

MINUTES of a meeting of the WASTE PANEL – 26 MARCH 2003

ATTENDANCE

Members of the Panel: S Batson, R N Copping, F Escott S Jones, W Storey (Chairman for J Anderson)

Other Members: D Ashley
Officers: R Greenall
Administrator: J Brooks

Members of the Public: I Malone

1. **Apologies** were received from J Anderson.
2. **Minutes** of the meeting of 16 December 2002 were agreed as a true record. There were no matters arising.
3. **Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Hertfordshire**

Ray Greenall advised the Panel that the Waste Strategy Development Group's (WSDG) work was now complete and the Waste Strategy had been formally adopted by 9 out of the 10 districts. At their last meeting, WSDG agreed that although Broxbourne had not formally adopted the Strategy they should still have voting rights and should remain in the process. The Strategy, together with an Executive Summary, is now being printed and it is intended to launch the Strategy at a Member Seminar.

At an inaugural meeting of the new Joint Waste Management Group (JWMG), Terms of Reference were considered and the implementation phase of the Strategy discussed. The Terms of Reference would be adopted at their meeting of the Group on 7 July.

The Panel considered the Terms of Reference and agreed:

- Group should be asked to consider changing its title to "Joint Waste Management Partnership";
- 1.3 to be amended in terms of voting rights;
- Need to decide who will be the elected Member and Sub for HCC;
- Last paragraph to be amended to read : "No amendments may be made to these Terms of Reference without approval of the majority of members of the Partnership" to prevent it going back to Councils.
- Implementation programme 2003/04 was noted with the suggested deletion of the word "unique" in No. 6.

Ray Greenall advised the Panel that he was working on a financial model to reward Districts for waste minimisation and recycling initiatives as an alternative to recycling credits. The rewards to districts would be funded by savings made by the County Council on disposal costs.

Cllr Ashley asked if there was any mechanism to access Government funding for the financial model. If some risk funding could be generated to encourage districts to perform much better, it could be used in our Performance Plan as 'invest to save'.

Ray Greenall said that we needed to control growth because there was no incentive for districts to collect less as the County Council paid the disposal costs. If all districts performed to the highest level, we would save about 10%, £1.2m. per year.

Cllr Batson said that a countywide forum or network was needed to recycle furniture efficiently as all the districts were too busy to set something up. Ray Greenall pointed out that furniture recycling can only be counted towards waste minimisation as reuse is not recycling in Best Value terms.

4. FLY-TIPPING AND DUMPING IN HERTFORDSHIRE

This paper advised the Panel of the Environment Scrutiny Committee's recommendations arising from its scrutiny of fly-tipping and dumping in Hertfordshire. The report to Scrutiny Committee which had been circulated with this paper, put the various issues into four categories – illegal dumping, fly-tipping, litter and abandoned vehicles.

The Panel was advised that the district councils only have the power to investigate dumping on land which is not private. They can then either order the culprits to clear it if they know who they are, clear it up themselves and then try to reclaim the costs, or bear the costs themselves. A protocol exists between the Environment Agency and the Local Government Association that defines responsibility for clearing the fly-tipped rubbish. If the rubbish is a hazard to the public or within 10 metres of a watercourse it is cleared by the Environment Agency, if not it is generally dealt with by the districts.

The Scrutiny Committee suggested that the issues be taken through the Waste Management Panel with the option of setting up a multi-agency working group consisting of the 10 district councils, the Environment Agency, the Police, the Fire Service and the National Farmers' Union.

The Panel agreed :

- It should be referred to the Joint Waste Management Group to get a unified approach;
- County Council to be supportive but not necessarily manage the new Group;
- County Council will initially organise/facilitate the setting up of the multi-agency working group. Ray Greenall to report back at the next meeting.

5. A.O.B.

There was none.

Date of next meeting - 1 July, 2003 at 2.00 p.m. in Ashbourne Room.