
MINUTES OF THE NORTH WALES REGIONAL MEMBERS GROUP (RMG)
HELD ON MONDAY 11th APRIL 2005 AT THE CONWY BUSINESS CENTRE,
LLANDUDNO BUSINESS CENTRE AT 2PM.

Members present for:

Conwy County Borough Council

Councillor Brian Cossey (BC) – with Barry Bond (BB),

Denbighshire County Council;

Councillor Eryl Williams (EWW) - with officers Mike Pender (MP), Samantha Davies (SD) (Admin)

Flintshire County Council

Councillor Kevin Jones (KJ)

Gwynedd County Council

Councillor Ernest Pugh (EP), Councillor Peter Evans (PE)

Wrexham County Borough Council

Councillor Andrew Bailey (AB)

Powys County Council

Joy Shearer (JS)

Welsh Assembly Government

Sue Martin (SM)

Conwy & Denbighshire NHS

Eddie Adderley (EA)

Environment Agency Wales

Steve Parkinson (SP)

Snowdonia National Park

Councillor Ernest Williams (EW), Councillor A C Todd (CAT)

1. Welcomes & Introductions

MP welcomed the members of the group to the meeting. MP asked if the members if they would like a translator at the meetings in future and the members thought it would be appropriate.

2. Election of Chair/Vice- Chairperson

MP asked the members to nominate a chair for the group. The members appointed Cllr Eryl Williams(DCC) as the Chair of the group. No Vice-chair was appointed- as and when needed

3. Terms of Reference

The members approved the terms of reference

4. Nominations from Local Authorities

Members were asked whether they wish to have 1 or 2 representatives from each authority – one covering planning and one waste management .After some discussion it was agreed to leave the decision to each LA

5. Address by Chair

The Chair Cllr E Williams addressed the Group.- emphasising the importance of the waste issue and this Group - and the need to address both the regional and individual LA issues involved – including sustainability , target meeting and costs aspects.

6. Presentation by Regional Coordinator (Mike Pender, Denbighshire County Council

MP addressed the group highlighting the key points of the NWRWP as well as addressing the urgent items and emphasising –
-the need for more sustainable waste disposal facilities across the region
- better integration of the different services within and between Local Authorities.

Members asked the following queries:

- Who was supporting the NWRWP
- Can organisations reduce the amount of waste produced

MP responded to the queries: -

- WAG would be supporting the plan with the new contract and are hoping to get as many organisations as possible on board to support the plan- both the public , private and voluntary sectors.
- All organisations can help reduce the amount of waste produced but need to become better aware of the issues and opportunities .

7. Presentation by Welsh Assembly Government (Sue Martin)

SM highlighted the key points from a WAG perspective, explaining the structure of WAG, the targets and focuses of WAG towards NWRWP with the assistance of Andy Reece(EAW) , the main points of the waste framework directive and the setting up of the framework. SM explained that there were 3 regional groups in Wales and the importance of TAN 21 on Waste.

SM also raised the issue of hazardous waste raising the following points: -

- Need for an integrated network of facilities across all regions including N Wales
- insufficient hazardous waste and landfill capacity in NW was a particular issue
- The sites that dispose of hazardous waste sites will not be sufficient in the long term.
- Need to plan for both hazardous waste and landfill sites as well as other WM facilities

Members raised the following queries: -

- The image of waste disposal is poor. How can the image be improved and more focussed on the technologies rather than the waste itself?
- The counties will vary in the type of facilities that they can offer as there are varying restrictions in each county.
- Is the mapping system that WAG use helping the progress of NWRWP
- The new LDP's should be more site specific and inform the public at the LDP stage to ensure enough sites for waste disposal.

The officers responded to these queries: -

- WAG are promoting the importance of sustainable waste disposal facilities but more work is required improving the image to assist in finding the solution for waste- including improved budgets and funding. There is a 80% success rate in England **(SM to provide a breakdown to the Members?)**
- LDP's will be allocating general industrial sites or specific sites for disposal of waste in each county.
- WAG have funded a digital mapping exercise for Wales inc NWRWP and are will be used to find suitable sites for county
- There are development constraints where sites are not suitable for the various type of waste disposal
- Disposal should occur as close as possible to where waste is generated

8. Presentation by Hyder

Hyder Consultants presented a power point presentation to the group covering-

- various emerging waste technologies - their size , type , costs as well as general advantages/disadvantages
- Best Practice Environmental Option (BPEO) process, which is used in assessing the various WM options against waste objectives of waste, ways of reducing waste, various disposal systems available and the legislations affecting waste
- Strategic Environmental Assessment. (SEA) – this is a European Directive and needs to be done for the NWRWP Review to assess the strategic (not local/detailed impact of a specific proposal) environmental impact of broad policies and proposals

The Chair thanked Hyder for their full and informative presentation

9. NWRWP Review

Annual Monitoring Report

MP presented the Annual Monitoring Report to the Group with the key points –

- there is a shortage of landfill and hazardous waste sites
- no hazardous waste capacity and little likelihood
- insufficient capacity to cope with amount and types of waste being produced
- problems with definitions and up to date information
- long lead in times for (i) waste technology (ii) specific proposals and planning applications (2-4 years) (iii) funding
- collaboration not delivering

The Members accepted the Annual Monitoring Report- subject to any further updates on landfill

MP to revise if additional data comes forward

Timetable

MP advised the members of the timetable where a more detailed report with more data and forecast options would be available. The issue of making more land available needs to be raised .The timetable is also dependent on the various counties capacities and PPC.

MP said that the waste managers, economic regeneration officers and other are going to arrange a sub-group to get the urgent items sorted. The economic regeneration officers could have more of an influence on private sector organisations.

Report from RTG

MP reported what progress had been made in the RTG meeting which was; -

- There isn't enough capacity for landfill sites.
- There was a clear need for a strategy for disposal of hazardous waste.
- That a N Wales awareness event would be beneficial for Members, the waste industry and the public in trying to change the image and bring forward developments.

10. Members Slot

The members felt that it would be beneficial to involve finance officers in the RMG meeting so that the financial officers release the implications of not complying with the waste targets.

MP to action

11. North Wales Event

MP asked the group whether they thought it would be a good exercise to hold a North Wales training awareness course which would address the following issues:

- Pressing issues,
- Economic employment opportunities
- Increase opportunities for private sector organisations to have an input.

MP said this event would be arranged as soon as possible with the WDA and decides how it is conducted, who funds the event.

The members thought that this would be beneficial.

MP to action

12. Meeting of Regional Coordinators with Carwyn Jones AM

MP made the group aware that he was attending a question and answer session in Cardiff with Carwyn Jones AM on 25th April. MP asked the members whether there were any questions to ask regarding NWRWP. MP asked the members to pass any questions to him as soon as possible.

Members raised the issue of funding and the Chair asked if CEO of DCC be asked to draft a suitably worded question – possibly to cover both capital and revenue (including prudential borrowing?).

MP to action

13. Any other business

MBT – MP asked the members whether they would be interested in visiting a MBT waste disposal site. The members thought this would be beneficial.

MP TO ACTION

14. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 7th June at 2pm in the WDA offices at St Asaph.

The meeting ended at 5.00pm