

**Minutes of Meeting of Regional Technical Advisory Body
24th January 2006**

1. Attendance

Bruce Braithwaite	Staffordshire County Council
Chris Blakeley	WMRA
Deborah Jones	Environment Agency
Neil Cross	Government Office West Midlands
Ralph Hepworth	Advantage West Midlands
Richard Hammersley	Academic representative
Jenny Doyle	ESA
Shaun Denny	ESA
Peter Hopkins	Robert Hopkins Ltd
Graham Bailey	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Dawn Harris	Birmingham City Council
Adrian Cooper	Shropshire County Council
Katie Dickson	Wolverhampton City Council
Derek Greedy	Warwickshire County Council
Mohammed Salim	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Peter Field	Technical Secretary

1.1 Apologies were received from Jeff Rhodes, Gerald Owen, Chris Crean, James Dennison, Susan Juned, Kevin Singleton, Nick Dean, Peter Brown, Emily Manttan, Simon Chapman, David Bridgwood and the GOWM RSS Team.

The Chair welcomed Richard Hammersley and Shaun Denny to the RTAB.

2. Minutes of meeting on 15th November 2005

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

- a) RSS Review: the Chair made available a paper copy of the Gantt chart to those requesting it.
- b) PPS10 publication: the 'living draft' of the Companion Guide has been published.
- c) Waste Data Project Group: re 7.1, the Chair had met with other RTAB chairs and at a meeting with the Project Manager had presented the case for data to be made available at regional, strategic planning authority and local authority levels. A response had been made to the draft Partial Regulatory Impact Assessment (ref 7.2).
- d) Budget: The Chair informed the Group that the WMRA budget for 2006/07 is tightly constrained. However, it had been possible to bring forward the RTAB projects (Phase 2 update and residual waste) for funding from 2005/06 underspend, and these are under way. Funding for the waste policy lead has been reduced. The Group viewed this with concern, seeing it as a reflection of the lack of priority to be given to the policy area, particularly as it is part of the Phase 2 review of the RSS and funding for other policy leads had been maintained.

Agreed

That the Group's concerns are referred to the Chief Executive of the WMRA (action - PF).

- e) Statutory performance standards for recycling: a response had been made on behalf of RTAB (ref 12.1).
- f) Brownfield Land Working Group: a meeting was to take place on 30th January.

3. Regional Waste Strategy

3.1 At its meeting in December, the Regional Environment Partnership had endorsed the significance of waste issues in the RSS review, their relevance to the Black Country Study, and linkages with the economic strategy. The Chair tabled a note setting out the timetable and brief for technical work on the RSS Phase 2 revision. This was to be issued to strategic planning authorities on 13th February, with a response to the issues and questions raised anticipated by 2nd May. Options are to be developed from May to July, and public consultation is planned for the Autumn.

3.2 DH suggested that local authorities would be reliant on published information, and would have difficulty responding to the questions. AC suggested that responses to the questions would need to be pragmatic, based on what information is available. DJ referred to work the EA was doing in response to a request from Worcestershire to provide information on throughput to licensed waste management facilities, and it was generally agreed that the scope to provide this on a consistent basis for all authorities should be explored further. PF advised the group that he had sorted the REGIS file for the West Midlands by local authority and the group expressed its thanks.

3.3 AC pointed out the relevance to the questions of the guiding principles for apportionment between local authorities proposed in the PPS10 Companion Guide, quoting as an example the principle that authorities with little or no scope to provide for residual waste disposal might be expected to provide for a larger proportion of the treatment requirement. PS suggested that the issue of apportionment would be complex, and he and SD noted that new legislation had led to a reduction in the region's capacity to deal with residual waste. It was generally agreed that these matters would be properly addressed when formulating options for public consultation following receipt of local authority responses to the questions. CB suggested that RTAB now needs to look carefully at that stage of the process, and how RTAB presents this work to the newly formed Environment Reference Group (whose role will be to recommend the options to the RSS Task Group). It was agreed that a sub-group should meet to consider how the responses to the Section 4(4) consultation should be developed into options for public consultation.

