

THE STRATEGIC WASTE BOARD

Thursday 28 June 2007

11.00 am Derry City Council Offices

MINUTES

Present:

Arlene Foster MLA,	Minister of the Environment (Chair)
Paul Simpson,	Deputy Secretary , Planning, Environmental Policy & Local Government
Anthony McKay	Planning Service
Dr Roy Ramsay	Director, Environmental Protection, Environment & Heritage Service
Carol Hetherington	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Central Policy Group.
Graham Byrne	Operational Director, Southern Waste Management Partnership (SWaMP)
John Briggs	Acting Chief Executive Armagh City Council. (SWaMP)
John Quinn	Chief Executive, arc21
Alderman Hubert Nicholl	Chairman, arc21 Joint Committee, Ballymena Borough Council.
Councillor Winston Fulton	Deputy Chairperson, arc21 Joint Committee, Larne Borough Council
Eamon Molloy	Development Officer, North West Region Cross Border Group
Councillor Robert McPherson	Coleraine Borough Council
Councillor Patrick Groogan	Magherafelt District Council
Councillor Shaun Gallagher	Chair of NILGA Waste Group. Derry City Council (Vice Chair)
Councillor Sean McGuigan	Vice Chair of NILGA Waste Group. Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council

In Attendance:

Gillian Mayhew	Deloitte and Touche LLP
Siobhan Tweedie	Private Office, Department of the Environment

Secretariat:

John Waterworth (PEPG)
Karen McCambley (NILGA)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Action

1. The Minister welcomed those present to her first meeting of the Strategic Waste Board (SWB), and reiterated the importance of the Board's work in ensuring sustainable waste management in Northern Ireland.

2. Apologies

2. Apologies were received from David Ferguson (Planning Service), and Ronnie Jordan (DARD). Anthony McKay and Carol Hetherington attended in their places. Apologies were also received from Wilfie Hamilton (DETI), Doreen Brown (DRD), Seamus McCrystal (DFP), John McMillen (OFMDFM), Martin Darcy (SIB), Anthony Carleton (DCAL) and Wesley Shannon (PEPG), Councillor Francie Molloy (Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council) and Frank Mulgrew (Director, PDSU).

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

3. The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

4. Matters Arising

4(i). Terms of Reference - Paper SWB 1(2/2007)

4. In discussion, the following points were made:

- (i) Representation from central government Departments should be at a 'strategic' level, particularly from DFP as funding is an important element of delivery.
- (ii) Future agendas need to focus on major issues and the Board needs to get down to business

5. Minister agreed:

- (i) That the level of representation from central government should be appropriate, and that she would look at this.
- (ii) It was indeed time to 'get down to business'.

Minister/Secretariat to consider central government representation

4(ii). Rules of Proceedings and Operation - Paper SWB 2 (2/2007)

6. No points were raised concerning the proposals in the paper.

4(iii) Remuneration of Members - Paper SWB 3(2/2007)

7. No points were raised concerning the proposals in the paper.
8. Members were asked to provide information as requested to the Secretariat and to complete the expenses claim forms.

Members to provide information and completed claim forms to Secretariat

5. Independent Board Members – Paper SWB 4(2/2007)

9. In discussion the following points were made:

- (i) The Board's Vice Chair should be involved in the interview process for independent members.

- (ii) The public appointments process will be used to appoint independent members.

10. Minister agreed that:

- (i) The Vice Chair will sit on the interview panel.

Secretariat to progress
appointment of Independent
members

6. Strategy Delivery Programme – Progress and Reporting Mechanisms - Paper SWB 5 (2/2007)

11. Gillian Mayhew, Deloitte & Touche LLP, was invited to give a brief presentation to the Board. She outlined the background to the development of the delivery programme and noted the 6 strands of the Strategy. A key element of the presentation was the translation of the delivery model envisaged by the Strategy into a governance structure, and the roles of the groups involved.

