

GLOUCESTERSHIRE JOINT WASTE COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting of the Gloucestershire Joint Waste Committee held on Tuesday 20 February 2018 in the Council Chamber - Shire Hall, Gloucester.

PRESENT:

Cllr Sue Coakley (Chairman)	Cllr Chris McFarling
Cllr Richard Cook	Cllr Nigel Moor
Cllr Bruce Hogan	Cllr Simon Pickering
Cllr Jim Mason	Cllr Ray Theodoulou
Cllr Helena McCloskey	Cllr Mark Williams

Officers in attendance: Andy Barge, Rachel Capon, Julie Davies, Dawn Fearn, Wayne Lewis, Jo Moore, Andy Pritchard, Roger Smith, Karen Watson and Scott Williams

27. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Chris Coleman, (Cheltenham Borough Council), Paul Denney, (Stroud District Council) and Tina Stevenson (Cotswold District Council).

28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Ray Theodoulou declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7 of the agenda (Residual Waste Project Update) as a Gloucestershire County Council Representative for Ubico.

29. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No public questions were received.

30. MEMBER QUESTIONS

No public questions were received.

31. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Subject to the following amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2017 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

Item 23: The minutes of the previous meeting refer to the minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2017.

32. BUSINESS PLAN 2018/21

Wayne Lewis, Head of the Joint Waste Management Team, presented the sixth business plan of the Gloucestershire Joint Waste Committee (GWJC) constituted between Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Forest of Dean District Council, Gloucestershire County Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council.

The GJWC has delegated powers to oversee and make decisions concerning the recycling, waste collection and street cleansing services for the representative four district and borough councils and to deliver waste treatment and disposal for the county council. The agreed framework for the GJWC is an Inter Authority Agreement (IAA), signed in December 2014.

- 32.1 Wayne Lewis informed the committee that the business plan was a requirement of the IAA to outline key priorities and actions for the three year period 2018 to 2021, including the proposed draft budget 2018/19.
- 32.2 Referring to the various appendices that supported the report, specific reference was made to the Action Plan detailed at Appendix 3, detailing key projects and work streams. Wayne Lewis advised that the action plan reflected the priorities identified by the members of the GWJC at a workshop held in December 2017.
- 32.3 Key priorities included: reducing waste and environmental harm; developing a business case for the alignment of services, (the aim of this priority was to create more commonality within the service); working in partnership to deliver a wide range of recycling opportunities for residents wherever possible and; communicating waste reduction and recycling information as widely as possible.
- 32.4 It was noted that the Joint Waste Team would continue to work with non-partner authorities. This included providing information on the strategic aims of the partnership plus details of projects introduced to meet the principal objective of seeking to align and integrate waste and recycling services across Gloucestershire by the end of 2024.
- 32.5 The projects will assist in benchmarking performance and reviewing the baseline costs of waste and recycling collection services for the county.
- 32.6 A number of procurement and contract mobilisation projects continued to be taken forward to ensure ongoing high quality service delivery. The largest contract to be mobilised within this business plan period was the waste to energy facility at Javelin Park.
- 32.7 Responding to questions, the Head of the Joint Waste Management Team clarified that the proposed date of March 2019 for completing the communications campaign may be misleading and that the intention would be to publicise activities throughout 2018/19, commencing in April 2018.

- 32.8 Chairman, Cllr Sue Coakley, informed Cllr Ray Theodoulou, that the Joint Waste Team would be considering options for expanding the collection of green waste and food waste across all partner authorities, not just the Cotswold District. However, now was an opportune time to review and improve the service within the Cotswold District as a new vehicle fleet would be needed soon., The Cotswold service review to consider the feasibility of introducing separate collection vehicles.
- 32.9 Committee members welcomed the reaffirmed commitment of reducing the use of plastics and volume of packaging. One area of interest identified during the discussion was the potential for introducing a deposit/return and reward scheme for reducing the use of drinks containers. Recognising the potential merits of the scheme, it was suggested the Joint Waste Team consider this, plus other solutions, as possible options for the future. A visit to observe activities at Swindon Borough Council was also suggested.
- 32.10 One member requested an update on the new management structure of the Joint Waste Team. The request was noted, with a suggestion that this might be best considered in line with the priorities introduced through the business plan. No changes to the management structure have yet been made, apart from the recent appointment of the Head of the Joint Waste Team.
- 32.11 Following an intense discussion on the criteria for measuring performance and reviewing targets, it was agreed the matter should be revisited when reviewing the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy in 2019. Whilst a joint waste strategy is no longer a legal requirement, work to consider future ambitions and long term waste management plans in Gloucestershire beyond 2020 remains important and is included within the action plan for 2018-21.