3.4 AC reported that the Phase 2 update would be carried out but would be limited by available data. The Chair confirmed that Enviro had been commissioned to advise on residual waste associated with new technologies, and would report by the end of February.

Agreed

- (a) PF to circulate his analysis of waste management licenses by local authority area.
- (b) PF, DJ, AC, DH and PS to meet to
 - (i) explore the provision of throughput information – as soon as possible; and
 - (ii) consider the methodology by which responses to the questions will be used to develop the options for public consultation – to report back to the RTAB meeting in May.

4. Black Country Study – waste aspects

4.1 GB reported that a baseline study had been completed, planning issues in relation to waste facilities required and the economic/ employment implications of waste were currently being addressed, options were being appraised, and a communications strategy had been developed. A Black Country Municipal Waste Management Strategy had been drafted, adopting the principles set out in the RSS. The Atkins Study was likely to be completed by late February, and he hoped to be able to report further to the next meeting on the preferred option and way forward.

5. Annual Monitoring Report

5.1 PF confirmed that the draft report including the section on waste was in almost finalised form, ready for publication by the end of February deadline. The possibility of including newly available data on household waste recycling rates had been raised.

[Agreed](#)

PF to circulate the final version of the AMR 2005 to all RTAB members.

6. Development of RTAB web site

CB informed the Group that the new WMRA web site now had a link to environment and waste, and that RTAB had its own page setting out functions, membership and links to relevant documents.

[Agreed](#)

PF to liaise with Alex Angus to develop the information on the RTAB web page.

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

7.1 The RTAB response to the Black Country Study Choices Consultation was noted, as was progress on the development of the North Wales Regional Waste Plan.

7.2 DG reported that the Warwickshire Issues and Options Paper was to be published for consultation purposes in February.

8. Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

[Agreed](#)

Any comments on the draft response to be sent to the Chair by 26th January, prior to finalisation and despatch by the 27th January deadline.

9. Any other business.

CB – the Chair of REP has asked for key projects to be identified for inclusion in the forward plan; it was [agreed](#) that CB and the Chair would discuss the inclusion of a waste related project and report back to the next meeting.

13. Date, time and place of next meetings:

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| <p>(1) 10am, Tuesday 7th March 2006 – at the biodigester demonstration plant in Ludlow.</p> <p>(2) 10am, Tuesday 9th May 2006 – venue to be confirmed.</p> |
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PF 30/1/06

Presentation by Richard Short, Sims Group UK Commercial Manager

- Sims Group is an Australian owned global company. It is the world's largest metal recycler, processing over 9 million tonnes per year and employing over 3000 people.
- In the UK, Sims has a turnover of over £300m, processes 2 million tonnes pa, and operates from 33 facilities. It operates the world's largest fridge recycling plant, provides WEEE and ELV facilities, runs abandoned vehicle schemes, and also deals with non-metallics including plastics and tyres. Rail links and deep sea port outlets are important to Sims' operations. 60% of the recycled material is used overseas (China the largest developing market).
- Sims Metal, the traditional core business, provides facilities for ferrous and non-ferrous materials from 27 sites, and also offers a total waste management service to clients. The Newport site alone processes 700 tonnes of TVs and CRTs per month and has a 2 stream plant to process fridges.
- Sims Recycling Solutions has developed in response to legislative drivers and invests heavily in R&D and innovation. Its focus is to achieve separation and identify markets for materials. Sims has contracts with local authorities, manufacturing industry, waste management companies, asset managers and insurance companies.
- Sims' WEEE facility at Manchester has capacity for 55,000+ tonnes pa.
- At Long Marston, Sims offers specialist facilities for CRTs, toner cartridges, TFTs, and employs a plastics expert.

PF 30/1/06