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MINUTES OF THE NORTH WALES JOINT REGIONAL TECHNICAL GROUP  
(RTG) AND REGIONAL MEMBERS GROUP (RMG) HELD ON THURSDAY 3<sup>rd</sup>  
APRIL 2007 AT THE DEIN OFFICES, ST ASAPH BUSINESS PARK, ST ASAPH  
AT 12.30PM.

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Members and Officers present for: -

***Denbighshire County Council***

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

***Conwy County Council***

Councillor Mike Priestly (MP) Lyndsay Weatherall (LW)

***Anglesey County Council***

Councillor John Williams (JW) Mike Evans (ME)

***Flintshire County Council***

Councillor Kevin Jones (KJ), Andy Macbeth (AM), Bob Sheffield (BS)

***Gwynedd County Council***

Councillor Emyr Pugh (EP), Dafydd Gareth Jones (DGJ)

***Powys County Council***

Andy Bull (AB)

***Wrexham County Borough Council***

Ruth Richards (RR), Wynford Rowlands (WR)

***Snowdonia National Park***

Gareth Lloyd (GL)

***Cheshire County Council***

Louise Hilder (LH)

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

Jo Smith (JS)

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

Bernie Thomas (BT), Rhiannon Jones (RJ), Fran Machin (FM)

***Wales Environment Trust***

Richard Carter (RC)

***Cylch***

Katie Trent (KT)

## **W E S A**

Colin Priestley (CP)

## **UPM**

Andrew Bronnert (AB), Jackie Pearson (JP)

### **1. Welcomes and Introductions**

EW welcomed the group to the meeting.

### **2. Apologies**

Councillor Joy Shearer, Powys County Council  
Gary Nancarrow, Flintshire County Council  
Councillor Arthur Todd, Snowdonia National Park  
John Adshead, DEIN  
John Williams, Anglesey County Council (Officer)  
Peter Evans, Gwynedd County Council  
Clive Sproule, Cheshire County Council  
Cathy O'Brien, Environment Agency Wales

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

The group agreed that the minutes were accurate.

### **4. Matters Arising**

MJP stated that the letters regarding expressions of interest has not been resent yet. The letters will be resent in the near future to get a better response.

### **5. Presentation by Environment Agency Wales on the Sustainability Appraisal and Life Cycle Analysis (using the WRATE tool) of Strategic Waste Management Options**

FM and RJ presented a PowerPoint presentation on the WRATE model to the group.

RJ made the group aware of the table on the composition of modelled MSW in part 2 of the report, highlighting the fact that not all waste streams were modelled and that assumptions were made for the wastes that were modelled.

It was agreed that because of the similarity between the top 7 options they should all form the technical basis for the Review, in accordance with the Environment Agency's recommendations. However, it was noted that due to the limitations of the project, and that the calculations were based upon all controlled waste streams, not just municipal, there may be occasions when a Local Authority or developer feels that a different technology is appropriate due to local circumstances. In these instances it will be down to the Local Authority or developer to justify their choice of waste technology, which they can do through the purchase of the WRATE software; this will then allow them to model their particular circumstances and waste technology mix.

## **Questions and Answers**

Q: KJ stated that option 4; autoclaving/MHT was modelled using an autoclave process. KJ highlighted the fact that autoclaving and MHT are two distinct processes and that this could have had an impact on the poor performance of some of the options.

A: RJ stated that the reasons for selecting the companies are listed in the conclusions. RJ stated that a number of companies were approached for data but were either unable or unwilling to supply the data to the Environment Agency. This lack of data means that they had to take the only available data, which was supplied for an autoclave process. There were still limitations with the data supplied and they were unable to model the data for options 4a and 4b, which as a result were not modelled at all. Therefore 17 options were modelled instead of 19.

Q: KJ stated that he is concerned what the public perception will be once this information is available for all to view?

A: RJ stated that a summary report which will be available is the document that most people are likely to view. The Sustainability Appraisal does not focus solely on municipal waste and with this in mind, other options may be more appropriate for a particular authority. The SA will be subject to SEA and a Health Impact Assessment and the preferred option for the Regional Waste Plan Review will be based on all the reports, not just the Sustainability Appraisal. The Review will need to be sensitive to the procurement procedures and collaborative ventures that Local Authorities are undergoing. EAW have the software available if Local Authorities wish to purchase it and each Local Authority can model their proposed waste management option incorporating local circumstances.

