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| <b>Meeting:</b>      | <b>Strategic Stakeholder Meeting</b>                        |
| <b>Date:</b>         | <b>Wednesday 5th Decemder</b>                               |
| <b>Venue:</b>        | <b>Ruthin Castle, Ruthin</b>                                |
| <b>Region:</b>       | <b>N Wales</b>  |
| <b>Hyder Staff :</b> | <b>Adam Read (AR), Victoria Bond &amp; Georgina Taubman</b> |
| <b>Other :</b>       | <b>Martha Savage (Denbighshire CC), Cathy O'Brien – EA</b>  |

**Minutes:**

**Q= Question**

**C= Comment**

**A= Answer**

**C** – “I am happy to see the RWP places an emphasis on the waste hierarchy in the RWP document i.e. reuse, reduction and recycling.”

**C** – “I find a lot of businesses I work with can't get planning for reuse or indeed any waste related industry.”

**C** – “Cylch members have also found the same issue with planning constraints for their operations.”

**C** – “A lot of small scale community composting schemes also have problems getting land on which to establish.”

**C** – “An important aspect is to reduce waste in the first place – if we did this we would reduce the amount of waste we have to handle.”

**Q**– “If we are heading for zero waste then we won't have any residual waste.”

**A** - “Even if we did reach zero waste then we would still need recycling/bulking facilities.”

**C** – “We need easily down scalable modular waste treatment systems if waste tonnages are going to reduce in the future.”

**A**- “It was looked into which of these technologies were more down scalable than others.”

**C**– “Why should we have new facilities?”

**C** – “We are working to decrease waste production however we only have approx 5years of landfill space left and so we have to cater for residual waste as there is still an immediate need for alternative waste treatment technologies once landfill runs out.”

**C** – “If the government and the will was there we could reduce waste. People need educating and told they HAVE to stop throwing waste away.”

**C** – “This is feasible, however you cant stop industry producing waste overnight – if you did this e.g. stop them using plastic products over a very short period of time then they wouldn't be have the time required to adapt and invest in the required operational changes and technologies required – this would put them at a disadvantage to competitors aboard and they would go out of business.”



C – “I don’t think the needs of industry should be put ahead of the planet.”

C – “If you force industry to change too quickly they will just move to e.g. China and ship their products back to the UK. It is also likely that if they do move aboard they will be unregulated and more harmful to the environment.”

C – “I agree, international manufacturing processes needs to be better regulated to reduce packaging such as plastics.”

C – “The aims of the RWP should also include **Reduction & Reuse**. Also what are the primary aims of the RWP – is it waste reduction, health, economy?”

A – “the aims of the RWP are not ranked, all aspects are evenly considered.”

Q – “Shouldn’t the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions be the most primary aim?”

C – “When it (a waste facility) comes to planning no one is going to want to live next to one – especially as facilities tend to be big. Micro plants may help reduce this problem and may help facilities to acquire planning permission.”

C – “Smaller sites, away from Greenfield sites, would have less of an impact on the environment.”

C – “HIA option 2 was the best health option – based on fewer large sites which would have less traffic movement and affect less communities as a whole.”

C – “A lot of the HIA background work doesn’t feed into the NTS so it is difficult for people to see how the decisions were reached (re: top options).”

*Re: Self sufficiency*

C – “talking about Wales being self sufficient is wrong, especially if you consider areas of Wales that border England.”

C – “Wales shouldn’t produce waste it cant deal with.”

C – “Fair point, but we still need to be economically viable, we should deal with all of our waste within the UK at least (as opposed to sending it abroad).”

C – “The RWP was mentioned at a Wrexham Council planning meeting – members were not keen to adopt the RWP into their LDP as they might not be able to make changes to the LDP (if the RWP alters) later on.”

A – “once the RWP consultation has finished, and assuming there are no major sticking points the final document will be agreed in April. This will then be put forward for endorsement, there will be an opportunity for members to make amends to the RWP and each local authority will have to be happy to endorse the RWP document.”

Q – “How can the RWP separate strategy & planning? You should start with strategy then feed into planning.”

A – “Strategy sets targets and these are the built into how much waste Wales will have to deal with

C – this information is then taken and used to plan accordingly for sufficient waste facilities.

Strategy is periodically reviewed and updated to reflect increasing recycling rates etc.”



**Q** – “What is the proportion of MSW vs. Industrial waste?”

**A**– “it is approximately 15% of the total amount of waste in Wales.”

**C** – “I was shocked on page 9 (of the RWP consultation doc) to read that “there will always be some residual waste” and that the amount of waste produced in Wales will continue to increase in the short term.”

**C** – “The situation is not likely to change in the short term.”

**C** – “We live in a throw away society.”

**C** – “We should tell the Welsh Assembly Government to tell people to stop throwing waste away.”

**C** – “We need for the total waste figures to start coming down.”

**C** – “Waste figures should show recycled materials as a resource and record it as such so it is not included as part of the total waste tonnages – this will show what effect the recycling activities are having.”

**C** – “We need to improve adult education and awareness raising to encourage waste reduction and recycling.”

**Q**– “Is North Wales looking at energy from waste? If we are going to produce some waste we should at least be doing something useful with it i.e. EfW.”

**C** – “Incineration is bad and it affects peoples health as it creates lots of nasty emissions.”

**A** – “This has been looked into in great detail and there is no evidence to show that they are a danger to health.”

**C** – “EfW is OK, emissions at well managed facilities present no health risks – it is the perceived risks of people living near by that are the biggest problem.”

– “There are lots of examples of local health issues of people living near landfill sites. There is currently insufficient research and no baseline data available.”

**C** – “When dealing with an application for a new waste facility an EIA and a HIA should be requested as part of the application process – especially for larger sites.”

