

# GLoucestershire JOINT WASTE COMMITTEE

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the Gloucestershire Joint Waste Committee held on Tuesday 19 June 2018 at the Cabinet Suite - Shire Hall, Gloucester.

**PRESENT:**

Cllr Sue Coakley (Chairman)	Cllr Nigel Moor (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Chris Coleman	Cllr Dennis Parsons
Cllr Richard Cook	Cllr Simon Pickering
Cllr Bruce Hogan	Cllr Ray Theodoulou
Cllr Jim Mason	Cllr Mark Williams
Cllr Chris McFarling	

Officers in attendance: Julie Davies, Wayne Lewis, Claire Locke, Andy Pritchard, Roger Smith, Peter Tonge, Karen Watson, Gareth Edmundson (Ubico) and Scott Williams

**38. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**

Cllr Sue Coakley was elected Chairperson for the civic year 2018/19.

**39. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON**

Cllr Nigel Moor was elected Vice Chairperson for the civic year 2018/19.

**40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

**41. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

No public questions were received.

**42. MEMBER QUESTIONS**

No member's questions were received.

**43. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING - 20 FEBRUARY 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

**44. PERFORMANCE REPORT 2017/18**

44.1 Andy Pritchard, Joint Waste Team, gave a detailed presentation of the report. He highlighted the year on year reduction in total residual waste which was linked to the service changes made at five of the six district councils in recent years. The proportion of household waste that was sent to landfill fell significantly representing a downturn of 6.5% from 2016/17.

44.2 The committee agreed that whilst it was good to note that the level of food waste was increasing, diverting it away from landfill, it was of concern that so much food was being wasted; particularly in a time when many people were going short of food. It was agreed that this was an issue that would benefit from an education campaign, not just aimed at the general public but also supermarkets.

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44.3 Members discussed 'side waste'. It was noted that there was not a county wide policy on this issue. Waste crews in each district were clear on the enforcement policy, and some councils did operate an amnesty at Christmas. In response to a question it was stated that it was not thought that there was a link between fly tipping and the robust implementation of the enforcement policy. It was commented that this was an issue that this committee could take on and consider.

#### **45. SINGLE USE PLASTICS**

45.1 Cllr Coakley informed the committee that the motion debated at Cotswold District Council, was not as stated in the report, but had been amended to reflect the motion agreed at the county council in order to support a consistent approach to this important issue.

45.2 In response to a question it was clarified that the government had made some commitments with regard to single use plastics as described in Defra's 25 year plan received by the committee on 20 February 2018 and that more information was due in the Autumn 2018 with the anticipated release of a new national waste & resources strategy.

45.3 Cllr Pickering informed the meeting that in line with the motion agreed at full council on 26 April 2018 Stroud District Council had established a task group on reducing single use plastics. At the first meeting on 13 June 2018 the task group had agreed a 26 point action plan.

45.4 Cllr Richard Cook informed the committee that Gloucester City Council was also committed to reducing single use plastics.

45.5 The committee agreed that it was not sufficient to simply note this report, and instead agreed that it was good to note that each council was taking action on this issue and that each committee member should ensure that their council continued to address and take action on the use of single use plastics.

#### **46. RESIDUAL WASTE TREATMENT AND WASTE TRANSFER UPDATE**

46.1 Wayne Lewis, Head of Joint Waste Team, presented the report and explained that the county council, as Waste Disposal Authority, will complete a cost evaluation exercise to determine whether transfer arrangements or direct delivery of waste to Javelin Park should be implemented for Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC) and Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC) and that the report would be received by the Cabinet on 10 October 2018.

46.2 There was a robust debate on the issue of direct transfer of waste to Javelin Park. This issue particularly impacted on CBC and TBC as they did not have access to a waste transfer station, and were a greater distance from Javelin Park than their current tipping location at Wingmoor Farm landfill. There was a shared view from the majority of committee members that no council should be placed at a disadvantage, and the process going forward should be fair and equitable to all the district councils.

