

GLOUCESTERSHIRE JOINT WASTE COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting of the Gloucestershire Joint Waste Committee held on Tuesday 6 December 2016 at Shire Hall, Gloucester.

Present:

Cllr Chris Coleman	Cllr Marilyn Smart OBE
Cllr Paul Denney	Cllr Tina Stevenson
Cllr Kate Haigh	Cllr Ray Theodoulou
Cllr Helena McCloskey	Cllr Stan Waddington
Cllr Simon Pickering	Cllr Mark Williams
Cllr Brian Robinson	

Officers in attendance:

Steve Read	Joint Waste Team
Tony Childs	Joint Waste Team
Nigel Riglar	Gloucestershire County Council
Andy Barge	Forest of Dean District Council
Dawn Fearn	Gloucester City Council
Martin Stacy	Cheltenham Borough Council
Roger Smith	Joint Waste Team
Andy Pritchard	Joint Waste Team
Kate Cole	Joint Waste Team

34. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Sue Coakley, (Cotswold District Council), and Cllr Jim Mason (Tewkesbury Borough Council).

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

36. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No public questions had been received.

37. MEMBER QUESTIONS

No member questions had been received.

38. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING - 4 OCTOBER 2016

The minute of the meeting held on 4 October 2016 were agreed and signed as a correct record of that meeting.

39. CHELTENHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL SERVICE REVIEW - PREFERRED OPTION

Steve Read, Head of Service for the Joint Waste Team, gave an overview of the review of waste and recycling services undertaken by Cheltenham Borough Council, including details of recent consultations with residents and preferred service options. Officers from the Joint Waste Team joined the Project Board for the review and helped in identifying and evaluating options.

The Head of Service invited the Joint Waste Committee to comment on the outcomes of the review, including proposed changes to the service and the replacement of recycling collection vehicles.

Members considered the contents of a report to be presented to the Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC) Cabinet meeting later that day and were advised that the proposal to continue with the current kerbside recycling collection method, (with the addition of brown cardboard, plastic pots, tubs and trays), was the preferred option.

The report also included a recommendation to delegate authority to the Cabinet Member – Clean and Green Environment, (in consultation with a Cabinet Member Working Group), to consider the affordability of the option to collect textiles, cartons, batteries and small electrical equipment.

One member questioned the cost effectiveness of collecting cartons and small electrical items and the problems encountered in recycling more durable items, including food and drink cartons. Noting the concerns, it was noted that CBC's Cabinet Working Group consider the issues in more depth prior to implementation of the new service in the Autumn.

Another member enquired about staffing costs and whether the Joint Waste Team would be required to assist in providing resources. The Head of Service confirmed that such matters would be considered in a later report.

Joint Waste Committee Member and Cabinet Member – Clean and Green Environment at Cheltenham Borough Council, Cllr Chris Coleman, thanked members for the advice and support he had received at this meeting and at the member seminar held at Cheltenham Borough Council. Outlining some of the outcomes from the public consultation, Cllr Coleman also thanked CBC officers and the Joint Waste Team for their work.

In noting the report, the committee commended the comprehensiveness of the review and endorsed the recommendations. Cllr Chris Coleman agreed to convey the committee's comments to the Cheltenham Borough Council Cabinet later that day.

40. FLY TIPPING - OVERVIEW OF ISSUES AND ENFORCEMENT

Steve Read, Head of Service for the Joint Waste Team, gave a presentation on the problem of fly-tipping and the impact on the Cotswold District. George Lager, Enforcement Officer at Cotswold District Council, (CDC), and lead officer responsible for producing the information presented to the committee, was unable to attend the meeting but Mr Read acknowledged the quality of the information provided.

The Head of Service informed members that fly-tipping was a growing issue nationally and a significant problem in the Cotswolds District. During a recent study by the Environment and Regulatory Services Team at CDC, one notable area of concern was the increase in the fly-tipping of commercial waste, almost certainly a consequence of builders and developers avoiding fees for the disposal of commercial waste.

Other concerns included; the time and effort required to address the problem; obstacles encountered in trying to identify perpetrators; difficulties in gathering evidence, and high enforcement costs. The outcomes of some legal cases submitted by CDC resulted in Magistrate Courts reducing the council's request for costs and prosecutions involving very low fines.

The Head of Service outlined some of the measures identified by the 'Keep Britain Tidy' campaign as possible actions to consider for the future, including calls on Government to contribute some of the proceeds from the £1.1 billion Landfill Tax available to local authorities to keep household waste recycling centres open and stiffer sentencing in Magistrates Courts.

Keep Britain Tidy also proposed lobbying Government to consider the benefits of encouraging manufacturers and retailers to "bear some responsibility for the cost of collecting and recycling large used products such as mattresses, sofas and white goods".