Q: AM of FCC stated that they struggle to recycle 40% of their waste and thinks that 50% will be difficult. There is concern that the whole Sustainability Appraisal is based upon a scenario that is unachievable. AM is also concerned that only 1 company had supplied EAW with data and that the information could be used incorrectly.

A: RJ stated that this tool is only to be used as a model and will be SEA assessed. There is a need to discuss the issues in more depth when proceeding with the Review. The SA is a scientific document and as such includes a number of limitations that must be considered when choosing a preferred strategy for the Review.

Q: MJP questioned whether there could be infinite variations of waste stream input and technology that could give infinite results and commented that the options are all clustered, there is no clear 'winner'.

A: RJ stated that there is a finite variation in technologies and that as this was a modelling exercise assumptions had to be made. The model can be re-run once a technology has been identified. There is a larger gap between 7 and 8 compared to the gaps between the first 7 options, and that is why the recommendations have focussed on the top 7 options. This is not to say that the medium options being ruled out. Indeed, it may be appropriate to use one of the options that do not appear to score very well, because of local circumstances and/or variations in the waste stream.

Q: KJ asked why all waste streams were modelled when Local Authorities only have a duty to collect and deal with certain waste streams.

A: RJ stated that TAN 21 covers all controlled waste contained within the Waste Framework Directive. The Regional Waste Plans stem from TAN 21 and must therefore cover all controlled waste streams, excluding waste covered by other legislation, such as radioactive waste. EAW looked at the waste streams; typical composition and the type of technologies that they feel are suitable and have recommended the technologies that WRATE identifies as the most sustainable within the limitations of the model. FM stated

that the Regional Waste Group needs to be careful as to how they publish the information.

Q: MJP asked what the cost for WRATE software was.

A: RJ stated that the cost was £1,800 including the training.

**AGREED Top 7 options should form the technical basis of the Review to allow flexibility. It is acknowledged that there may be circumstances when other options can be demonstrated to be appropriate.**

## **6. Annual Monitoring Report 2007**

MJP stated that the arisings have fallen but the capacity for North Wales has not improved either. MS added that there have been some new projects since last year which was a positive step. RJ stated that she could provide MS with data if there are any significant changes and work with MS on a joint deadline. The group agreed that additions could be made to the AMR and its publication delayed until June.

**RJ/MS ACTION**

## **7. Regional Waste Plan Review Projects Update**

MS advised the group that MS and MJP attended a Steering Group meeting with RPS regarding the Areas of Search (AOS) where the comments made by the Regional Waste Group were reviewed and where necessary, courses of action agreed. MS stated that there were some inconsistencies for B2 data. MS stated that she will be sending an email request to officers for digital industrial data which distinguishes between allocated B2 site, existing B2 sites and all other industrial use classes. These will be forwarded to RPS. RPS will then finalise a proposed method of tackling the issues raised and discuss this with the three Regional Waste Groups. MS asked the group if they would prefer an email or meeting to discuss the approach. The group agreed that an email would be suitable. MJP added that once the following changes have been made to the AOS exercise the system should be improved.

- Employment/Industrial areas will show up as an information layer regardless of the weighting given to the site; for example, a B2 site in a SSSI would still be visible despite being an exclusion area.
- Flood risk weighting – to be altered due to comments received
- Proximity to A roads & urban areas will be given a weighting of 1 instead of proximity to A & B roads.
- The urban boundaries will be revised which will be more accurate.

MS stated that all Local Authority officers need to supply a list of preferred sites and/or locations for facilities that can potentially serve more than one local authority to MS by 31<sup>st</sup> April 2007.

**LOCAL AUTHORITY OFFICERS TO ACTION**

MS also advised the group that a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) meeting is taking place on 12<sup>th</sup> April and once the minutes have been prepared the minutes will be circulated to the group.

**MS TO ACTION**

MS stated that she has emailed a site visit to the group which is being organised by CIWM. MS asked if anyone is interested to let MS know.

## **8. Local Authority Update**

The Group agreed to the report.

BS apologised for the late response in providing an update. BS asked the group for some feedback for BPEO.

### **LOCAL AUTHORITY OFFICERS TO ACTION**

DGJ stated that he would appreciate some feedback on BPEO as well. DGJ also added that time is of the essence for municipal waste.

RJ stated that she would find some guidance and pass the guidance to the group.

