

**Minutes of Meeting of Regional Technical Advisory Body
5th September 2006**

1. Attendance

Bruce Braithwaite	Staffordshire County Council
Chris Blakeley	WMRA
Neil Cross	Government Office West Midlands
Rachael Pipkin	Government Office West Midlands
Simone Aplin	Environment Agency
Susan Juned	NISP
Shaun Denny	ESA
Mohammed Salim	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Adrian Cooper	Shropshire County Council
Derek Greedy	Warwickshire County Council
Graham Bailey	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Dawn Harris	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
David Coxill	Telford & Wrekin Council
Katie Dickson	Wolverhampton City Council
Nick Dean	Worcestershire County Council
Tony Ashfield	West Midlands Centre of Excellence
Bryn Walters	East Midlands Regional Assembly
Peter Field	Technical Secretary

Apologies were received from Emily Manttan, Ralph Hepworth, Jeff Rhodes, James Dennison and Peter Hopkins.

2. Minutes of meeting on 11th July 2006

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

- a) Low level radio-active waste: SA hopes to be able to report to the next meeting on statutory consultation procedures.
- b) RSS Environment Reference Group, 11th September: places are still available, and details can be obtained from Gillian.toogood@telford.gov.uk.

3. Regional Waste Strategy/ Review of Regional Spatial Strategy

3.1 The chair invited comments on the previously distributed draft Technical Paper, and tabled a revised section dealing with general policy areas. There was general support for including an Executive Summary, and additional questions relating to the possible need for the RSS to identify any requirement for regional and sub-regional facilities and their broad locations. There were also a number of detailed comments. It was

Agreed:

- (a) Any further comments to be given to BB within the next 2 days;
- (b) BB to revise the paper in line with the comments received, and distribute this for further comment by 8th September;
- (c) BB to finalise the Technical Paper by 14th September.

4. Annual Monitoring Report

4.1 PF outlined the timetable and process for producing the Annual Monitoring Report for 2006. A draft of the report, including all relevant data, is to be submitted to the Chair of the Environmental Monitoring Group by 30th September. It was

Agreed:

- (a) PF to draft the AMR 2006 by 30th September;
- (b) A Supplementary Report is not required this year.

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

(a) Black Country Waste Strategy

5.1 GB updated the group on progress. Black Country Chief Executives and Leaders had given the proposed Strategy a favourable response, and work was now progressing on a 3 year plan. An Executive Group has been established to drive the process forward. The Consultants report is not yet in the public domain.

(b) Draft SPD for Hill Top, Sandwell

5.2 MS introduced the draft SPD, commenting that it was the product of effective joint working between waste management and planning staff. The response from the public was so far broadly supportive, though some issues had been raised by land owners. It was

Agreed:

RTAB welcomes the production of the draft SPD as a positive contribution to bringing forward strategic provision for waste management in the Region.

(c) Other developments

- i. Shropshire's Core Strategy for Minerals and Waste Development is scheduled to be submitted in October 2006.
- ii. Warwickshire's Core Strategy and Preferred Options for Waste are now out to consultation.
- iii. Worcestershire's Core Strategy is planned to be submitted by December 2006.
- iv. Worcestershire has received a planning application for a mixed MRF with capacity for 100K tonnes pa.
- v. Walsall has had pre-application discussions for MRF and open windrow composting development.
- vi. Walsall is consulting on a draft Design Guide and invites comments from RTAB members by 30th September.

6. Consultation on Validation of Planning Applications

6.1 BB noted that the draft proposals left the provision of site waste management plans and information for landfill applications as local (optional) matters, and that this was disappointing. It was

Agreed:

That RTAB requests DCLG to implement the provisions of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 and the Landfill (England and Wales) regulations 2002 by including the provision of site waste management plans and information on landfill applications on the core mandatory list.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 DG asked if there was any guidance on the way in which the contribution of waste transfer stations to the provision of capacity for waste treatment/ recycling could be taken into account. SA commented that the Environment Agency should have improved information next year on the 'fate' of waste handled at transfer stations.

7.2 BW offered to make available the report by consultants in connection with the East Midlands Regional Waste Strategy, which amongst other things dealt with the need for regional/ sub-regional waste facilities.

7.3 BB informed the Group that he was meeting with the Regional Employment Land Group to explain the need for land allocations to meet waste management requirements. He was also meeting with the Regional Health Working Party to explain the RSS consultation and encourage an informed response from the health perspective.

7.4 BB thanked Katie Dickson for hosting the meeting and for Wolverhampton's excellent hospitality.

8. Date and time of next meetings

Agreed:

10am, Thursday 23rd November 2006, Sandwell Council House.

PF 12/9/06