

**Minutes of Meeting of Regional Technical Advisory Body
28th March 2007, Warwickshire County Council, Warwick**

DRAFT

1. Attendance

Bruce Braithwaite	Staffordshire County Council
Neil Cross	Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Trust
Susan Juned	NISP
Tim Baldwin	Advantage West Midlands
Claire Atkins	WRAP
Ann Taylor	Coventry
Chris Blakeley	West Midlands Regional Assembly
Chris Crean	Friends of the Earth
Jenny Doyle	ESA (Cory Environmental)
Shaun Denney	ESA (Sita)
Debbie Jones	Environment Agency
Emily Manttan	Environment Agency
Mohammed Salim	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Adrian Cooper	Shropshire County Council
Rachael Pipkin	GOWM
Derek Greedy	Warwickshire County Council
David Coxill	Telford & Wrekin Council
Nick Dean	Worcestershire County Council
David Piper	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Apologies were received from Pete Field, Dawn Harris, Jeff Rhodes, Peter Hopkins, Simone Aplin and Rebecca Carter.

The chair thanked Warwickshire for hosting the meeting.

2. Minutes of meeting on 23rd January 2007

2.1 The minutes were agreed as an accurate record. There was just one matter arising.

DG along with Richard Evans from Cumbria to be the RTABs representatives on the Defra Working Party/Project Board for the Management of Low level Radioactive Waste.

3. Chair of the RTAB

3.1 The Chair indicated that his role within Staffordshire had changed significantly which meant that he wished to resign his position as chair of the RTAB but would be in a position to continue as the Policy Lead. He proposed that Adrian Cooper succeed him as Chair which was confirmed unanimously.

3.2 AC thanked everyone for their support and then went on to thank BB for all the sterling work he had put in on behalf of the RTAB over the past 5 years.

4. Review of Regional Spatial Strategy Phase 2- Response to Consultation and Development of the Preferred Options.

4.1 There had been a good response to the consultation on the RSS issues and options. Unfortunately a common theme throughout the responses was that there should be no development anywhere. A report on the consultation responses will be prepared by 16 April.

- 4.2 A working draft of the preferred options for waste which reflected the consultation responses was tabled. The minimum requirement for each Waste Planning Authority should reflect the ambitions of some Authorities and go beyond the minimum requirements imposed by LATS targets. It was noted that the 2005 composting targets for the region had been met. Due to the difficulty of presenting annual targets for each WPA in the report in tabular form, it was suggested that they should be aggregated in 5 year bands and perhaps shown on an annual basis in a technical appendix.
- 4.3 The Department for Communities appears to want to see specific locations identified particularly where they are likely to be of regional significance. Statements such as close to urban locations may not suffice. These points led to much debate as to what was meant by "Broad Locations" and why a regional level strategy should be identifying locations which might be better included by individual Waste Planning Authorities in their Allocations Documents.
- 4.4 There was a discussion concerning the limited ability of Waste Planning Authorities (particularly in 2 tier areas) to protect waste management sites which are specifically identified in development plans against competing uses which generate land values which are beyond the reach of most waste management businesses.

Agreed:

RP (GOWM) to seek further clarification concerning the definition of 'Broad Locations' and the role of RSS in identifying these.

BB to modify the preferred options paper and circulate, with comments to BB by 12th April.

5. Research studies into waste recycling and recovery capacity and potential landfill capacity – update

- 5.1 A feedback meeting had been held with both consultants
- 5.2 SLR reported that the phone survey for the reuse and recycling capacity study had delivered a response rate of around 50%. They had targeted around 40 sites for visits and again the response has been encouraging. Expecting to report back in mid-April
- 5.3 Scott Wilson reported that the void capacity study was progressing well despite not getting good co-operation from one major and one minor operator. BB however reported that with some cajoling the major player had now cooperated. Scott Wilson expect to report back by the end of March. BB expected the report to extend the life of the existing planned and permitted void and that this would be further extended to reflect the increases in landfill tax introduced by the budget.

6. Recycle at Work: SME Service Provision in the Regions

- 6.1 A presentation was given by Claire Atkins of WRAP. A copy of the presentation will be provided with the minutes.

7. Progress on plans/ developments in the Region

- (a) Telford: Core strategy and waste DPD – Informal hearing to be held 5/6/7 June. Joint SFRA study with the other councils in the Shropshire sub-region.
- (b) Worcestershire: Core Strategy – Inquiry hearing scheduled for October, but have received an objection from EA regarding the need for a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA).
- (c) Black Country: Joint Core Strategy in preparation; stakeholder event on minerals and waste to be held in Walsall on 29th March.
- (d) Warwickshire: Minerals and Waste Development Scheme has been revised; Submission draft of Core Strategy in preparation. EA have requested that an SFRA be undertaken to inform both the Core Strategy and the Sustainability Appraisal. Meeting to be arranged with EA to discuss. Schedule of policies which are proposed to be saved from Waste Local Plan has been sent to Government Office.
- (e) Shropshire: Advice received from the Inspector during an exploratory meeting for the Sustainable Resource Management Core Strategy and Mineral Resources Development Plan Documents has resulted in them being withdrawn. The nature of the Inspector's comments mean that it is likely that Shropshire will now need to start again from the beginning. The advice received from both DCLG and GOWM at earlier stages of the preparation process differed significantly from the views of the Planning Inspector. Schedule of policies which are proposed to be saved from Waste Local Plan has been sent to Government Office.
- (f) Staffordshire: Issues and Options Core Strategy approved for consultation. A draft of the Municipal Waste Strategy unlikely to be taken to Council in advance of the May elections.
- (g) Coventry working towards its preferred options.
- (h) SFRA for the RSS due to be published in April.

7. Next Meeting

Venue and date to be advised.