**RJ TO ACTION**

### **Conwy**

#### **Planning**

- The period for accepting site suggestions has now ended (30th March 2007). Officers and Members will soon be assessing sites for possible inclusion in the Deposit LDP.
- Comments on the Preferred Strategy have now been compiled. This consultation exercise has identified that further work needs to be done on the strategy. Because of this, a revised delivery agreement and LDP timetable is currently being negotiated with WAG and a revised version of the Preferred Strategy will be produced during the next 8-9 months.
- A planning application for a composting facility was approved in December 2006

### **Denbighshire**

#### **Planning**

- The LDP pre-deposit preferred strategy due to be approved by council in June/July with consultation September 2007
- Identified a number of sites suitable for inclusion in the deposit region, including a site of significant strategic importance.

#### **Waste Management**

- A site for a potential regional IVC has been identified and discussions are ongoing with the owner. There has been a preliminary assessment of the site by a contractor. Alternate week collections are to be extended in May 2006

### **Flintshire**

#### **Planning**

- Consultation on the Pre-Inquiry modifications to the UDP policies closed on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2006. A report is to be submitted to the executive to endorse the Council's responses to the representations arising from the consultation, and thereafter the timetable for the Public Inquiry can be commenced. Dates for the Public Inquiry are not yet fixed but late Summer/Autumn is probable. An area of search policy is proposed identifying 14 sites suitable for waste management development.

- Application & EIA for a nominal 2 to 2.5 million cubic metre capacity household and materials recycling facility at Parry's Quarry, Alltami, Robin Jones & Sons.
- Screening and scoping opinion adopted for nominal 2 to 2.5 million cubic metre capacity household, commercial and industrial landfill site and materials recycling facility at Pinfold Lane (Alltami) Quarry, AD Waste Ltd. Application expected June 2007.
- Scoping report submitted for a nominal 2 to 2.5 million cubic metre capacity household, commercial and industrial landfill at Rhosesmor sandpit, Nr Mold. Application expected Summer/Autumn 2007.
- Application by Tarmac to infill former British Steel landfill (unused cell) with 250,000 cubic metres inert material, Deeside.
- Application for extension of life to allow the restoration of Castle Park Landfill site with 60,000 cubic metres inert material, Flint.
- Renewal of permission granted at Bryn y gaer quarry for infill with 80,000 cubic metres inert waste, Alan's Skip Hire (ASH). Commencement expected 2007.
- Screening opinion adopted for raising of land with 6,000 cubic metres inert fill, Nr Mostyn. Private landowner.
- Pre-application discussions for restoration of inactive landfill using inert waste. Location confidential at present.
- Hazardous waste disposal site granted on appeal December 2006. Nominal 10,000 tonnes per annum infill over 25 years with cement kiln dust (CKD) at Castle Cement Ltd, Padeswood Works. Pre-commencement details submitted April 2007.
- Application from Scarfo to regularise existing landfill and restoration operations on land Nr.Padeswood expected.
- Pre application discussions for household waste treatment and sorting facility, capacity 75,000 to 150,000 tonnes per annum, Deeside. Screening and scoping report expected Spring 2007.
- Retrospective application and EIA expected Spring 2007 to regularise existing unauthorised operations for metals and end of life vehicles recovery compound at Point of Ayr, Delyn Metals Ltd.
- Waste transfer pad for household waste, Brookhill Landfill site, A&D Waste Ltd. This is to provide transfer of Flintshire County Council collected waste out of the county until alternative treatment and disposal facilities are secured or made available within the county.
- Application to regularise planning control at West Pennine Recycling Ltd, Buckley, for existing sorting and transfer facility for recycling of commercial and industrial waste, and construction and demolition waste.
- A small number of queries regarding construction and demolition waste recovery operations, and WEE electronic parts processing, but no applications received to date.

#### Waste Management

- Amending the draft Municipal Waste Strategy based on consultation responses received May 2007 for adoption by Executive
- North Wales Waste Partnership – meetings DCC and CCBC taken place GCC to be arranged. Soft market testing on technology providers complete. Evaluation criteria set. Screening and Scoping Report to Mineral and Waste Planning team, early April. Site identified in County ownership (EM1.13 –DIP). PIN and OJEU by end April for MHT provision at EM1.13. Planning by LA and Land in ownership of LA. To reduce risk for providers.

