

SOUTH WEST WALES REGIONAL WASTE ASSESSMENT AND PLAN
MEETING OF THE REGIONAL TECHNICAL OFFICERS GROUP
Notes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25th January 2006, at 10.30am
Conference Room, Penllergaer Civic Centre.

Present

Geoff White (Chair)	Neath Port Talbot CBC
Ceri Morris	Neath Port Talbot CBC
Owain Lewis	Neath Port Talbot CBC
Howell Beaton	Neath Port Talbot CBC
Vaughan Thomas	Neath Port Talbot CBC
Carol A Williams	Pembrokeshire CC / PCNPA
Dave Harries	Pembrokeshire CC
Neil Bateman	Carmarthenshire County Council
Hugh Towns	Carmarthenshire County Council
Phil Williams	Carmarthenshire County Council
Alison Thomas	City & County of Swansea
Roy Probert	City & County of Swansea
Steve Bool	Bridgend County Borough Council
Audrey Evans	Environment Agency (SW Wales)
Miranda Lewis	Environment Agency Wales
Mark Watson	Environment Agency Wales
Sue Martin	Welsh Assembly Government
Adrian Jones	Welsh Assembly Government (Waste Strategy Unit)

1. **Apologies**

Ruth Brown	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
Philip Marks	CYLCH
Karen Maddock-Jones	CCW
Graham Bishop	Wales Environment Trust
Graham Dorrington	Ceredigion County Council
Nick Oakes	Ceredigion County Council
Huw Jenkins	Bridgend County Borough Council

2. **Minutes of the Joint Technical Group / Member Forum meeting held on 18th October'05**

The minutes were **agreed** to be a true record.

Item 5: Protocol for GIS Mapping Research – SM reported that a draft Protocol has been prepared but circulation has been delayed due to the apparent omission of data relating to Snowdonia National Park Authority.

RPS has updated the research and the three Regional Coordinators along with all the Local Authorities across North Wales are soon to receive a revised set of maps and DVD. **Action:** SM to circulate Protocol when it is appropriate to do so.

3. **Report on Hazardous Waste – Endorsement Update**

Officers reported the following regarding the endorsement of the 'Report on Hazardous Waste':

Brecon Beacons NPA: Endorsed (November 2005)

Bridgend CBC:	To be confirmed. Action: SB.
Carmarthenshire CC:	To be confirmed. Action: HT
Ceredigion CC:	To be confirmed. Action: GD.
City & County of Swansea:	Endorsed (November 2005)
Neath Port Talbot CBC:	Endorsed (November 2005)
Pembrokeshire CC:	Endorsed (November 2005)
Pembrokeshire Coast NPA:	Endorsed (November 2005)

Action: CM to inform the WAG once the Report has been fully endorsed.

4. **Regional Waste Group Contract**

- **Annual Monitoring Report 2006** [*Data from Local Authorities*]

Referring to the circulated 1st Draft of the AMR chapter dealing with the Region's Facilities, CM provided a brief summary of the content noting that the chapter follows the same format as the AMR 2005.

CM confirmed that a lot of data presented in the current draft had been taken from the papers circulated following the meeting of the SWW Waste Managers Group. Officers were therefore requested to check the information presented in the various tables. **Action:** All LA Officers.

On highlighting the data gaps that remain, Local Authority Officers were again reminded of the data required from each constituent authority and were requested to provide the information at the earliest opportunity. It was **agreed** that Local Authority officers carry out the necessary checks and provide all outstanding information by Friday 3rd February. **Action:** All LA Officers.

Section 4.3 Facilities – Operational, In Development & Proposed: It was suggested that the information presented in the various figures could be improved by providing detail including 'Authorisation Numbers' and details of address. **Action:** EA to provide the data. **Action:** CM to include if the data can be made available by the EA.

It was **agreed** that the definition of 'Proposed' needs clarification. **Action:** CM to seek a consistent definition with the other Lead Authorities.

It was also **agreed** that there needs to be a cut-off date as to what should be included in the AMR. **Action:** CM to seek agreement with the other Lead Authorities.

- **The RWP 1st Review Content & Approach**
[*Questions for Discussion / Timetable Implications*]

GW referred to the circulated report regarding the Content & Approach of the RWP 1st Review. It was noted that the report had been prepared on behalf of the three regions and had taken shape from discussions held at the all-Wales level.

Before each of the key questions contained in the Summary Report were discussed, GW drew the Group's attention to the wording of the 'Vision' and encouraged debate on 'what the 1st RWP Review' should aim to achieve. The following points were noted:

- How the spatial element is addressed is key to the 1st Review;
- There is a need to be clear about what the region will be planning for and what the Group wish to achieve;
- The GIS Mapping Research has only gone so far. The composite maps need to be further refined

- in order to develop appropriate 'areas of search';
- A potential way forward could be to identify areas within the current 1st and 2nd 'areas of search';
 - A second option could be to identify one 'area of search' within each local authority across the region;
 - The benefits of identifying 'areas of search' is that it will provide more certainty to both developers and local planning officers;
 - The issue of political endorsement of the plan needs to be carefully considered.

CM reported that the three coordinating authorities had discussed at length the approach that could be taken to firstly identifying 'areas of search' and secondly subjecting the process to SEA, and indeed possible ways for the three regions to work together to reduce costs. It was noted that a meeting with RPS has been scheduled for next week to discuss a potential way forward. **Action:** CM to circulate details from the meeting.

It was also **agreed** that a briefing paper be prepared for Members setting out how the process of developing the spatial element is to be addressed. **Action:** CM.

