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MINUTES OF THE NORTH WALES JOINT REGIONAL TECHNICAL GROUP  
(RTG) AND REGIONAL MEMBERS GROUP (RMG) HELD ON THURSDAY 11<sup>th</sup>  
DECEMBER 2006 AT THE NOVA CENTRE, PRESTATYN AT 12.30PM.

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Members and Officers present for:

***Denbighshire County Council***

Mike Pender (MJP), Alan Roberts (AR), Martha Savage (MS), Samantha Davies (SD)  
(Admin)

***Conwy County Council***

Councillor Mike Priestley (MP) Lyndsay Weatherall (LW)

***Anglesey County Council***

Mike Evans (ME)

***Flintshire County Council***

Councillor Kevin Jones (KJ), Andy Macbeth (AM), Gary Nancarrow (GN)

***Gwynedd County Council***

Councillor Emyr Pugh (EP),

***Powys County Council***

Andy Bull (AB)

***Cheshire County Council***

Louise Hilda (LH)

***Welsh Assembly Government (WAG)***

Adrian Jones (AJ),

***North West Regional Assembly***

Catherine Monaghan

***Environment Agency Wales (EAW)***

Cathy O'Brien (COB)

***DEIN***

Gwenllian Roberts (GR)

***Wales Environment Trust***

Gerald Morris (GM)

**1. Welcomes and Introductions**

MJP welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Apologies**

Councillor Eryl Williams, Denbighshire County Council  
John Ellis, Wrexham County Borough Council  
Ruth Richards, Wrexham County Borough Council  
Bob Sheffield, Flintshire County Council  
Gareth Lloyd, Snowdonia National Park  
Councillor Arthur Todd, Snowdonia National Park  
Dafydd Gareth Jones, Gwynedd County Council  
Councillor Joy Shearer, Powys County Council  
Ceri Thomas, Conwy County Borough Council  
Geraint Edwards, Conwy County Borough Council  
Rhiannon Jones, Environment Agency Wales  
Henry Roberts, North Wales Economic Forum  
Gwenllian Owen, DEIN  
Clive Sproule, Cheshire County Council  
John Williams, Anglesey County Council (Officer)  
Mike Learmond, Federation of Small Businesses  
Richard Carter, Wales Environment Trust  
Peter Evans, Gwynedd County Council  
Councillor Ernest Williams, Gwynedd County Council  
Joanne Smith, Welsh Assembly Government  
Sue Martin, Welsh Assembly Government  
Andy Rees, Welsh Assembly Government  
Katie Trent, Cylch  
Raymond Roberts, Countryside Council for Wales  
Colin H J Banks, H J Banks

### **3. Minutes of last meeting**

The Group agreed that the minutes were an accurate record.

### **4. Matters Arising**

AR raised at a previous meeting arranging a sub group but nothing has been reported as yet. MJP to raise with AR at the next WAG liaison meeting.

### **5. Projects**

MJP advised the group on the following projects for information.

*Areas Of Search* – RPS will give a presentation of the Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Areas of Search work at the next meeting. A draft copy will be sent to the Regional co-ordinators and will be distributed to the RTG officers prior to the next RTG.

*SEA* - The briefs for the SEA have been sent out but no one has been appointed as yet.

*HIA* - Denbighshire County Council is the lead authority on Health Impact Assessment. The interviews are being held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2006.

## **6. WAG DEIN update on employment land availability – GR to report**

GR stated that the DEIN property database is available as GIS information and that they are liaising with RPS as to how to use this information. GR stated that the key way that the DEIN can assist the Regional Waste Plan Review process is through the review of their Property Strategy and the assembling of sites for the purpose of waste management. GR stated that Mike Cuddy is the contact for the review.

MJP raised the following issues: -

There was disappointment that no-one from the Property Department of DEIN could be present at the meeting, as the issue of waste management sites and the involvement of the DEIN was raised 18 months ago. As yet there do not appear to be any practical results.