- A494 road widening presents closure of Queensferry Recycling Park (CA), discussions with Property Assets and a Private Sector developer underway for New Site at Sandycroft.
- Soil Conditioner outlet secured with first 5000 tonnes moved between Oct and March. Price review requested, following new EA rules relating to soil test sees price contribution by LA moved from £2.50/tonne to £6.00/tonne from April 07 onwards. Nonetheless processing and distribution is still less than Landfill. EA review of testing regime needs addressing as a matter of urgency.

## **Gwynedd**

### **Planning**

- For the Gwynedd Unitary Development Plan, all hearings, representations & objections were completed by July 2006. The Public Inquiry is still open in order to deal with any other, minor outstanding issues and is due to close in May 2007. The Planning Inspectorate report is expected in July 2007.
- In respect of the fourteen sites allocated for waste management facilities in the pre-enquiry changes to the Unitary Development Plan, the authority has received an application for a waste transfer site at Cookes Industrial Estate, Penrhyndeudraeth and an extension to the existing open windrow composting facility at Llanystumdwy. The authority has also issued a screening and scoping opinion for a non-hazardous landfill facility at Llwyn Isaf where it was agreed that a full EIA would be required.

### **Waste Management**

- An application to extend an existing inert waste transfer station at Coed Bolyn Mawr, Bethel, Caernarfon has been held in abeyance on account of enforcement notices served to secure compliance with conditions attached to the existing planning permission.
- Gwynedd Skip Hire, Cibyn industrial estate, Caernarfon. The Arfon Area Planning Committee resolved to refuse planning permission to extend the existing Materials Recovery Facility at Cibyn Industrial Estate, Caernarfon. The resolution was made against officer recommendation for approval. The developer has re-submitted his application to include additional mitigation. Notwithstanding that the application will be re-submitted to committee, the developer has also lodged an appeal against the committee's decision to refuse the original application.
- Ty Mawr East, Nantlle. Planning permission granted earlier this year for inert waste disposal.
- Civic amenity site for Pwllheli granted planning permission. Both the Caergyfchu MRF/civic amenity facility at Caernarfon and the civic amenity site at Llandygai Industrial Estate in Bangor are now operational.

## **Anglesey**

### **Planning**

- The LDP is at the pre-deposit consultation stage.

- A consultation paper has been issued on the vision for the island, key objectives and the main options for development.
- The “candidate site register” has now been opened on which people can submit land for consideration by the Council. Potential sites will be assessed within the next 2-3 months.
- Officers have drafted a briefing paper on the issue of waste that will provide part of the evidence base for the LDP.
- Officers are investigating possible sites for waste disposal/treatment facilities for inclusion in the LDP. The possible sites suggested in the SLR report – Planning for Future Waste Management and Disposal, dated 2005, will be investigated further.

#### Waste Management

- Gas power generation scheme at Penhesgyn Landfill Site approved
- Facility for a fallen stock collection centre at Unit 4, Gaerwen Industrial Estate approved on appeal

#### **Powys (North)**

##### Planning

- No change – still awaiting the Inspectors report on the UDP.

##### Waste Management

- Consent granted for an extension to the existing Cae Post Recycling Plant at Trewern

#### **Snowdonia National Parks**

##### Planning

- Officers are drafting issues papers for consultation prior to developing options for the LDP. Invitations for individuals etc. to submit potential development sites have gone out with a deadline of 27 April.
- Consent was granted for a Civic Amenity and Recycling facility at Bala on 03/03/2006. This is now operational
- Consent was granted (19/09/2006) for an In-Vessel Composting Facility at the Gwynedd Council owned landfill site at Ffridd Rasus near Harlech. This will accept around 5000tpa of mixed organic (kitchen and green) waste.

#### **Wrexham**

##### Planning

- Pre deposit participation has now been completed. The process of reporting to Members is now underway.
- The next stage in the LDP is pre-deposit public consultation on the preferred strategy. It is anticipated that this will take place during summer 2007.
- Pen-Y-Bont landfill is only approximately half full but the permit is limited to October 2007. There is an application submitted to extend tipping operations by 8 years to 2015.
- An application has been received for the removal of coal waste at the former Bersham Colliery, which is to take place over a period of 7-9 years. Material would

initially be transported by road; however, there is a proposal to put rail sidings in place after 2 years. There are no specific proposals for the after-use of the site, but it has been put forward as a potential site for the LDP. Material would initially go to Padeswood; however, the Olympic site in London will also be a potential user.

- A modification order will be sealed and issued after Easter on the Hafod landfill site which will remove the SAC from the existing permission for tipping.

