

**Minutes of Meeting of Regional Technical Advisory Body
27th June 2007 in Darlaston, Walsall**

1. Attendance

Adrian Cooper	Shropshire CC
Bruce Braithwaite	Staffordshire CC
Chris Blakeley	WMRA
Chris Crean	FoE
Dave Coxill	Telford & Wrekin Council
David Piper	Dudley MBC
Dawn Harris	Walsall MBC
Derek Greedy	Warwickshire CC
Emily Manttan	EA
Gerald Owen	Cory Environmental/ ESA
Jeff Rhodes	Biffa/ ESA
Katie Dickson	Wolverhampton CC
Mark Rowley	Sandwell MBC
Mohammed Salim	Sandwell MBC
Nick Dean	Worcestershire CC
Rachael Pipkin	GOWM
Richard Hammersley	Planning Aid
Simone Aplin	EA
Susan Juned	NISP
Terry Burns	Herefordshire Council
Tim Baldwin	AWM
Vic Pitcher	Shropshire CC
Ian Smith	GOWM
Emma Pierce-Jenkins	Telford & Wrekin Council
Rebecca Gill	GOWM
Graham Gardner	Excelsior Pumps
Peter Field	Technical Secretary

Apologies were received from Brian Davies, Graham Bailey, Jane Wormald, Katherine Kynaston, Peter Hopkins, Ralph Hepworth, and Shaun Denny.

The chair thanked Walsall for hosting the meeting.

2. Minutes of meeting on 28th March 2007

2.1 The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

2.2 There was one matter arising. DG commented that he had had no contact regarding the Defra Working Party/Project Board for the Management of Low level Radioactive Waste.

Agreed:
BB to chase this up with Defra.

**3. Regional Waste Strategy/ Review of Regional Spatial Strategy Phase 2:
Preparation of Preferred Options**

3.1 BB gave a Powerpoint presentation summarising the key findings of the SLR Report on re-use, recycling and recovery capacity and the Scott Wilson Report on Landfill Capacity,

and highlighting the key issues to be addressed in drafting the preferred options and policies for the RSS Review.

3.2 Regarding the SLR report, it was now necessary to agree the responsibility, mechanisms and funding to keep the information up to date. He suggested that the WMRA would need to address this.

3.3 Discussion regarding the RSS preferred options and policies focused around:

(i) The need for waste to be seen as part of a sustainable approach to resource management in the Region, possibly by including an overarching policy in RSS.

(ii) The requirements of PPS10 and the level of detail to be included. The GOWM/ DCLG view was that a greater level of locational detail was required, together with policies setting out the numbers and types of facilities required in each area. This was the view taken by the Panel regarding the Yorkshire and Humberside draft RSS. Individual settlements should be identified. Other RTAB members representing both local authority and industry sectors felt that this level of detail was neither practical to provide nor desirable. It would create a highly prescriptive, inflexible framework, unresponsive to changing circumstances (for example developments in new technologies and the trend towards joint management of municipal and industrial/ commercial wastes). They therefore supported the approach adopted in the draft policies. The Chair noted that the Planning Officers Society was hosting a meeting with DCLG on 13th July, which would address these issues and similar ones regarding the form and content of minerals and waste Local Development Documents.

(iii) The desirability or otherwise of identifying Hilltop as a broad location for the management of contaminated soils and hazardous waste. Such facilities serve a wide area and therefore flexibility should be built in to permit other locations to be considered.

Agreed:

- (a) BB to provide a copy of his presentation for distribution to RTAB members.
- (b) BB to reflect the views expressed in the forthcoming meeting of RSS Policy Leads.
- (c) BB to discuss with WMRA the mechanisms and funding for keeping the information on existing capacity up to date.

4. Presentation by Graham Gardner of Excelsior Pumps concerning the RODECS Pyrolysis System (see

4.1 GG explained that the RODECS Pyrolysis system takes MSW and converts it within a controlled, non-oxidative atmosphere to gas/ electricity and metals/ glass for re-smelting. The process has been developed by Chinook Industries and plants have been installed in USA, Canada, Russia, Brazil, Portugal, Slovakia, Dubai and UK (Cheshire). A typical plant comprises a building some 75metres square, has a throughput of 100-150,000 tonnes pa, with a life expectancy of 15 years. Noise and emissions are effectively controlled.

4.2 The requirement for developing a facility in the Region would be for a site and a contract to guarantee 80,000 tonnes of MSW pa for 7 years. Joint ventures are a possibility.

4.3 The Chair thanked GG for his presentation and invited RTAB members to contact GG if they wanted more information.

(Note – see <http://www.rodecs.com/Visitors/Brochure-Main-a.htm> for additional information.)

5. Site Waste Management Plans – consultation by Defra

5.1 BB commented that the draft proposals still propose a monetary threshold, whereas the conventional small/ large site definition would be preferable from a planning point of view. The Chair urged individual RTAB members to comment on the proposals, and to copy their comments to the Technical Secretary so that these can be reported back to a future meeting.

Agreed:

RTAB members to copy any comments to PF.

6. Publication of National Waste Strategy

6.1 The Chair informed the Group that the meeting to be held jointly with the Regional Waste Forum will be held in the morning of 16th July. TB confirmed that he had arranged a room at Farraday Wharf, Birmingham.

7. Progress on plans/ developments in the Region

7.1 Progress was reported as follows:

- (a) Staffordshire: the Consultation period on Issues and Options for the Core Strategy had closed.
- (b) Telford:- the Informal hearing into the Core strategy and Waste DPD had raised a number of issues regarding soundness; consequently, minerals and waste policies would be deleted from the Core Strategy and further consideration of the Waste DPD is suspended.
- (c) Black Country: Joint Core Strategy Issues and Options due to be published on 29th July.
- (d) Herefordshire: the UDP was adopted in March.
- (e) Warwickshire: a SFRA is under way.
- (f) Worcestershire: to request withdrawal of the Core Strategy.
- (g) Shropshire: have requested withdrawal.

7.2 The Chair noted the recent publication by the Planning Inspectorate of further lessons on plan preparation, and expressed the hope that the meeting on 13th July would lead to substantive progress on the preparation of definitive guidance.

8. Any other business

8.1 CB suggested that RTAB needed to consider making comments on the Review of the Regional Economic Strategy; CC suggested that RTAB's response should focus on the resource management issue.

8.2 SA advised that the EA's Life Cycle Analysis tool was now available in CD form, and she would happily supply copies on request.

7. Next Meeting

7.1 Future dates are to be advised.

NB Dates proposed are:

Thursday 20th September 2007 (am) at NISP (Kings Norton)

Thursday 8th November 2007 (am)

Thursday 24th January 2008 (am)

Presentation by European Metal Recycling

(Simon Dodd, Rob Chaddock and Emma Rimmer)

The meeting was followed by a presentation by Simon Dodd (Group Property Manager), Rob Chaddock (National Business Development Manager) and Emma Rimmer (Communications Manager) of EMR, paper copies of which were distributed to RTAB members. The presentation was followed by a tour of EMR's Darlaston site.

The Chair thanked Simon and his team on behalf of RTAB for their informative and stimulating presentation and hospitality in showing members around the site.

PF 2/7/07