46.3 It was questioned how much of the identified savings of Javelin Park would be shared with the district councils, as the waste collection authorities? It was stated that as far as officers were aware none of this money was earmarked for the district councils. The Head of the Joint Waste Team took the opportunity to remind the committee that a report on the issues relating to waste transfer options had been shared with the committee in 2015 (post meeting note 13 October 2015), but that no further reports or agreements had followed.

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- 46.4 Cllr Coleman, CBC Cabinet Member Clean and Green Environment, stated that he had asked the Joint Waste Team for advice regarding the potential for there to be a waste transfer station accessible to CBC during the redesign of the CBC waste collection service. He stated that he had been assured that there would be a transfer station and had therefore purchased vehicles for the fleet based on that premise. If there was instead to be direct transfer these would not be fit for purpose.
- 46.5 It was also questioned how the Joint Waste Team (JWT) could be advocating for both the waste disposal authority and the waste collection authorities. The Head of the Joint Waste Team explained that officer roles within the JWT had been divided up so as to reflect this position, with certain officers assigned to support the borough councils and others the county council in this matter. He also emphasised that the JWT aimed to support all partners within the joint waste committee and their primary objective was to represent the interests of the residents of Gloucestershire and ensure that they received value for money.
- 46.6 Concern was also expressed with regard to the environmental (carbon auditing) cost of direct transfer, and whether this would mean that some councils would be in breach of the climate change commitments. The committee was clear that the cost to the tax payer should be clear, and some members also felt that any costs should be shared fairly across the Gloucestershire Waste Partnership.
- 46.7 At the invitation of the Chairperson, Gareth Edmundson, Managing Director Ubico Ltd, shared the risks and challenges of direct delivery from Ubico's perspective. He explained that with vehicles travelling further there would be more wear and tear on the vehicle and the overall life span of the vehicle would decrease. With vehicles travelling further, and the current workforce challenges, the potential for service disruption was significant. Additional vehicles would be needed, and there was then the question of where these would be housed. The service was close to the operational capacity at the Swindon Road (Cheltenham) site already, and vehicle parking and site congestion was already a problem. He emphasised that this was a multi-faceted and complex issue and it would be important to capture the wider potential risks and costs in the current evaluation.
- 46.8 Cllr Jim Mason, TBC Portfolio Holder Clean and Green Environment, reiterated the concerns expressed by Cllr Coleman and Mr Edmundson. He asked the committee to consider supporting a motion (seconded by Cllr Mark Williams TBC) that: -  
*GCC take into account the total cost to the taxpayer of direct delivery transfer of waste to Javelin Park versus the use of a waste transfer station and bulk delivery to Javelin Park and that a decision is not just based on the impact to GCC budgets.*  
*We would also like GCC to have consideration for the non-financial impacts of the direct delivery option in making their final decision.*
- 46.9 Cllr Mason also detailed the potential costs to both TBC and CBC should direct transfer be decided as the preferred option. It was also stated that it was important that the committee had a clear understanding of the wider costs involved.
- 46.10 In response to a request the Chairperson agreed to adjourn the meeting for 10 minutes to enable TBC and CBC to discuss the wording of the motion.
- 46.11 On reconvening the meeting the Chairperson was informed by Cllr Mason that he was withdrawing his motion. Cllr Coleman informed the committee that CBC and TBC members had agreed on the wording of a new motion. This was proposed by Cllr Coleman and seconded by Cllr Mason. The motion stated that: -  
*Having received the report from the Joint Waste Team the Joint Waste Committee agree that the direct delivery of waste from Tewkesbury Borough and Cheltenham Borough*

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*Councils to Javelin Park is not a viable option either financially, practically or environmentally.*

*We recommend that Gloucestershire County Council ensure that all districts have appropriate waste transfer arrangements in place for each district in advance of the hot commissioning of Javelin Park.*