The requirement for SEA was again raised as it has been suggested that the RWP does not legally require an SEA. It was **agreed** that the decision on whether or not an SEA is required is critical to the work that will go into the 1st Review. **Action:** SM to gain a definitive legal opinion and report back to the three coordinating authorities at the earliest opportunity.

GW also raised the need to establish an update with regard to the progress in the preparation of the Wales Spatial Plan 'Project Initiation Document' (PID) for Waste Strategy. **Action:** CM to contact Martin Hooker.

Each of the key questions was then taken in turn and the following points were noted and **agreed:**

Q1: Are the proposed Vision, Aims and Objectives adequate? Can they be improved?

The following amendment to the wording of the Vision was agreed "*...To provide ~~an agreed long term strategic waste management strategy and a land use planning framework for the sustainable management of wastes and recovery of resources in South West Wales with the following aims...~~*"

Subject to the minor re-wording the proposed vision, aims and objectives were **agreed**.

Q2: Are the proposed Options adequate? Can they be improved?

It was **agreed** that the proposed Options are adequate. Concern was expressed however, over the use of the term 'Mass burn'. A potential alternative could be 'Other Thermal Treatment'. **Action:** CM to discuss possible re-wording with the other Lead Authorities.

Paragraph 5 (1st bullet point): it was **agreed** that the Member Forum needs to endorse the decision to take the 'Do More' approach as the starting point for the Review (i.e. do not consider the Options that don't achieve the 2020 BMW Landfill Directive target by 2013). It was also highlighted that there is a need to refer to the caveat that was included in the RWP that "*...in order to minimise any blight that might otherwise result from over-allocation of land to meet the aspirational targets, it is expected that UDP allocations will be phased and to include, as a minimum, the statutory targets for 2013...*" **Action:** CM.

Q3: Is a 'Do Nothing' Option required for this review?

It was **agreed** that a 'Do Nothing' Option was required.

Q4: Are the required levels of recycling and composting ('high' or 'maximum') characterised correctly for proposed Options 1-4?

It was **agreed** that the required levels of recycling and composting are characterised correctly.

Q5: *Is the proposed assessment year of 2013 suitable? For what reasons should/could it be different?*

It was **agreed** that the proposed assessment year of 2013 is suitable.

Q6: *Is it desirable for the reviewed RWP to contain a list of suitable employment sites that are either allocated or have planning permission?*

It was **agreed** that the RWP should contain a list of suitable employment sites that are either allocated or have planning permission.

Q7a: *Is the WAG's undertaking to the EC that by 2010 there will be Wales-wide coverage of adopted UDP's or LDP's realistic?*

Officers expressed reservations that there will be full coverage of adopted UDP's or LDP's by 2010. In light of the impending SEA deadline, certain authorities may not continue to formal adoption of their UDP's.

Q7b-7e all relate to the process of identifying 'areas of search'. Before discussing these questions the Group **agreed** to await the outcome of the meeting with RPS.

Q8: *Is it desirable for the reviewed RWP to explore the implications of the 'permitted development' system for the range of facilities required by the Regional Waste Strategy?*

It was **agreed** that the RWP should explore the implication of 'permitted development rights'.

Q9a-Q16 all relate to SEA. Before discussing these questions the Group **agreed** to await the definitive legal opinion from the WAG on whether an SEA is required for the 1st Review.

Q17: *Are the proposed objectives and indicators for Sustainability Assessment of the Options adequate?*

It was **agreed** that the proposed objectives and indicators were adequate.

Q18: *Is it agreed that the appraisal methods are still the most appropriate and should therefore be used as the appraisal methods for the RWP Review?*

The appraisal methods were **agreed** to be the most appropriate.

Q19: *Is it agreed that consultants should be employed to undertake the Health Impact Assessment for the RWP review?*

It was **agreed** that consultants be employed to undertake the HIA. It was reported that this is likely to be implemented at an all-Wales level.

Q20: *Is the proposed 'Consultation Strategy Version 1' adequate? Can it be improved?*

The proposed Consultation Strategy was **agreed**.

Q21: *Is it agreed that research consultants should be employed to undertake a statistically structured survey for the consultation exercise on the draft RWP 1st Review and the SEA Environmental Report?*

It was **agreed** that research consultants be employed to undertake a statistically structured survey.

Q 22: *Can the proposed timetable be improved?*

GW reported that there are two areas of work that present a risk to the project being completed by March 2007 – the identification and SEA of 'Areas of Search' and the Lifecycle Assessment work if the EA's WRATE software is not available on time.

MW reported that the software should be available by April, following a Peer Review scheduled to take

place in March.

CM reported that an all-Wales meeting has been scheduled for 7th February to discuss the potential for a timetable overrun – a six month extension to the existing contract has been suggested as a way forward. It was **agreed** to await the outcome of the all-Wales meeting before agreeing a timetable.

5. **Date of Next Meeting**

It was **agreed** that the next meeting be held at 10.30am on Wednesday 8th March.

6. **Any Other Business**

CM referred to the circulated letter received from the South West Wales Regional Economic Forum (SWWEF) enquiring whether there would be any interest in establishing some form of formal relationship. It was agreed that every effort should be made to establish a link between the work of the Groups. **Action:** CM.

SM reported that legislation concerning ‘Planning Monitoring Fees’ will come into force on 1st April 2006. The legislation will enable Local Authorities to claim a fee for the routine monitoring of planning permissions relating to both landfill and mineral sites.

AJ reported that training opportunities on ‘new waste technologies’ will be made available to officers and Members in the Spring / Summer. The seminars will be run by ENVIROS. **Action:** AJ to provide the seminar dates to the three Coordinating authorities.