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MINUTES OF THE NORTH WALES JOINT REGIONAL TECHNICAL GROUP (RTG) AND REGIONAL MEMBERS GROUP (RMG) HELD ON THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> JULY 2007 AT THE OPTIC CENTRE, 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), Kevin Edwards (KE), Samantha Davies (SD) (Admin)

***Conwy County Council***

Lindsay Weatherall (LW)

***Anglesey County Council***

Councillor John Williams (JW) Mike Evans (ME)

***Flintshire County Council***

Bob Sheffield (BS), Gabby Yoxall (GY), Nigel Trueman (NT)

***Gwynedd County Council***

Councillor Emyr Pugh (EP), Dafydd Gareth Jones (DGJ), Peter Evans (PE)

***Wrexham County Borough Council***

Councillor Mark Pritchard (MP), Wynford Rowlands (WR)

***Snowdonia National Park***

Gareth Lloyd (GL)

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

Adrian Jones (AJ)

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

Cathy O'Brien (COB)

***Cylch***

Katie Trent (KT)

***RPS***

Kevin Parr (KP), Rondalyn Northam (RM)

***Peter Brett Associates***

Salim Vohra (SV)

***WHIASU***

Liz Green (LG)

## ***D E & T (Formerly DEIN)***

Gwenllian Roberts (GR)

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

EW welcomed the group to the meeting.

### **2. Apologies**

Lee Marshall, Powys County Council  
Andy MacBeth, Flintshire County Council  
Councillor Kevin Jones, Flintshire County Council  
Mark Brown, Powys County Council  
Martin Williams, DEIN  
Rhiannon Jones, Environment Agency Wales  
Sue Martin, Welsh Assembly Government  
Jo Smith, Welsh Assembly Government  
Raymond Roberts, Countryside Council for Wales  
Geraint Edwards, Conwy County Borough Council  
Celine Anoulth, CIWM  
Councillor Joy Shearer, Powys County Council  
Councillor Huw Hughes, Gwynedd County Council  
Colin Priestly, WESA  
Louise Hilder, Cheshire County Council  
Gary Nancarrow, Flintshire County Council

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

The group agreed that the minutes were accurate.

### **4. Matters Arising**

Nothing to report.

### **5. Final Areas of Search/Strategic Environmental Assessment Report**

KP and RN of RPS gave a presentation to the group on the Areas of Search project (AOS). KP stated that all the comments and issues raised by the 3 Regional Waste Groups and statutory consultees regarding the areas of search have been incorporated into the latest version. The following changes have been made: -

- There are now 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5<sup>th</sup> areas of search.
- The areas of search only use A roads in order to refine the data.
- The ONS polygon data is now used with the OS 50000 boundary to define data for the urban area. They have also removed industrial areas from urban areas which avoids the exclusion of an industrial estate as a residential development.
- The information on landfills is now up to date after EAW provided RPS with the data.
- The B2 land has been refined.
- There is a symbol to identify employment land more than 20 hectares and point 4 for employment land less than 20 hectares.

- The tool works in a more refined form.
- The tool is for information to identify local issues rather than saying yes/no to waste management facilities.

KP and RN advised the group on how to identify areas of search: -

- White – 5<sup>th</sup> exclusion areas - identified as those areas which, on the basis of clear planning policy, have been excluded from consideration as appropriate for waste management development.
- Brown – 4<sup>th</sup> AOS – Areas with National or Regional constraint
- Yellow – 3<sup>rd</sup> AOS – Areas of some constraint and some potential
- Orange – 2<sup>nd</sup> AOS – Areas of some constraint and high potential
- Red – 1<sup>st</sup> AOS – Areas of no constraint and high potential

KP stated that it is important how the information is published and how the information is utilised. KP highlighted that a common method for the application of the tool should be agreed across the three regions. MS stated that the way the three regions in Wales utilise the AOS tool will be agreed and feedback on how the tool is to be used will be provided.

### **Questions & Answers**

NT asked the following questions: -

Q: What weighting is being used for areas that are flood zone C?

A: C2 (undefended) is 4 and C1 (defended) is 3

Q: Has the railway network been taken into account?

A: The railway network has been added as an information layer but no weighting is attached because there is limited national information available.

MJP asked the following questions: -

Q: Are B2 sites with planning permissions treated differently to B2 sites without planning permission?