- Is there a policy statement in place indicating whether waste sites are welcome on DEIN owned land?
- What is the timetable for the Property Strategy Review?

GR stated that she will try and get a representative at the next RTG meeting to answer the questions. GR stated that she would find out about the timetable and advise MJP.

**GR Action**

GR stated that DEIN will need to establish the demand for waste management facilities.

MJP stated that there is a general view that waste management sites are not acceptable and felt there is a need for written reassurance from DEIN that waste management sites are acceptable.

**GR to Action**

## **7. LDP/UDP stakeholder meetings**

MJP advised the group that a letter has been sent out to Local Authorities asking if LDP/UDP Key Stakeholder group meetings have been set up and if so can waste be an agenda item at the meetings. Anglesey and Denbighshire have responded so far. MJP asked the officers to ask the relevant officers if MJP and MS could attend their next meetings.

**RTG Officers to Action**

## **8. North Wales Local Authorities Strategic Directors Papers on waste**

MJP advised the group that Denbighshire County Council is the lead authority on Waste management. Iwan Prys Jones (IPJ), Director of Environment is the representative for Denbighshire County Council. IPJ, Steve Parker and Alan Roberts are the contacts. A report has been prepared stating waste should be high on agenda. There is a need for collaboration and partnership. The report has been submitted to the Wales Spatial Plan, North East and North Wales Forum, Economic Development Forum and the strategic directors.

The papers were circulated at the meeting for comments.

## **9. Consultation on waste**

MJP advised the group that they are looking to conduct a cost effective consultation on waste in the spring/summer 2007. MJP stated that in producing the consultation strategy and the 'way forward' it was necessary to gain input from the RMG/RTG.

There are three main issues that the RMG/RTG can have an input on: -

- Identifying the key stakeholders
- Identifying the substantive issues
- Identifying the correct dialogue to use– letters, web launches

COB stated that during the consultation of the Regional Waste Plan, S E Wales held a formal launch where the Minister attended. S W and S E Wales have had focus groups. It would be ideal if the group could target planning committees and hold launches. MJP asked the group if they have any suggestions/ideas on how to consult.

**All to Action**

AJ stated that the Waste Consultation Tool Kit, being produced by Hyder on behalf of Waste Awareness Wales, is being launched on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007. AJ suggested that North Wales do a "how to consult" manual on following the guidelines using the toolkit. All organisations and stakeholders in North Wales should be consulted. The consultation period should be 6/8 weeks.

KJ stated that the timing of the consultation is essential as there will be elections in May 2007 but progress is needed soon as the RWP reviews are completed every 2-3 years. It is also important to get facilities in place to reach the targets set.

A formal Consultation Strategy is to be circulated prior to the next meeting.

## **10. Site visits**

MS stated that a number of site visits to waste management facilities have been arranged but attendance was relatively poor. In order to achieve a higher level of attendance it has been decided to ask the RMG/RTG what types of sites they would like to visit and whether there is a particular site that they would like to see. The group agreed to inform MS at the next meeting of any sites they would like to visit.

**ALL to Action**

## **11. Expressions of Interest**

MJP made the group aware of a letter to be sent out to the waste industry asking for 'Expressions of Interest' regarding the North Wales Regional Waste Plan Review. MJP asked the group if they were happy for the letter to be sent out. The group agreed that the letter was suitable and should be sent out.

## **12. Waste Framework Directive Consultation**

MJP asked for any comments on the report so that as a group a robust response can be sent. Gary Nancarrow asked for the list of questions to be sent as the document was large and it was difficult to identify what was actually being asked.

**MS to Action**

There was general agreement by the group that the draft response was suitable.

The following issues were raised: -

The protocol when waste ceases to be waste –

EAW have gone out for consultation on non-food packaging, compost, food oil, fuel, ash and glass. The European Commission is interested in their work to determine European level. The waste needs to be dealt with in compliance in waste management legislation. GM to pass on the contact details of the officer dealing with quality to GN.

