

SOUTH WEST WALES REGIONAL WASTE ASSESSMENT AND PLAN
MEETING OF THE REGIONAL WASTE PLAN FORUM
Notes of the meeting held on Friday 29th April 2005, at 10.30am in the
Council Chamber, Penllergaer Civic Centre

Present

Councillor D Lewis (C)	Neath Port Talbot CBC
Councillor P A Rees	Neath Port Talbot CBC
Councillor A Robinson	City & County of Swansea
Councillor B Hall	Pembrokeshire County Council
Councillor K Evans	Ceredigion County Council
Councillor R R Hayes	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

Officers

Geoff White	Neath Port Talbot CBC
Ceri Morris	Neath Port Talbot CBC
Howell Beaton	Neath Port Talbot CBC
Huw Jenkins	Bridgend County Borough Council
Graham Dorrington	Ceredigion County Council
Neil Bateman	Carmarthenshire County Council
Philip Williams	Carmarthenshire County Council
Hugh Towns	Carmarthenshire County Council
Roy Probert	City & County of Swansea
Alison Thomas	City & County of Swansea
Carol A Williams	Pembrokeshire CC / Pembrokeshire Coast National Park
Dave Harries	Pembrokeshire County Council
Audrey Evans	Environment Agency (SW Wales)
Andy Street	SLR Consulting Ltd

1. Apologies

Councillor P Palmer	Carmarthenshire County Council
Councillor R G Harris	Ceredigion County Council
Mrs M Taylor	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
Councillor P A Hacking	Bridgend County Borough Council
Ruth Brown	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
Clifford Parish	City & County of Swansea
Nick Oakes	Ceredigion County Council
Steve Bool	Bridgend County Borough Council

2. Minutes of the Forum meeting on 3rd December 2004

The minutes were **agreed** to be a true record and there were no matters arising.

3. Notes of the Technical Group meeting 28th January 2005 – Noted.

4. Notes of the Technical Group meeting 24th February 2005 – Noted.

5. Notes of the Technical Group meeting 15th April 2005 - Noted.

Item 2: Meeting between the Chairs of the Regional Waste Groups and Carwyn Jones AM.

GW reported the following:

- The meeting was arranged principally to discuss the funding of waste facilities throughout Wales and the capital investment required to deliver the regional strategies;
- It was disappointing therefore that the meeting was ‘highjacked’ and used primarily as a vehicle for Torfaen to make representations on their unsuccessful Objective One bid for a scheme at Panteg for a composting and recycling plant. The outcome on that issue was for Torfaen to agree with its partners any additional financial contribution and re-submit this to the WAG;
- The Objective One pot on this measure had approximately £10M remaining and 8 bids had gone forward;
- CJ indicated that authorities should start planning for the new structural funds as early bids are likely to have a better chance of success;
- CJ encouraged authorities to collaborate on waste and waste planning, with a threat of taking it out of local authority hands – though he didn’t want to do that;
- CJ requested local authorities produce a paper on funding possibilities for waste (via WLGA); and
- CJ indicated an expectation that Regional Waste Groups would formulate bids for structural funds.

Action: GW to forward a note to Members confirming the above.

It was noted that the RTG minutes were draft (as they had not been agreed by the officers Group). Members were informed that an amendment to the wording has been sought and the agreed minutes will be circulated in due course. **Action:** CM.

6. Progress on Proposals to meet the requirements of the Landfill Allowance Scheme (Presentation by SLR Consulting Ltd)

Andy Street gave a presentation on the proposals to meet the requirements of the Landfill Allowance Scheme. A copy of the presentation was circulated and is therefore not repeated.

The presentation summarised the proposals and progress to date in each of the constituent authorities on meeting the requirements of the Landfill Allowance Scheme, highlighting key developments across the region and potential barriers that exist.

Following the presentation Andy Street left the meeting.

7. Regional Waste Group Contract

- **First Annual Monitoring Report**

GW confirmed that a requirement of the Regional Waste Group contract is “*to prepare and publish an Annual Monitoring Report in each year of the contract*”. GW briefly summarised both the content and main findings of the report and highlighted the data gaps that currently exist. The report was **agreed**.

- **Report on Hazardous Waste**

GW confirmed that a further requirement of the contract is “*to produce an immediate review of the RWP in relation to hazardous waste planning in consultation with the other Regional Waste Groups...so as to prepare and publish locational criteria or policies as an addendum to the Regional Waste Plan that will guide future proposals for hazardous waste treatment and disposal facilities*”.

GW reported that the Draft Report, prepared initially by South East Wales, had been ‘tailored’ by each of

the other two regions in order to gain consistency across Wales. The Draft Report on Hazardous Waste will be the subject of a public / key stakeholder consultation. It was noted that the Report will be placed on the website and a coordinated series of press releases would attempt to raise awareness and engage the public. In parallel, a targeted stakeholder consultation will take place to engage industry / business / and the various organisations that have a vested interest.

It was also noted however, that both the WAG and Environment Agency are unhappy with the content of the reports across Wales and a meeting has been arranged for Monday 23rd May to discuss the reports further.

The draft report was **agreed** for consultation.

6. GIS Mapping Research: Progress Update

CM reported the following:

- *RPS Planning, Transport and Environment* gained the WAG contract to carry out the research;
- The current emphasis of the work revolves around the necessary data collection;
- The first two Steering Group meetings were held on 6th and 28th April respectively, attended by officers from RPS, the WAG, Environment Agency, CCW, Planning Officers Society and the three regional co-ordinators. A final Steering Group meeting has been arranged for 2nd June;
- Discussion to date has centred on the criteria / weightings to be fed into the model. It was noted that the shortcomings of the Phase 1 report will be addressed (i.e. the inclusion of topography and geology layers);
- A draft report will be available by 1st June and the final report by the end of June; and
- A dissemination and training seminar will be held at an all-Wales level on Tuesday 12th July and subsequent presentations will be arranged for each of the three regional groups.

Regarding the issue of data collection, CM expressed thanks to those who had responded to the various requests for data. CM circulated a table that indicated the local authority data that has been received to date and more importantly the data sets that are still missing. **Action:** Where available all authorities to provide the outstanding data by the end of Friday 6th May.

7. Date of Next Meeting - To be confirmed.

8. Any other business

CM reported an opportunity to visit a MBT plant in Leicester. It was noted that there is a possibility to arrange a visit for each of the three regions in Wales, open to both officers and Members. Officers were requested to report back on expressions of interest and likely numbers wishing to attend, by Wednesday 4th May.