A: All the sites were treated the same. The overall weighting a site/area is given depends upon the underlying constraints / potential identified. For example, an industrial estate within a SSSI would be excluded. All the information provided is on the AOS system.

Q: Is there a health warning for indicative purposes only?

A: Yes.

Q: What added value is gained from the use of the tool for the Regional Waste Plan 1<sup>st</sup> Review?

A: The GIS system provides a comprehensive set of data across the whole of Wales which can be used by local authorities to identify issues that would need to be considered when evaluating sites suitability for waste management. It is not a tool upon which planning applications could, or should be judged..

Q: Will training be provided to the Regional Coordinators on the AOS?

A: Training can be provided as required.

WR asked the following question: -

Q: Will the maps go into the public domain?

A: The SE and SW regions have agreed the report and will form part of the Regional Waste Plan going forward. The Group agreed that the North maps should be published

for consultation. It was highlighted that the pdf maps would be published as the website does not have the technology to enable the interactive maps to be published.

GL raised the following question: -

Q: GL queried a site located within the National Park that has been identified as a REGIS site.. The site in question is unknown to him as a waste site and should therefore be removed.

A: The information was provided by EAW and not all the information will accurate. Any errors in the information will be sorted soon.

GL to speak to COB separately regarding the site he is referring to.

## **GL ACTION**

**Agreed:** The Group agreed that the report and maps should be published for consultation.

KP stated that they have been appointed by another Local Authority to complete the member training in September/October. If there are any Local Authorities who would be interested in RPS providing Member training for the Local Authority to contact KP and RN.

## **6. Health Impact Assessment**

SV of Peter Brett Associations gave the group a presentation on the Health Impact Assessment. SV stated the Health Impact Assessment covers the strategic and spatial options of waste management options. SV stated that the draft report will be ready for comments 13-24<sup>th</sup> August and the report to be agreed by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2007.

### **Questions and Answers**

MJP raised the following questions: -

Q: The Assessment has been undertaken at the strategic level and is therefore a starting point for further HIAs undertaken at the more local level in relation to waste. Are there gaps in the evidence that should be noted?

A: There are gaps in the empirical evidence due to the complexity of the ways in which a waste facility can have an impact on a local population. The impact of waste management facilities on the wider determinants of health is particularly under researched.

Q: What level of engagement has been carried out to date?

A: A Project Steering Group was formed which was made up of a number of waste professionals from EAW, Local Authorities (LAs) and Welsh Assembly Government, a number of Health professionals from the NPHS, WHIASU, and local government and a lay representative. Questionnaires were also sent to Environmental Health Officers in LAs and to Directors of Local Health Boards. Further engagement will be carried out during the national consultation in October-December 2007 which will inform the final HIA document.

Q: There are potentially both direct and indirect impacts of waste management facilities on the health of a population. Is the focus of this study on the wider determinants of health?

A: Yes it is an exercise to make people more aware of the wider impact of waste management facilities on health.

AJ stated that the perception is the key for the process in community engagement.

COB stated that it could be possible to have a layer from the GIS for the AOS and HIA. MS informed the group that this has already been carried out on a previous version of the AOS maps. As soon as the draft for consultation is agreed the information layer will be placed upon the AOS maps for information only. No weighting will be applied to the health layer due to the complexity of the issues and the strategic nature of the AOS work.

NT stated that public perception of waste is improving as the public are recycling their household waste which has steadily improved in the last 4 years.

AJ stated that areas that are deprived shouldn't be ruled out. Waste management facilities can bring benefit to a local community which could be enhanced in a deprived local area (for example, providing training and recruiting locally where possible, reducing heating costs through district heating schemes).

## **7. Convergence Funding**

KE from Denbighshire County Council Development Services introduced the Convergence process to the group stating that the convergence funding has replaced Objective One funding. The Convergence project will be run from 2007 to 2013 for the 6 counties in North Wales. The Convergence funding is looking for fewer larger projects. The deadline for expressions of interest for waste projects is September 2007. The timetable is still being negotiated and there will be no agreement until autumn 2007.

The consultation paper is on the WEFO site. The paper was completed by WAG who are putting a framework together. KE stated that he would look at the paper before the Waste Management Meeting that MS is arranging.

### **Questions and Answers**

NT asked the following questions: -

Q: Would there be a second round of funding?

A: It will be rolling funding.