Having considered the report and supporting appendices, the committee accepted the Gloucestershire Joint Waste Committee Business Plan 2018-2021, including the proposals incorporated within the accompanying action plan at Appendix 3 of the report. The committee agreed that, if required, small elements of detail could be made throughout the year and;

RESOLVED TO: Adopt the Gloucestershire Joint Waste Committee Business Plan 2018-2021

33. RESIDUAL WASTE TREATMENT UPDATE

Wayne Lewis, Head of Waste Management, gave an update on the progress of the construction of the Javelin Park Energy from Waste Facility.

- 33.1 Members were informed that construction had commenced in summer 2016 and was on schedule. The facility was due to become operational in summer 2019.

33.2 The committee welcomed an invitation from Ubico to visit the site. Wayne Lewis to arrange a future site visit.

33.3 It was suggested that the committee receive an update on the progress of the construction at future meetings and this was agreed.

The report was noted.

34. DEFRA 25 YEAR ENVIRONMENT PLAN

Andy Pritchard, Strategy and Development Manager, presented information on the 25 Year Environment Plan published by the Government on 11 January 2018.

Key points made during the presentation included:

34.1 The plan sets out the government's vision on a broad range of environmental issues, including sustainable land managements, resource efficiency, pollution and waste.

34.2 The plan supports 'a commitment to ensuring comprehensive and frequent waste and recycling collections to protect the local amenity, ensuring products are recycled as much as possible and returning high quality materials back to the economy'.

34.3 It was suggested publication of a new 'Resources and Waste Strategy' later in the year, (aimed at making the UK a world leader in resource efficiency), will provide a useful steer for the committee to engage with the government's approach to waste reduction.

34.4 Emphasis to be placed on working with water companies, high street retailers and the Waste and Resources Action Programme in exploring ways of reducing the consumption levels of the amount of plastic in circulation and demand for single-use plastic.

34.5 The recycling of food waste was identified as a key priority, working towards 'no food waste' entering landfill by 2030.

34.6 In relation to litter, actions included, continuing to implement the Government's Litter Strategy for England, with new regulations and guidance introduced to improve local authority's enforcement powers.

34.7 A national anti-littering campaign to be introduced, plus a £450,000 Litter Innovation Fund to pilot, implement and evaluate small scale local research projects.

34.8 To support delivery of the plan, the government to provide more detail on the setting of targets, evaluation processes and reporting on progress.

- 34.9 Members welcomed the opportunity the new Waste and Resources Strategy, (published later in the year), would allow the Joint Waste Team to focus on areas specific to the committee.

Questioning the emphasis placed on carbon omissions and residual waste collections, some members expressed concern about the initial lack of detail included within the plan but remained optimistic more information would be provided later in the year. It was, nevertheless, agreed to explore more effective avenues for putting pressure on specific issues within the plan.

The report was noted.

35. MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS MONITORING REPORT

Wayne Lewis, Head of Waste Management, presented the Waste Management Accounts Monitoring Report 2017/18.

35.1 The report sets out:

- a) The financial performance of the individual authorities within the Gloucestershire Joint Waste Partnership against the approved annual budget for the first nine months of the current financial year;
- b) The combined position across the representative authorities;
- c) An indicative draft 2018/19 revenue budget for the partnership.

35.2 The Head of the Waste Management Team presented the combined revenue budgets for Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Forest of Dean District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council (reported at Appendix 1 of the report) with a forecast year end revenue position showing a £137,000 overspend (0.34% of the net budget). This position was based on monitoring forecasts made in January 2018 and actual financial transactions to the end of December 2017.

35.3 A summary of the Draft 2018/19 Revenue Budget for the Gloucestershire Waste Partnership (Appendix 7 of the report) was reported as an indicative summary. It was noted that the figures could be subject to change pending the setting of partner authority budgets.

35.4 Questioning the retrospective formatting of the report and highlighting the difficulties of making comparisons when considering the variations between individual partner authority budgets, members requested an additional comparative summary to support the individual reports.

35.5 The merits of producing an additional report were noted, with officers agreeing to explore ways of presenting more comparable information for benchmarking purposes. It was generally accepted that the committee would continue to consider individual budgets.

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

The report was noted.

36. SERVICE/ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Wayne Lewis, Head of Waste Management, gave an update on the progress of the actions within the Joint Waste Committee Action Plan for the period to February 2018. Summarising some of the achievements accomplished during the past year, it was acknowledged that some of the actions had made more progress than others. The report was noted.

37. PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT 2017-19

Presented as an additional item on the agenda, an update report on the forecast performance indicators for the financial year 2017/18 was circulated at the meeting. The report was noted and is attached for information.

CHAIRPERSON

Meeting concluded at 4.05pm