It was noted that the Joint Waste Team had become involved with a new local campaign, 'Right Waste Right Place' aimed primarily at 'white van drivers' and home-owners. The Head of Service expanded on the initiative, and commended Kate Cole from the Joint Waste Team for her contribution to the scheme.

The committee recognised and supported the need to address the issue of fly-tipping. Welcoming the raised awareness brought about by the 'Right Waste Right Place' Campaign, members agreed, that, promoted as a national campaign, the outcomes could be greater and more beneficial.

The Head of Service agreed to relay the comments from the meeting back to George Lager at CDC and update the committee on progress and development at a later meeting.

41. DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN 2017-2020 AND DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET 2017-2018 SUMMARY

Steve Read, Head of Service for the Joint Waste Team, presented the Draft Business Plan 2017-2020 and Draft Revenue Budget 2017-2018 Summary Document.

A requirement of the Inter Authority Agreement between Cheltenham Borough Council; Cotswold District Council; Forest of Dean District Council; Gloucestershire County Council and Tewkesbury County Council, the business plan outlines key priorities and actions of the Gloucestershire Joint Waste Committee for the three year period 2017-2020.

Published in draft, the Head of Service highlighted that the draft business plan included the new long term goal of reaching service integration by the end of 2024, with each of the five representative partners supporting the principle of aligning and integrating waste and recycling services across the whole of the county as quickly as possible. It was requested that the plan be considered by each local authority before seeking final approval at the committee meeting in February 2017.

Responding to an update on the recruitment of a new Head of Service for the Waste Team, a member suggested that links be made between the accord at section 1.4 of the report and objective 19 of the action plan. The suggestion was noted, and it was agreed the action plan be updated to reflect the proposal.

In considering the business plan, members requested a clearer position on the status of Gloucester City and Stroud District Councils, particularly in their responses to the invitation to adopt the accord set out in section 1.4 of the plan and the overarching objective of integrating the service as a combined service for Gloucestershire.

The committee noted the business plan, and

RESOLVED to:

- a) Note the feedback on the Draft Business Plan;*
- b) Support the Accord set out in section 1.4 of the Draft Plan, with a view to formal adoption in February 2017;*
- c) Invite Gloucester City and Stroud Councils to also adopt the Accord;*
- d) Seek confirmation from individual councils that they formally support the Accord; and*
- e) Report back at the Joint Waste Committee in February 2017, before seeking approval of the Final Business Plan.*

42. PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Steve Read, Head of Service for the Joint Waste Team, updated members on performance indicators during quarters one and two of the financial year 2016/17.

Minutes subject to their acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting

The Head of Service reported total household waste arisings as showing a reduction in total waste for the period 2009 to 2016, a factor largely reflected by the effects of the downturn in the economy during this time. The fall in residual waste was attributed to changes in the economy and to service changes across the County.

Taking into account the increased number of households in Gloucestershire, total waste arisings was forecast to increase by 10,371 tonnes for the entire period 2009 to 2017. The amount of residual waste sent to landfill during this time was forecast to reduce by 26,266 tonnes, with the amount of recycling across the County showing a steady increase. The Head of Service informed members that this was the first time the amount of residual waste to landfill would be less than the amount of recycling.

Updating members on the performance of each district, individually, the Head of Service acknowledged the variations in performance demonstrated by the different partners. Despite the known variances, the Head of Service was pleased to report that, as a County, Gloucestershire was forecast to reach 51% recycling in 2016/17, the first time Gloucestershire would exceed 50%.

With changes in services at Stroud and Forest of Dean District Councils, it was anticipated that Gloucestershire as a whole was likely to exceed 53% recycling in 2017/18. The Head of Service confirmed that meeting the 60% recycling target by 2020 would remain challenging.

The report was noted.

43. MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS MONITORING REPORT

In the absence of Rachel Capon, fellow officer, Tony Childs, from the Joint Waste Team, presented the Management Accounts Monitoring Report 2016/17. Members recalled that the operational budgets for waste disposal, waste collection, and street cleaning remained with the respective authorities, but were managed by officers from the Joint Waste Team.

Tony Childs presented key points from the report, including the current forecast year end revenue position with a total overspend of £361,000.

The report was noted.

44. SERVICE/ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Steve Read, Head of Service for the Joint Waste Team, updated members on key actions within the waste service action plan. Advising members that a significant number of issues were due to come to prominence in forthcoming months, the Head of Service wished success to the new scheme to be rolled out by Gloucester City Council in the New Year and to the new service model introduced by Stroud District Council in November 2016.

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Further updates to be presented at forthcoming meetings.

Tony Childs from the Joint Waste Team was commended for his hard work and enthusiasm in promoting the aims and ambitions of the team and for his contributions to the Joint Waste Committee. Tony was wished every success and happiness for his forthcoming retirement.

CHAIRPERSON

Meeting concluded at 11.30 am