Q: Is the funding retrospective and go through revenues?

A: Unsure.

ME asked the following question: -

Q: Is the funding available for new schemes or can it be used for current schemes?

A: The funding can be used for new schemes and for current schemes to enhance current schemes.

Q: Can the funding be used after the 7 year period?

A: The funding needs to be secured before the 7 year period. There is a need to demonstrate that jobs, training etc have been arranged to secure the funding.

## **8. Update from Department for Economy and Transport**

GR represented Department for Economy and Transport (formerly DEIN) updated the group.

- The revision of the Property Strategy is a key priority for D E & T given its importance to informing future planning and investment. The strategy will inform the develop of a medium to long term investment plan for the Infrastructure department within D E & T.
- The timetable for the completion of the initial draft document for consultation is Autumn 2007 to enable sufficient time for the recent policy announcements relating to sustainability and Breeam/Carbon Zero to be fully embedded within the strategy.
- The provision for Waste related projects is being considered as an integral part of this wider sustainable development appraisal to identify opportunities which will add not only to the sustainability of individual sites but can make a direct contribution to waste reduction targets.
- The Property Strategy recognises the need to accommodate demand for projects identified within the emerging Regional Waste Plan where this is compatible with the other economic objectives emerging from both WAVE and WSP. These projects must also be compatible in terms of good estate management, site development and master planning.
- The Regional Waste Plans will need to provide sufficiently detailed guidance to enable DE & T to evaluate individual sites against clear criteria to ensure that only appropriate uses are allowed which are fully compatible with the overall master planning of each site.
- In addition the Strategy will seek to identify ways in which waste generated on individual sites can be best managed in a sustainable way. On larger sites this may potentially involve the provision of sites/facilities on site which minimise the movement of waste and provide an additional competitive advantage to businesses on such sites.
- The draft Strategy will be subject to further consultation with key stakeholders, including all local authorities, later this year. This will enable DE & T to ensure that the strategy captures all the economic development opportunities which can make a positive contribution to economic development, in the context of WAVE and WSP. These must include waste if both the environment and business are to both benefit from the challenges that waste poses for us all.

WR stated that the attitude of the WDA (now WAG) has changed and are looking sites that are appropriate for employment/waste management.

## **9. Updates**

MJP stated that the Officers have met to discuss land take calculations and will update everyone sooner rather than later.

The consultation process will take place in October 2007.

The Member training is taking place in September/October 2007.

MS asked those who had not given MS an update on their Local Authority to email her.

MS asked COB if she had an update on the EAW waste management facility capacity study. COB stated that the capacity study should be ready in the next quarter.

MJP advised the group that no further information on progress of the Wales Spatial Plan with respect to waste. Once there some information he will advise the group.

MS stated that some site visits are being arranged for September and will let the group know when more information is available.

### **Conwy**

#### **LDP**

- Currently assessing strategic candidate sites. Suitable sites will appear within the revised Preferred Strategy (on the Key Diagram) due to be published for consultation in February 2008.
- Drafting a background paper on Waste to support the LDP. This should be completed during August 2007.
- Reviewing consultation responses on the Preferred Strategy sent out for consultation last October. This outcome of this process will inform the content of the revised Preferred Strategy.
- The timetable for publication of the LDP is now as follows:
  - Revised Preferred Strategy - Feb 2008
  - Deposit Plan - Feb 2009
  - Adopted Plan - 2010

#### **Waste Planning**

Nothing to report

#### **Waste Management**

Nothing to report

### **Denbighshire**

#### **LDP**

- Currently preparing preferred strategy
- Members require more time to consider strategic options
- Additional evidence currently being collated to support the strategic options selected

#### **Waste Planning**

- Meeting held with companies regarding potential sites for inclusion in the Local Development Plan

#### **Waste Management**

- Initial plans for a new civic amenity centre were taken to Scrutiny Committee on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April

### **Flintshire**

#### **Planning**

## **UDP**

- The post consultation draft UDP (incorporating proposed modifications made in response to responses to the draft UDP and have been subject to a re-consultation) will be subject to Public Inquiry on 19th September 2007.
- The planning application for Cathod Recycling site is in the public domain and are awaiting request regarding the scoping on hazardous waste