CM stated that a draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) waste policy is in place. The waste hierarchy should not necessarily always be followed implicitly and should be used as guidance.

### **13. WRATE update**

COB advised that the WRATE work is almost complete. The SA framework is to be applied to the WRATE work and they don't anticipate any problems. The presentation will be given on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2007.

### **14. LA update**

MJP stated that meetings with some of the North Local Authorities have been held since the last RMG/RTG meeting to discuss their current position in terms of waste planning and waste management and also to discuss what will be required of LAs by the Regional Waste Plan Review. The meetings have been very beneficial and meetings with the rest of the Local Authorities in the North will be held in the New Year.

#### ***Conwy***

##### Waste Management Facilities

The only regional waste site that has been identified is the Llandulas landfill site, which will be full in 7 years time. This is based on the current tonnage put in to the site, which will increase following an agreement with Anglesey to take an additional 35k tonnes per annum. This will significantly reduce the life span of the landfill.

MP stated that Conwy went through a peer review last week and the issue of their long term vision for waste was identified as a weakness. Conwy are likely to need another regional facility in the near future.

##### Development Plans

The LDP preferred strategy went out for consultation in October and they will be collating responses over the next few months. The Council is inviting suggestions for sites that may be suitable for development until the end of March 2007.

#### ***Cheshire***

The Ince Marshes Energy from Waste (EfW)/Recovery Park have been refused by Chester City Council. The EfW application has gone to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) for determination under the Electricity Act due to the size of the proposal. The application was made by Peel Holdings.

The Public Finance Initiative (PFI) is progressing and has been advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) for household waste, landfill contract and disposal treatment contract. They are currently in talks with potential bidders. The Waste Local Plan inquiry has been completed. The inquiry was held at the same time as a planning inquiry. The report is expected in spring 2007 and will be a binding report.

***North West Regional Assembly - North West Technical Advisory Body (NWTAB)***

Recognise that they have not complied with PPS10. Planning Policy Statement PPG10 'Planning and Sustainable Waste Management' places specific requirements on England's regional planning bodies. As the regional planning body for the North West, the NWRA must ensure that the Regional Spatial Strategy includes a concise strategy for waste management that looks forward 15 to 20 years.

The Assembly is advised on waste by the North West Technical Advisory Body (NWTAB) which was established in November 1999, and brings together representatives from the region's waste management industry to study waste production and make recommendations for the way it should be managed in the future, making active use of new techniques and facilities.

In January a panel will be meeting to hear the issue of waste.

***Anglesey***

Waste Management Facilities

In May 2006 a Biogas facility proposal was refused. The time for the company to submit an appeal has now expired.

Composting will continue at Penhesgyn until October 2007. New waste transfer station and landfill gas schemes are planned at Penhesgyn.

SLR consultants have produced a report for Anglesey which has recommended 10 sites – this is not yet in the public domain.

Development Plans

LDP is going through consultation. The pre-deposit plan will be published in April 2007.

***Gwynedd***

A Peer Review was held last week. The briefing concluded that they are on the right track. Recycling schemes are going well. The main issue that Gwynedd has is the problem of landfill.

***Flintshire***

Waste Management Facilities

Flintshire has chosen Mechanical Heat Treatment (MHT), a treatment technology to manage their residual municipal waste. An options appraisal has been completed by SLR on behalf of Flintshire CC. They are in contact with potential partners to see how the facilities can be brought forward. This may be done through OJEU Prior Indicative Notices (PIN) by submitting a technology based specification. They will be putting together expressions of interest in the next month.

A planning application for a non-hazardous C&I landfill has been received by a private company (not the LAWDC). There are also indications that an application will be submitted for a materials recycling facility (MRF).

There is a large availability of B2/B8 land in the county in addition to the areas of search.