### Waste Management

- Cllr Aled Roberts, Leader of Wrexham Council met with Sue Essex, Minister for Finance at the Guildhall on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2007.
- Plans to build a recycling plant on the Wrexham Industrial Estate under a Private Finance Initiative have been boosted by Welsh Assembly Government financial support.
- Minister for Finance, Local Government and Public Services, Sue Essex announced on Friday, 30 March, the conditional approval for PFI credits of £22.7m over 25 years to support the capital element of the Wrexham County Borough Council scheme.
- Sue Essex said: "Today we are honouring an obligation made in 1997 to financially support this project, which will assist the council achieve their strategic aims to reduce landfill and to increase recycling. Various schemes have been put forward since then but only with this recent submission has everyone been confident that this is a proposal worth supporting. We have worked very hard with Wrexham to get this scheme processed by the end of the current Assembly Government so that people of Wrexham can benefit from this facility sooner rather than later.

"With an increased focus on sustainable waste disposal and waste management in Wales this plant will enable the Council to meet relevant waste recycling and landfill diversion targets. I am satisfied that delivering this scheme via the Private Finance Initiative offers better value for money than building and operating the scheme using a more conventional financing route," she said.

- The Assembly Government gave initial approval for the project in 1997 but the Council have had numerous difficulties with this scheme including obtaining planning permission, losing the original and subsequently proposed sites and local opposition to plans for an incinerator as part of the plant. Incineration has since been dropped from the scheme.
- In August 2006 the Assembly Government asked the council to re-submit a new initial business case in order to draw this project to a conclusion. This was received in October. Following careful consideration the Minister decided the council could submit a full business case for the recycling and composting phase of the project. The full business case was received on March 5 2007.
- Conditional approval of the council's revised Full Business Case paves the way for them to sign a contract with their private sector partner, Waste Recycling Group, under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI).

- The scheme will include the building and operation of a new recycling park containing materials recycling facility, in-vessel composting, residual waste transfer station and a visitor's centre. The scheme will also include building and refurbishing the Authority's Civic amenity sites.
- Cllr Aled Roberts, Leader of Wrexham Council said:  
 "We are obviously very pleased to receive confirmation regarding the funding from the Welsh Assembly Government. The project has been modified greatly over the last two years as we believed that the incineration proposal that had been suggested previously was not deliverable. The Minister we feel has acknowledged the major improvements in Wrexham's recycling performance over the last two years. When I became Leader we were at the bottom of the national league with only 8% recycling and our target for this coming year will be 35%.

I wish to acknowledge the hard work of both Councillors and Officers in reaching this announcement today. My colleagues have supported a major investment in recycling from the Council's own resources which means that nearly all properties in the County Borough will have kerbside recycling by the end of this year. There has been an amazing amount of work carried out by both officers and Councillors, this has to continue in order to bring this project to fruition and our efforts must now concentrate on dealing with the residual waste element. Consequences for each Council in not meeting European targets for recycling do not bear thinking about, Wrexham residents can now look forward with confidence as this is the first overall waste management scheme in Wales which will guarantee that the European targets will be met.

- Notes

- Conditions attached to the approval include that issues related to land title; planning approval and final audit opinions are completed before contract signature.
- Under the PFI scheme the Council will pay an annual fee to its private sector partner. The Council will receive financial support from the National Assembly in the form of additional grant funding over the life of the 25 year contract.
- PFI credits awarded to the council in support of the capital element of the scheme are in the region of £22.7m. Note the PFI credits represent the "Net Present Value" of the Assembly's financial commitment to the project over the 25 years of the contract period. At the end of this period ownership of the assets will revert to the council.
- The project was one of a number of pathfinder projects approved for PFI in 1997 and 1999. Councils are now able to finance schemes through prudential borrowing.

MJP asked whether the proposed PFI project in Wrexham would have capacity for more than one Local Authority. RR stated that due to the limitations of the PFI agreement the facility could only serve Wrexham and could not take waste from outside of the authority.

MJP asked what the proposed capacity was of the facility. RR stated that she was unsure at this time.

## 9. Any Other Business

Nothing to report

## **10. Date of next meeting**

MJP stated that there is work that needs to be done on the RPS Areas of Search before the group can meet. MJP stated that once the work had been completed a date for the next meeting will be arranged.

**MS/SD ACTION**

**The meeting ended at 14.40**

DRAFT