

Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board

Waste Working Party

Notes of a meeting held on 13th November 2006 at the Halton Stadium, Widnes.

Present: Councillor Thompson, (Chair),
Councillor Osborne
Councillor Redhead
Councillor Stockton
J Unsworth – Head of Waste Management

With the approval of the Chair, JU began the meeting by updating Members on the current position in relation to Halton's Strategic Waste Management position and the progress that had been made in the development of partnership arrangements with the Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority.

JU reaffirmed the reason behind Halton's decision to withdraw from the Halton and Warrington Partnership and to pursue the option of working with Merseyside. This being as result of Halton's concerns surrounding the ability and capacity of the Halton and Warrington Waste Partnership to procure the required future waste treatment facilities within the tight timescales required. Halton's concerns were heightened by the failure of the 2 authorities to attract a suitable candidate for a Project Director and came at a time when both Merseyside and Cheshire were significantly more advanced in the procurement process than Halton.

JU confirmed that the relevant Officers and Members from Warrington were made aware of Halton's concerns at the meeting of the Halton and Warrington Waste Partnership Board on 12 June 2006, and Halton's decision to pursue a partnership with Merseyside was confirmed at the meeting of the Board on 10th July 2006.

A general discussion then took place on the effect of working with Merseyside. JU outlined the work programme being carried out by Officers to move forward with the Merseyside Partnership which included the updating of Halton's Waste Management Strategy which, in broad terms, mirrored that of Merseyside. JU confirmed that, as had always been the situation, Halton's final waste treatment process will be determined by the waste industry, with the procurement of waste treatment facilities through an output based contract specification.

JU confirmed that the updating of the Council's Strategy could lead to the introduction of alternate weekly collections of residual waste, facilitated by an increased collection of recyclable materials. The introduction of such a scheme would be on a phased basis with areas piloted in 2007. Members of the working party supported the scheme, and agreed to discuss potential areas for the pilot at their next meeting.

To support the Councils waste minimisation programme, the Waste Working Party also supported the introduction of a pilot 'no side waste' scheme and the implementation of enforcement measures where residents fail to comply with the Council's requirements, and where attempts to encourage such compliance had failed. Members agreed that this should be implemented in areas agreed for the pilot alternate weekly collection scheme.

JU advised the Working party that following the study of properties on the Palacefields estate, some properties had been identified as being suitable for wheeled bins and that subject to a bid for funding, wheeled bins would be delivered to these properties at the earliest opportunity.

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place in January and JU to then arrange a calendar of meetings from March 2007 onwards.