## **Waste Planning**

No significant changes since the last report

- Screening and scoping opinion issued for 145,000tpa household waste treatment park, Deeside Industrial estate
- Enquiries: 50,000 tpa food waste process with energy production and utilisation pilot modular gasification plant for a wide range of waste total treatment solution for residual waste 50,000 tpa

## **Waste Management**

North Wales Waste Technology Partnership

- Interim Project Leader has been appointed – Nigel Truman.
- HoT and MoU was distributed to all potential partnering authorities on 11<sup>th</sup> July - no feedback as yet.
- Screening and Scoping Report has been submitted to Mineral and Waste Planning Team.
- PIN and OJEU – copies of PQQ (prequalification questionnaire) have been sent to all potential partners for comment.
- Communication Plan to be devised.
- Looking for a second site to facilitate North Wales for waste management facility. Could be a total solution or just treat one type of waste.
- A second version of Heads of Terms has been produced and awaiting feedback before going for procurement. The communication process will start next month until the building has been commissioned.

A49A road widening present closure of the Queensferry Recycling Park (CA) and the Queensferry Depot. Discussions ongoing for a new Recycling Park at Sandycroft.

## **Gwynedd**

### **Planning**

- There is no real change in the status of the Gwynedd UDP, in that all hearings, representations, & objections had been completed by July 2006. The public enquiry closed in May 2007, and the Planning Inspectorate report is imminent.
- In respect of the fourteen sites allocated for waste management in the pre-enquiry changes to the Unitary Development Plan, both applications for waste related developments at Cookes Industrial Estate, Penrhyndeudraeth and Llanystumdwy are currently held in abeyance, pending the submission of further information.
- Following the re-submission of an application to extend an existing waste transfer facility on Cibyn Industrial Estate, Caernarfon (Gwynedd Skip Hire), the Arfon Area Planning Committee resolved to grant planning permission subject to

conditions. The applicant has since withdrawn his appeal against to refusal of the original scheme and it is expected that the facility will process in the region of 75,000tpa of demolition arisings and dry commercial waste per annum. The developer has also submitted an application for the temporary storage of empty skips on one of the fourteen sites allocated for waste management in the pre-enquiry changes to the Unitary Development Plan in order to release sufficient space for the construction of a purpose-built recycling shed at the waste transfer facility.

- Planning applications recently submitted include a local civic amenity site at Sarn Meyllteyrn, Llyn Peninsula and a non-hazardous landfill for domestic/ municipal waste at Llwyn Isaf, Clynnogfawr. The Llwyn Isaf application was accompanied by a full EIA and Gwynedd Council as competent authority is expected to undertake a test of significance and appropriate assessment under the Habitats Regulations, 1994, to ascertain the potential impact of the development on the adjacent Cors Gyfelog SAC.
- An application for non-hazardous waste site for 4/5 years at Llwyn Isaf has been submitted.

### **Waste Management**

- None available

### **Anglesey**

#### **Planning**

- The LDP is at the pre-deposit consultation stage. Whereas there has been a little slippage in the timetable to date, it is considered that the overall time scale set out in the Delivery Agreement will still be achieved.
- Sites put forward into the Candidate Site Register are being assessed.
- A paper on waste issues has been reported to the LDP Panel and to the Executive Committee of the Council.
- The 13 possible sites for waste/disposal /treatment facilities suggested in the SLR Report – Planning for Future Waste Management and Disposal have been added to the Candidate Site Register and are being investigated further.

### **Waste Management**

- Detailed application now submitted and under consideration for gas power generation scheme at former Penhesgyn Landfill Site, following approval of outline application.
- The required scheme of highway improvement at Penhesgyn has been submitted and is under consideration. If the submitted scheme is considered to be satisfactory, works to construct the IVC facility (joint project with two other Local Authorities) may proceed.
- The fallen stock collection centre at Unit 4, Gaerwen Industrial Estate (granted on appeal) is now operational. Initial concerns raised by objectors regarding 'foul odours' etc has proved to be unfounded.
- Waste Services Peer Review Study recently completed. The stated broad aims of the review process are to: -

- raise the profile of waste management issues amongst officers and elected members;
- identify and disseminate good practice and pooling of learning;
- act as a lever/catalyst for change and innovation;
- provide advice and assistance to individual authorities;
- build capacity through peers; and
- provide assurance and validation of what is going well

The findings of the review are currently being assessed and evaluated.