12. In discussion the following points were made:

- (i) Local government wanted to know who the Project Managers, in effect the main on the ground drivers of delivery, would be responsible to.
- (ii) A main criticism of the first strategy was that the focus and responsibility fell on one department, and therefore wide buy-in from all departments will be necessary.
- (iii) The 'spider' diagram slide replicated from the Strategy does not translate directly into the proposed governance model.
- (iv) Concern was expressed at how the changes can be effected without appropriate sanctions and checks on stakeholders.
- (v) What will be the impact of the Gershon Report and required efficiency cuts on resources for strategy delivery.

13. The Minister noted that:

- (i) Ultimately the Project Managers will be responsible to the Strategic Waste Board through the proposed reporting structure.
- (ii) The participation of senior representatives from all Government Departments is evidence of the level of buy-in to delivery.
- (iii) While the governance model is not explicit in this respect, it is envisaged that project managers will liaise with other Government Departments as necessary.
- (iv) Given the new and local governance within Northern Ireland, delivery commitments will be brought to the Executive and other Ministers to sign up to and drive forward within their respective departments.
- (v) While the general push is to reduce staff, it will be possible to meet efficiency targets while at the same time ensuring appropriate resources are allocated to the important area of waste management.

7. Report from the Programme Delivery Support Unit Steering Group (Paper SWB 6(2/2007))

14. John Quinn, Chief Executive of arc21, was invited to present a short update from the PDSU Steering Group

15. In his presentation the following points were made:

- (i) The group provides a strong interface point for the stakeholders involved in the provision of the necessary waste management infrastructure.
- (ii) There is ongoing concern about the adequacy of Planning Service resources.
- (iii) Derry City Council's Solicitor has been asked to comment on the vires issue and has confirmed there is a problem to be addressed via the Departmental Solicitor's Office.
- (iv) The SG is confident that the waste infrastructure figures quoted in the second Investment Strategy for NI will be based on more 'real time' information rather

- than general benchmark figures in the original.
- (v) Statutory consents will be a standing agenda item to enable any blockages to be cleared quickly.
- (vi) The prognosis for the group is good as there is a will for it to succeed.

8. Funding of Waste Infrastructure – Paper SWB 7 (2/2007)

16. In discussion the following points were made:

- (i) Delivery of the Strategy will need more than the capital sum previously quoted, and it will be necessary to consider the whole costs over a 10 year period and the alternative routes for procurement.
- (ii) The cost over this period is likely to be in the order of between £750million and £1billion.
- (iii) Unless we can impact on waste production, our MSW ‘burden’ will rise from 1m tonnes per annum (tpa) to approximately 1.5m tpa.
- (iv) DFP has asked WMGs for indicative costs by mid July, and this must include both short and long term figures for CSR up to 2010 and beyond.
- (v) NI is under scrutiny by the European Commission and we must demonstrate that we are making positive headway.
- (vi) The profile of waste management must be raised, and consideration should be given to raising awareness through meetings with the Environment Committee and key decision makers.
- (vii) One of the most important areas is presentation – we need to let the public know the ‘real’ cost of doing nothing, and put across a consistent message to householders.
- (viii) Funding is a complex area and the main issue is who pays – we cannot just put this on the rates.
- (ix) While there is a need for immediate action, the vires for doing so do not exist.
- (x) Given that the timing of RPA is ‘sliding’, there is a need to separate waste from the RPA process.

WMGs to provide costs to DFP by mid July.

17. The Minister agreed that:

- (i) Consideration must be given to the different ways of getting this important message across. NILGA and the WMGs have an important role to play in this respect.
- (ii) Any arrangements for delivery of the Waste Strategy must be RPA proof.
- (iii) As circumstances are different from those in the rest of the UK, we need to sort out for ourselves the balance of central and local government funding.

9. Date of Next Meeting

18. As previously agreed, this will be held two weeks after the next meeting of the PDSU Steering Group which is due to take place during September. The secretariat will advise members of date and venue which, in line with the policy to rotate between the 3 Waste Management Groups, will be in the SWaMP region.

Secretariat to liaise with PDSU SG and circulate arrangements.