**A** – “If a waste facility development indicated that it may have an impact on Health then it wouldn’t get planning permission.”

**C** – “Is it possible that private waste facility developments will only be motivated by profit and therefore they won’t be concerned with health, safety or environmental impacts. I am concerned that there is a gap between developer’s views on what is a ‘safe’ site and the views and opinions of the local community.”

*Re: Technology options*

**Q** – “Can we dig up old landfills and mine them of their resources?”

**A** - This is happening in some parts of the world but not in the UK currently.”



**C** – “Future demand may lead to the reuse of our waste – this could be a good argument for not burning it.”

**A** – “In the same way we generate energy by burning oil & coal we would be using waste effectively (if it was burned in an EfW facility).”

**C** – “By burning waste we are destroying resources and creating a toxic ash.”

**C** – “Composting should be done on a local/community scale.”

**A** – “This would not be viable in towns or high rise estates.”

**C** – “We also need to appreciate that some people will not compost.”

**C** – “Also we would need an end use for the compost produced plus the processes used would need to be done within the waste management regulations. Each composting facility would need planning and strict regulation, especially if they accepted food waste. Any composting facility, even if it was on a small, local scale, would need to be well regulated and monitored.”

**C** – “I still feel that smaller scale community composting facilities would reduce the need for landfill.”

**C** – “Small scale facilities may suit MSW but industrial waste needs waste treatment facilities that are on an Industrial scale. It is more cost effective to have fewer larger facilities than numerous community scale facilities.”

**C** – “In the Isle of Man there is a site where they have a reuse station where materials are stored and people can take these materials.”

**A** – “Many household recycling centres have areas where people can drop off items for others to reuse.”

**C** – “A well functioning reuse centre needs adequate space to work effectively – also CA site staff should encourage people to put items aside for reuse (rather than disposal to skip), this would divert huge amounts of waste from landfill.”

**C** – “A large proportion of the population do not want to reuse- they want brand new items.”

**C** – re: EfW “If people locally benefited from free energy then EfW etc facilities would be more palatable to them.”

**C** – “Large EfW plants need higher tonnages of waste input to run and this may affect recycling rates and any push to increase recycling rates.”

**Q** – “Why are there no large scale Pyrolysis facilities in the UK?”

**Q** – “Why don’t we have an e.g. Pyrolysis/EfW plant on each industrial estate so Industries can contribute towards the cost of their development in return for free energy?”

**C** – “Friends of the Earth feels that the best solution to residual waste is MBT followed by AD.”

**C** – “I have concerns regarding MBT over the burning of refuse derived fuel and emissions caused

**C** – “I don’t want plastics in my atmosphere.”

**C** – “MBT should only be used after high levels of recycling.”

**A** – “WAG is not advocating the use of MBT.”

**C** – “MBT is a better option than Incineration from the point of view of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.”



**Q** – “Hazardous waste is not dealt with in Wales – what technologies are available to deal with Hazardous Waste?”

**A** – “There are a wide range of hazardous wastes, all of which need to be treated in a different way?”

**A** – “Based on the low amount of hazardous waste tonnages produced in Wales it may not be feasible to have any treatment facilities in Wales.”

*Re: Any options not included in the RWP*

**C** – “Lack of data on a particular waste treatment option should not exclude it from being considered.”

**A** – “Lack of data means that we cant be sure is a technology will have a negative health or environmental impact.”

**C**- Suggested new criteria for the evaluation of options.....

1. Which option is less likely to have an accident or breakdown
2. How bad would the impact be if an accident was to occur?

**Q** – “Was the ranking (of the options) tried out with other interested parties to see if they came out with the same waste treatment options showing that the methodology was consistent?”

**C** – “I don’t agree that ‘dust’ was the lowest ranking indicator – if you lived near a facility it would be a big issue.”

**Q** – “Due to the future potential oil crisis transportation costs will rise – with this in mind which of these options is the most effective (minimal transportation)?”

**A** – “Transport has been looked at as a factor when each option was considered.”

*Re: HIA*

**Q**– “Did the spatial analysis suggest that these sites would be away from communities? Were the impacts of emissions considered as part of the HIA too – rather than lrry movements?”

**A**– “All aspects were covered in the HIA and the EIA.”

– “Will a HIA be carried out when specific planning applications are made for waste facilities?”

**Martha Savage** – “I assume this will be the case.”

**C** – “I am concerned that the HIA doesn’t identify any major differences between the technology options.”

**C** – “We know that some facilities fail and this is likely to create a negative public perception of waste facilities.”

**C** – “We cant argue against all options – we cant do nothing and so we need to pick an option. The options identified by the RWP have been deemed OK.”

**C** – “the HIA has shown that public perception of risk is a major factor, whether it is founded or not – this needs to be recognised.”



**C** - “The importance of education & communication will help to allay fears and resolve any public issues.”

**C** – “I am concerned over dioxin, carcinogenic etc emissions from these technologies.”

*Re: Planning*

**C** – “Waste facility sites should be located close to the source of the waste.”

**C** – “Areas of land adjacent to designated areas may still be sensitive – this should be considered when planning applications are being made. An EIA assessment should be done for all new waste facility planning applications.”

**C** - Comment from **Silas Jones, Arena Network** to be put forward re: RWP;

*“I am concerned that the RWP is not statutory despite and it covers commercial and industrial waste, however, local authority waste targets are only statutory for municipal waste and the are receiving capital support from the Welsh Assembly Government which they are ONLY spending on municipal waste infrastructure. In rural areas of Wales this is a waster opportunity to maximise the capital return from public money as the private sector is unlikely to collect waste from these areas – so this means that rural businesses will be financially penalised.”*