

**Minutes of Meeting of Regional Technical Advisory Body
11th July 2006**

1. Attendance

Bruce Braithwaite	Staffordshire County Council
Chris Blakeley	WMRA
Neil Cross	Government Office West Midlands
Debbie Jones	Environment Agency
Emily Manttan	Environment Agency
Jeff Rhodes	ESA
Jenny Doyle	ESA
James Dennison	Groundwork West Midlands
Susan Juned	NISP
Mohammed Salim	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Dawn Harris	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Paul Sobczyk	Telford & Wrekin Council
Katie Dickson	Wolverhampton City Council
Nick Dean	Worcestershire County Council
Peter Field	Technical Secretary

Apologies were received from Kevin Singleton, Katherine Kynaston, David Coxill, Derek Greedy, Adrian Cooper, Graham Bailey, Rachael Pipkin, Shaun Denny, and Ralph Hepworth.

2. Minutes of meeting on 5th May 2006

2.1 The minutes were agreed as an accurate record. There were several matters arising:

- a) Black Country Waste Strategy: it was noted that this was being presented to the Leaders today, and that it should be possible to make a full report to the next meeting of RTAB.
- b) National Waste Strategy: a report on the outcome of consultation is to be published shortly, and publication of the final strategy is expected towards the end of the year.
- c) Low level radio-active waste: a response had been made on behalf of RTAB; DJ is checking on the statutory consultation procedure and will report further on this.
- d) Environmental Permitting Programme: RTAB had not made a response; it was understood that this was now being pursued by DCLG. Several members expressed concerns about on-going delays in the Planning Inspectorate and the low priority that seemed to be attached to waste-related appeals.
- e) RSS Environment Reference Group: this would now meet to discuss options for public consultation on 11th September starting at 2pm, at Quay Place, Birmingham; the meeting is open to the public and RTAB members are urged to attend – details can be obtained from Gillian.toogood@telford.gov.uk.

Agreed:

Low-level radio-active waste consultation:
(a) RTAB response to be circulated (BB/PF);
(b) Defra to be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss the implications for the West Midlands (BB);
(c) DJ to report on statutory consultation procedure to a future meeting.

3. Regional Waste Strategy/ Review of Regional Spatial Strategy

3.1 A 3 month adjustment to the timetable for preparing the RSS Phase 2 Review has been proposed by the RPP, to give further time to consider the S4(4) responses in light of the housing growth proposals. The statutory consultation phase will now begin in January 2007.

3.2 S4(4) responses regarding waste had been used in framing options. It was of some concern that the Birmingham response had not addressed commercial and industrial waste.

3.3 JD asked if the monitoring data yet revealed any impact from the ongoing investment in waste minimisation. DJ reported that data on commercial and industrial waste arisings was only collected through periodic surveys and does not paint an up to date picture. However, the EA would soon be able to release data from their landfill void research and 2004/05 site input data, which would be useful for more general monitoring. BB commented that the data does show a change in the characteristics of commercial and industrial waste requiring to be managed, reflecting changes in the industrial structure (for example, an increase in food-related waste, and a decline in waste from the pottery industry). This information was potentially useful in targeting waste minimisation and other initiatives, and could be presented in the forthcoming annual monitoring report.

3.4 BB thanked those who had helped in putting together the draft waste options context paper, and commented that the questions of residual landfill requirements and hazardous waste still needed to be addressed in it. Some clarification was also required of the way in which the housing growth-related municipal waste requirements had been derived. DJ confirmed that information on hazardous waste facilities and management was available from the EA web site.

Agreed:

- (a) Birmingham to be asked if they can add comments on commercial and industrial waste to their S4(4) response;
- (b) RTAB supports the general approach adopted in the context paper;
- (c) The paper to be finalised by early September, including information on landfill and hazardous waste (BB);
- (d) The sub-group to meet again to progress the paper (BB);
- (e) Low-level radioactive waste to be flagged up in the paper as an issue to be addressed in the future;
- (f) DJ/ PF to discuss further information for inclusion in the context paper and also in the annual monitoring report.

4. Regional Support Fund

4.1 NC informed the Group that Defra was now considering a proposal to fund an extension to last year's Black Country-related project, and that a further £15K was available for additional projects. BB and NISP were discussing a SME-related project to explore the region's capacity to recycle waste.

4.2 NC also reminded members that free consultancy support was available to local authorities from LASU's Waste Implementation Programme, for waste planning

as well as waste management, and agreed to provide further information for circulation.

Agreed:

- (a) Proposals for a SME-related project on Regional recycling capacity are supported, to be progressed by BB and SJ.
- (b) NC to provide further information on free consultancy support for local authorities.

5. Progress on plans/ developments in the Region and other Regions

5.1 Regarding the RSS Revision (Phase 1 – Black Country), BB commented that whilst waste issues in the Black Country were to be considered as part of the Phase 2 Review, the requirements for waste had implications for employment land and should therefore be addressed in the Phase 1 review; this view was generally supported.

5.2 It was agreed that Shropshire's proposed supplementary guidance on managing waste in new developments was a welcome initiative and should be supported in principle.

5.3 The Worcestershire Core Strategy (Preferred Options) had been considered in terms of conformity with the RSS, and no comments had been made. ND confirmed that the Plan would be updated with latest available data at the appropriate time.

5.4 The submission draft of Telford & Wrekin's revised DPD is about to be published. The Council is about to begin the procurement process for its residual waste management with publication of an OJEC notice.

5.5 Preliminary work has begun on the Black Country Core Strategy.

Agreed:

- (a) Comments on the draft response to the RSS Phase 1 review (Black Country) to be sent to PF by 28th July (All);
- (b) Shropshire to be advised that RTAB supports in principle the proposed supplementary planning document on managing waste in new developments.

6. PPS10 Companion Guide

6.1 Publication of the Companion Guide was noted.

7 Any Other Business

7.1 BB had attended the CIWM Conference, and obtained information regarding a proposal by Peel Holdings for a Resource Recovery Park at Ellesmere Port, which he would make available for circulation.

6. Date and time of next meetings

- (a) Tuesday 5th September at 10am.
- (b) Tuesday ?? October at 10am.

West Midlands Regional Technical Advisory Body for Waste
Chair: Bruce Braithwaite, Staffordshire County Council

It was agreed to invite Defra to one of these meetings to discuss low level radioactive waste, and to explore the possibility of holding the other meeting at BIP in Oldbury.

The meeting was followed by a brief presentation by David Coleman, and a tour of Coleman and Company's Shady Lane site.

David explained that Coleman and Company is a privately owned family business, with an annual turnover of some £13m. The Shady Lane site (formerly an aluminium foundry) is a 6 acre site accommodating offices, workshop and a specialist processing/ washing plant. Development of the plant was grant-assisted by WRAP. It operates under an exemption from the EA, crushing, screening and processing material from the company's own demolition contracts to produce a variety of gravels and sands. Waste requiring disposal has been reduced by 90%. The company has won 3 national awards in the last 12 months for innovation in the use of waste materials.

BB thanked David for his presentation and for the generous hospitality provided to RTAB, which was greatly appreciated.

PF 13/7/06