- 46.12 The Chairperson reminded the committee that at this stage the committee had not received all the information that would be needed before the GCC Cabinet made its decision in October 2018.
- 46.13 Cllr Nigel Moor, GCC Cabinet Member Fire Planning and Infrastructure, stated that he thought it regrettable that this motion was being put forward before the evidence was finalised, and it seemed rather perverse to come to a decision in advance of the evidence. Cllr Ray Theodoulou, GCC Cabinet Member for Finance and Change, supported Cllr Moor.
- 46.14 On being put to the vote the motion was carried and the committee therefore resolved that: *Having received the report from the Joint Waste Team the Joint Waste Committee agree that the direct delivery of waste from Tewkesbury Borough and Cheltenham Borough Councils to Javelin Park is not a viable option either financially, practically or environmentally.*

*We recommend that Gloucestershire County Council ensure that all districts have appropriate waste transfer arrangements in place for each district in advance of the hot commissioning of Javelin Park.*

- 46.15 It was agreed that a report outlining the committee's concerns and the motion be sent to the GCC Cabinet Member for his consideration and to inform the Cabinet decision. (Post meeting note: the report was agreed by the committee in an email discussion and sent to the GCC Cabinet Member on 23 July 2018. The report would be included in the minute book.)

#### **47. COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL SERVICE REVIEW (CONSULTATION TEMPLATE)**

- 47.1 Scott Williams, Joint Waste Team, presented the report. In response to questions he acknowledged that there could be an element of a self selecting group with regard to the public survey, but informed the committee that work would also be undertaken with parish and town councils. He informed the committee that this approach had been undertaken in West Oxfordshire and had produced good outcomes. The Chairperson also informed members that member workshops would also be included in the consultation period.
- 47.2 Members of the committee who had recently undertaken a service review shared their experiences as to what had worked well to inform the CDC consultation.
- 47.3 In response to questions it was emphasised that the template could be tailored to each district in future.
- 47.4 At the conclusion of the debate the committee agreed to adopt the consultation as a template that might be used by other partner councils in future as part of the partnership's wider service alignment work.

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#### **48. HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES EFFICIENCIES SAVINGS**

Andy Pritchard, Joint Waste Team, presented the report.

Issues raised in the debate included: -

- that it might be necessary to take a different approach to the Swindon Road (Cheltenham) site
- that there were potentially controversial decisions to be made, eg charging, and it would be important to ensure that these were taken in unison
- that it would be important to ensure that the issues relating to fly tipping were considered
- that it would be important to explore the potential to expand the range of 'reuse shops' at Household Recycling Centres
- that it would be important to understand whether a reduction in opening hours would impact of levels of recycling
- that it would be important to understand the impact on traffic flow if opening hours were to be reduced

#### **49. PYKE QUARRY CHANGES**

49.1 Roger Smith, Joint Waste Team, gave a presentation outlining the changes and improvements made to the Pyke Quarry Household Recycling Centre. (The presentation slides were uploaded to the council's website and included in the minute book.)

49.2 The committee welcomed the improvements and noted the presentation.

#### **50. MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS PROVISIONAL OUTTURN 2017/18 REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT AND THE APPROVED 2018/19 REVENUE BUDGET**

The committee noted the financial performance as contained in this report and the approved 2018/19 Revenue Budgets.

#### **51. ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

51.1 Scott Williams, Joint Waste Team, presented the action plan.

51.2 The committee agreed to:-

- note the outturn position of the 2017/20 action plan;
- note the progress of the current (2018/21) action plan;
- the inclusion of two new actions within the current plan (actions 3.9 and 3.10)
- the revised target completion dates for actions 4.7 and 5.1 within the current action plan; and
- noted the high level risks and proposed mitigation measures set out in section 4 of this report.

51.3 Cllr Simon Pickering informed members that the Stroud District Council Environment Committee had received an update report on the multi service contract. This report was available on the Stroud District Council website.

#### **52. HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT 2017/18**

The committee noted the report.

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**CHAIRMAN**

Meeting concluded at 1.11 pm