### **Powys**

#### **Planning**

- None available

#### **Waste Management**

- Work is currently going on with Ceredigion Council on a Making the Connections funded joint waste project with a view to procuring some type of treatment facility(s). Consultants have been appointed to undertake a broad technology options appraisal for mid Wales. A procurement process will be then be commenced that will be informed by the appraisal

### **Snowdonia National Park**

#### **Planning**

GL stated that planning consent for an IBC facility for 500,000 tonnes had been deferred at the planning committee subject to a site visit.

### **Wrexham**

#### **Planning**

- Preferred Strategy to go to the Executive Board for approval on the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2007.
- Public Consultation planned for September - November 2007
- Hafod Landfill Site, Johnstown - Modification Order has been sent to Welsh Assembly Government for approval. Several objections received. Public inquiry possible.
- Pen y Bont Landfill Site, Newbridge: Application P/2007/0324 to vary condition on previous permission in order to permit continuation of landfill operations until 6.10.2015. Submitted 14.3.07. Not yet determined.
- Astbury Landfill Site, Dark Lane, Burton: Application P/2007/0497 to vary condition on previous permission to allow for continued import and processing of inert material for the purpose of a revised restoration scheme. Submitted 16.4.07. Not yet determined.
- Bryn Lane Recycling Centre, Wrexham Industrial Estate: Application P/2007/0694 for Waste Recycling and Composting Facility submitted 4.6.07. Not yet determined.
- Brymbo Household Recycling Centre: Application P/2007/0693 for extension and redevelopment of site submitted 4.6.07. Not yet determined.

- Plas Madoc Household Recycling Centre, Acrefair: Application P/2007/0692 for extension and redevelopment of site submitted 4.6.07. Not yet determined.

### **Waste Management**

None available

### **Cheshire**

#### **Planning**

- Cheshire Replacement Waste Local Plan - the County Council adopted the plan at Council on 12 July 2007. The Plan incorporates all the binding recommendations of the Inspector's Report from the Inquiry.
- Clayhanger Hall Farm and Kinderton Lodge Landfill Application: The Local Plan inquiry was immediately followed by the public inquiry into two planning applications for landfill at Clayhanger Hall Farm and Kinderton Lodge which had been submitted to the County Council. The applications were called in for determination by the Secretary of State. The Inspector's report into the called in planning applications has been prepared separately to the report into the Local Plan objections and has been submitted to the Secretary of State. A decision on both applications is expected in September.
- Ince Marshes Applications (Department for Trade and Industry (DTI) Application under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 for a Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) Plant and Planning Application for a Resource Recovery Park (RRP) submitted to Cheshire County Council). The applicants have appealed to the Secretary of State against the County Council's refusal of the outline planning application for the RRP. The appeal will be dealt with by Public Inquiry. The appeal start date was 21st February 2007. We do not have a date or venue for the Inquiry at this stage, although it looks likely to begin in March 2008. The DTI application for the Refuse Derived Fuel Plant will be dealt with through the same planning inquiry which is being organised by the Planning Inspectorate. However, Peel Holdings are imminently due to submit a re-submission of the RRP application to the County Council, and it is expected that it will be contents of this submission which will be discussed at the public inquiry.

Applications outside Cheshire administrative boundary – Ineos Chlor Limited have submitted an application to the Department for Trade and Industry (DTI) for the development of an 'Energy from Waste Plant' at the INEOS site in Runcorn. It is for a combined heat and power facility to produce heat and steam to be consumed at the Runcorn site with a capacity of 360MW thermal and 100MW of electricity. Halton Borough Council is a statutory consultee on the application. Cheshire County Council as strategic planning authority was consulted by Halton BC. As far as we are aware Halton BC are still to submit comments to the DTI.

### **10. Any Other Business**

MJP made the group aware of the 'One Voice' document which can be viewed on the WLGA website. MJP stated that on page 32 that there is a need to improve recycling targets.

GN would like the group discuss the issues of interaction with North West England Regional Waste grouping. MJP asked the group if this item could be an agenda item for the next meeting and the group agreed.

### **11. Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 12.30 – venue tbc.

MJP stated that the Review needs to be agreed at the next meeting. The following items need to go on the next agenda: -

SEA Waste Management Options  
Health Impact Assessment  
Regional Waste Plan Review  
Figures and Findings as result of calculations

**The meeting ended at 16.00**

DRAFT