPs. MJP advised the group that it is intended to visit each Local Authority to resolve any technical difficulties with using the maps and to identify any potential sites/areas for inclusion in the Regional Waste Plan or LDPs.

The group stated they there were concerns the maps could be misused as tool for preventing the development of facilities, rather than for identifying opportunities.

## **7. & 8. WAG Wales Spatial Plan - Regional Coordinators to Report & Regional Waste Plan work programme**

MJP advised the group that Items 7 and 8 will be discussed under one item and made reference to the attached report titled 'North Wales Regional Waste Plan Review – Content & Approach'.

MJP brought the content of paragraphs 3 and 15 to the Members attention, as well as the requirement for the Regional Waste Plan to undergo a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

The group discussed and agreed with the aims and objectives as set out in the document. Following the previous discussion regarding regional self sufficiency, the group agreed there was no need to highlight this principle above others.

MJP asked the group whether they agreed to the principle of achieving the 2020 waste management targets by 2013, as a basis for the waste management options. The group agreed to this principle.

The group suggested removing option 0 from the list of waste management options to be considered. MJP responded that this option represented as 'business as usual' scenario and would be needed for SEA/SA purposes.

KJ raised concerns regarding the increase of options from four (in the original Waste Plan) to six (proposed for the Waste Plan Review) and also requested that Mechanical Heat Treatment (MHT) be added to option 2. KJ advised the group of the process of MHT. MJP added that AM from the RTG meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2006 also raised this issue and asked for Anaerobic Digestion (AD) be added as 2D. MJP agreed that MHT should be added as 2E.

The group discussed the implications for the development of waste management facilities in the future, based upon the options. MJP informed the group that it is

essential not to become overly concerned with the processes/technologies but to focus on any significant differences in land-take, as the Waste Plan is intended to be a land-use planning document and not a waste management strategy.

KJ felt that greater awareness by Members was needed on the different waste management technologies available. MJP advised the members that WAG are organising training for officers and Members on the different waste technologies, in March. MJP confirmed that once dates have been organised for the training, he would advise the group.

**MJP to action**

MJP advised the group that following discussions with the SE and SW Wales Regional Coordinators regarding SEA and identifying Areas of Search for facilities, it may be necessary to seek a 6 month extension to the Waste Plan Review contract.

## **9. Site Visit to Waste Management Facilities**

MJP advised the group that there is a site visit, organised by CIWM, taking place this afternoon at 2.00pm at the Cleanaway hazardous waste incinerator, Ellesmere Port. MJP and KJ will be attending the site visit and will report back to the group at the next meeting.

**MJP to action**

## **10. Local Authority update on waste management facilities/development plans**

MJP advised the group that there were no significant changes in the situation with the Local Authorities.

In Wrexham, the issue of Hafod landfill site is still not settled and there is uncertainty over the availability of this site for North Wales after 2008.

The final consultation for the UDP on the Isle of Anglesey was stopped by a council vote.

Denbighshire have had approval for the Delivery Agreement for the LDP, with some caveats.

The proposal at Broken Bank has been withdrawn. Site EM13 is undergoing further assessment and consideration regarding representation from WDA, economic development officers and planning officers.

## **11. Any other business**

The Wales Spatial Plan for South West and South East Wales presents waste as a bigger issue/priority and this is an issue which needs equal attention in North Wales. MJP informed the group that South Wales are conducting a study into the economic opportunities arising from waste management. The group raised the question of funding for such a study in North Wales. MJP stated that he would find out what funding is available.

**MJP to action**

MJP stated that he would write to the North East, North West and Central WSP regions to investigate the scope for a similar study.

**MJP to action**

KJ raised the issue that waste diversion targets are undergoing a change a criteria, including higher targets for LAs which are 'high achievers', and lesser targets for those who are currently performing less well. This means that there are 16 Local Authorities who will have stricter targets and 6 who will have easier targets. KJ believed that an explanation of this decision is needed.

**KJ to action**

MJP asked the group if they felt that a substitute for each Local Authority Member representative is needed. The group did not feel there was a need for substitutes.

MJP stated that the 2006 Annual Monitoring will need to be agreed by the end of March and a draft would be circulated to the groups at the next meetings.

MJP advised the group that there is currently no representation from Wrexham for the group. KJ suggested contacting Mark Pritchard from Wrexham, as the new waste portfolio holder.

**MJP to action**

## **12. Timetable/future meetings**

Two dates for provisional meetings depending on progress with the Annual Monitoring Report are: -

30<sup>th</sup> March – Ruthin *room to be confirmed*

27<sup>th</sup> April – Ruthin *room to be confirmed*

**The meeting ended at 11.25am**