An appeal decision has been reached with regard to the Padeswood Castle Cement appeal. The landfill has been allowed and costs have been awarded against Flintshire CC. The conclusions by the inspector were:

- The impacts on human health, both real and perceived are minimal
- Approving it would not affect the Regional Waste Plan process as it is dealing with 'in-house' waste only; other hazardous waste is very unlikely to ever be accepted on the site.

Castle Cement is in the process of commissioning a plant. Liquid waste derived fuel trials have been successful. They are now looking at RDF which would involve a variation to their PPC permit.

At the Greenfield site, a storage area for green waste compost is now allowed.

There have been pre application inquiries into heat based treatment methods in the LA due to the increase in energy costs.

#### Development Plans

UDP proposed changes is currently out for consultation until the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2006. 14 areas of search for waste management have been identified within the proposed changes. There will be a public inquiry in 2007 and adoption in 2008.

#### **Powys**

##### Waste Management Facilities

Powys is collaborating with Ceredigion on an AD facility that would produce a biogas. Mid Wales are constrained as they cannot put any more electricity into the grid. They are looking at a New Zealand technology that will clean the gas in order to put it into the mains. This is not currently eligible for ROCs and there is lobbying going on to rectify this.

There are several sites that have been identified for waste and there is spare capacity in terms of employment land.

#### Development Plans

UDP inquiry closed in September. The inspectors report is due in April 2007. They will then have 6 months to submit an LDP delivery agreement to the WAG.

#### **Denbighshire**

##### Waste Management Facilities

A new CA site application has been submitted in Rhuddlan to replace 2 existing CA sites.

Discussions are on-going regarding a potential in-vessel composting facility with regional potential.

Denbighshire are collaborating with Flintshire on their MHT project.

There are a number of potential regional sites being considered in the county.

#### Development Plans

The LDP is in the public participation phase. The preferred strategy will be published in spring 2007.

#### **Wrexham (update given prior to the meeting)**

##### Waste Management Facilities

Hafod Landfill Site. The Minister for Environment, Planning and the Countryside at the National Assembly for Wales has refused requests for him to make revocation and

discontinuance orders in respect of the planning permission granted by the Secretary of State for Wales in July 1995. In his letter dated 15 November 2006, he stated that he was "aware from the large number of requests he has received, and from the campaign mounted by action groups, of the strength of feeling against the infilling of Hafod Quarry with domestic, commercial and industrial refuse. However, no evidence has been put before him to lead him to the conclusion that the planning permission was grossly wrong, resulting in damage to the wider public interest."

The Minister also notes that Wrexham County Borough Council has indicated its intention to make an order modifying the 1995 permission so as to protect that part of the site designated as an SSSI and SAC. Work on preparing the order, which will require confirmation by the National Assembly, has now commenced. However, should the Council choose to cease preparation, the Minister will consider whether the National Assembly should make a similar order itself.

#### Pen y Bont Landfill Site:

The operating company have indicated that they will shortly be submitting an application to extend the period of working (there will be no change to the site area). The current permission expires in mid 2007. No details are available about the length of time that will be requested.

#### Development Plans

The LDP Delivery Agreement was approved by the National Assembly in October and the Issues and Options report has since been produced. This report will provide the context for the Stakeholder meetings referred to under Item 7 above. In addition, studies have been commissioned on Urban Capacity, Employment Land and Renewable Energy. The results of these studies may have implications for the waste management policies to be included in the deposit LDP.

#### **15. Any other business**

GN asked whether there will be any guidance on pre-treatment as there is no definition on BPEO. As BPEO still exists in Wales and any application has to be assessed against it. COB to offer guidance to GN.

**COB to Action**

MS asked for any further comments on the waste framework to be sent by the 15<sup>th</sup> December to enable a delegated decision to be obtained.

**ALL to Action**

#### **16. Timetable/purpose/future meetings**

The next meeting will take place on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2007 – venue to be confirmed

**The meeting ended at 15.30**