

**Minutes of Meeting of Regional Technical Advisory Body  
4<sup>th</sup> June 2008 in The 'Green' Room, Barrack Street, Warwick**

**1. Attendance**

Bruce Braithwaite	Staffordshire CC, WMRA Waste Policy Lead – in the chair
Brian Dore	Birmingham City Council
Chris Blakeley	WMRA
Chris Crean	Sustainability West Midlands/ FoE
Dawn Harris	Walsall MBC
Debbie Holihead	Staffordshire CC
Derek Greedy	Warwickshire CC
Jane Wormald	Herefordshire Council
Jeanne Grey	BERR
Mohammed Salim	Sandwell MBC
Nick Dean	Worcestershire CC
Regina Duggan	Environment Agency
Shelly Beckett	Environment Agency
Tim Baldwin	AWM
Trevor Cornfoot	AWM
Peter Field	Technical Secretary

1.1 Apologies were received from Adrian Cooper, Andrew Orchard, Craig Rowbottom, Dave Coxill, David Piper, Debbie Klein, James Dennison, Jeff Rhodes, Jo Cornock, Keith Watson, Peter Hopkins and Rob Haigh.

1.2 Bruce Braithwaite took the chair in the absence of Adrian Cooper. He thanked Warwickshire County Council for hosting the meeting.

**2. Minutes of meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2008**

2.1 The minutes were agreed as an accurate record, subject to the addition of Debbie Holihead to the list of those attending. There were no matters arising that were not included on the agenda.

**3. Sub-national economic development and regeneration review – presentation by Trevor Cornfoot, SNR Transition Team, Advantage West Midlands**

3.1 TC outlined the background to the Government review, which embraces regional planning, housing and transport as well as economic development; and the work underway in the Region to respond to the implementation proposals. He outlined the main proposals set out in the 'Condoc', and stressed that these have important implications for regional structures, local authorities and other stakeholders. The Region is well advanced in developing its own proposals, and aims to agree a response to the Condoc on 24<sup>th</sup> June. A Regional work programme has been developed, for implementation over the next 12-18 months. This includes a Regional Partnerships Review.

3.2 Discussion focussed on:

(a) Democratic accountability, particularly in preparing and signing-off the Single Integrated Regional Strategy (SIRS), and the need for full involvement of wider stakeholder groups. The Condoc proposals are seen to be a retrograde step away from the current inclusive model.

(b) The confusing relationship between SIRS and phases 2 and 3 of the RSS Review.

(c) The need to ensure that environmental matters including waste are given appropriate prominence in the new arrangements. CB has been invited to assemble a team to prepare an 'Environmental Framework' (to include waste) in parallel with the SIRS development. SB confirmed that the EA will be supporting this work. See also paragraph 5.3.

3.3 The chair thanked TC for his helpful and informative presentation and confirmed that a copy of the presentation would be distributed with the minutes.

#### **4. Review of WEEE Directive – presentation by Jeanne Grey, Assistant Director WEEE Implementation Team, Department for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform**

4.1 JG explained that the WEEE Directive included a requirement for this Review, which started in August 2006 when views of stakeholders had been sought. The formal consultation paper was published in April 2008, and the deadline for comments is 5<sup>th</sup> June. Proposals are due to be published in October 2008, negotiations in the European Council and Parliament are timetabled for 2009, and a new Directive is planned to be in force by 2011/12.

4.2 She confirmed that the relatively modest targets for household WEEE set for the first compliance period had been exceeded. Work is continuing to improve the system in the UK, through consumer awareness campaigns, preparing guidelines, etc.

4.3 Regarding commercial WEEE, RD confirmed that the EA are attempting to boost the number of registrations, and JG observed that small organisations are the most difficult to engage in the process, despite the potential cost savings to SMEs of free disposal of WEEE.

4.4 The chair thanked JG for her interesting and helpful presentation.

#### **5. AWM's Waste Infrastructure Programme**

5.1 TB tabled a short paper setting out details of Waste Infrastructure Development Programme, which is in response to the conclusions of the SLR Report<sup>1</sup>, which identifies a potential 3.7mt capacity gap in the Region. The £5.4m programme of intervention goes forward for assessment in the week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> June. There are 4 projects, focusing around

(a) Providing leadership - a proposed Waste Infrastructure Advisory Group, with £180K support funding over 3 years.

(b) Improving communication, raising the profile in industry regarding resource efficiency and waste management and improving the image of waste management - £450K over 3 years.

(c) Improving access to recycling infrastructure and maximising use of existing capacity.

(d) Investing in sites and new infrastructure projects.

5.2 BB welcomed the programme, and the proposed Waste Infrastructure Advisory Group. He suggested that RTAB's role in supporting this Group was evolving within the changing Regional structures to help to deliver facilities as well as advise on policy. The RDA's resources are beginning to help implement the policies of the RSS and WDFs. TB stressed that the Advisory Group would play a strategic role and that other strands of the programme will provide delivery. There was general agreement that it would be important for

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.advantagewm.co.uk/what-we-do/improving-places/sustainability-and-the-environment.aspx>

the Group to tap into the wider skills and knowledge of other groups, including RTAB but also for example the Brownfield Land Group and the Waste Forum.

5.3 BB referred to past discussions regarding the possibility of waste being considered as part of a separate partnership focusing on resources and invited views on whether this should be taken forward. CC suggested that it would be dangerous to lose the linkages with wider environmental issues, because the quality of environment underpins other activity including the economy. SB commented that the added value of the environmental economy should also be taken into account. These were complex matters and a discussion paper would be helpful if the issue was to be taken forward.

## **6. RSS Phase 2 review**

6.1 BB confirmed that the consultation period for the Phase 2 Revision had been extended to 8<sup>th</sup> December, to enable consideration of the GOWM Study on higher housing figures. The Examination in Public is expected to be held in Spring 2009.

## **7. Annual Monitoring Reports and National Waste Data Issues**

7.1 BB tabled a note prepared by Defra setting out the current situation with the national Waste Data Strategy and the Waste Data Hub and addressing issues relating to data gaps; and a draft Action Plan for the development of a robust evidence base for planning for waste management.

Agreed:

To give this and other waste data issues further consideration at a future meeting.

## **8. Dates and venues for next meetings:**

8.1 It was noted that the date of the next meeting, a joint meeting with the West Midlands Waste Forum, was to be changed from 16<sup>th</sup> July to either 17<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

(a) 23<sup>rd</sup> July (10.30am) – joint meeting with WMWF – now confirmed

(b) 11<sup>th</sup> September 2008 – venue to be determined

(c) 6<sup>th</sup> November 2008 – venue to be determined

PF 11/6/08