

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**  
**MINUTES STRATEGIC WASTE BOARD MEETING**

10.30a.m., 23 September 2009

Derry City Council Offices - The Guildhall

Guildhall Square, Londonderry

<b>Present:</b>	
Edwin Poots MLA	Minister of the Environment (Chair)
Leo O'Reilly	Permanent Secretary, Department of the Environment
Ian Maye	Deputy Secretary, Department of the Environment
Wesley Shannon	Department of the Environment
Helen Anderson	Department of the Environment
Neil McClenaghan	Department of Education
Alison Adams	Department of Employment and learning
Fiona McCausland	Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment
Anne Blacker	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Brett Hannam	Strategic Investment Board
Tim Walker	Chairman, Local Government Technical Advisers Group
Councillor Shaun Gallagher	(Vice Chair) Chair of NILGA Waste Working Group Derry City Council
Councillor Sean McGuigan	Deputy Chair of NILGA Waste Working Group Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council
Councillor Charles Rollston	Chairman, SWaMP2008 Armagh City and District Council
Graham Byrne	Operational Director Southern Waste Management Partnership (SWaMP2008)
Alderman Hubert Nicholl	Chairman, arc21 Joint Committee Ballymena Borough Council
Councillor Winston Fulton	Deputy Chairman, arc21 Joint Committee Larne Borough Council
John Quinn	Chief Executive, arc21

Councillor Robert McPherson	Coleraine Borough Council North West Region Waste Management Group (NWRWVG)
Councillor Patrick Groogan	Magherafelt District Council North West Region Waste Management Group (NWRWVG)
Eamon Molloy	Development Officer North West Region Waste Management Group (NWRWVG)
Professor Sue Christie	Director, Northern Ireland Environment Link
Ursula Walsh	University of Ulster
Patrick Durkan	Urban Forest Ltd
Secretariat:	Karen Smyth, NILGA Claire Bradley, NILGA Ivan Gregg, DOE John Waterworth, DOE
In attendance:	Alan McVicker, PDSU Paul Girvan, DOE Private Office

<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<b><u>Action</u></b>
	<p>The Minister thanked everyone for attending the meeting and introduced himself as the new Minister of the Environment. The Minister asserted that he hoped that the Strategic Waste Board will help to ensure that the Waste Management Strategy is delivered in a timely fashion.</p> <p>A particular welcome was extended to Leo O'Reilly, as the new Permanent Secretary for the Department and Ian Maye, as the new Deputy Secretary.</p>	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
	<p>Apologies were received from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Roy Ramsay (NIEA) – Anne Blacker attended as his Deputy;</li> <li>• Gerry Cosgrave (DFP);</li> <li>• John McMillen (OFMDFM);</li> <li>• David Gavaghan (SIB) – Brett Hannam attended as his deputy;</li> <li>• James Kerr (DEL) – Alison Adams attended as his deputy;</li> <li>• Mr John Briggs, of Southern Waste Management Partnership (SWaMP2008).</li> </ul>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>	
	<p>The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record, and were proposed by Cllr Shaun Gallagher (seconded by Cllr Hubert Nicholl).</p> <p>Cllr Shaun Gallagher thanked the Minister for the funding provided</p>	

	by the DOE for the NILGA Waste Policy Co-ordinator post.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b>	
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Updates on Departmental Waste Management Action Plans (DE, DEL, DETI)</b>	
	<p>A number of Departmental Waste Management Action Plans had been presented to the Minister at the previous meeting. Three departments were unable to attend and were therefore invited to make a short presentation on their Waste Management Action Plans at this meeting.</p> <p>Neil McClenaghan from the Department of Education confirmed that a number of DE buildings have been cleared out and refurbished; with all electrical, wood and paper produce being recycled/ properly disposed of. Cllr Shaun Gallagher suggested that departments share best practice guidelines amongst each other in relation to waste management.</p> <p>Alison Adams from the Department of Employment and Learning advised that new print contracts had been established, recycled paper was being used, where possible and printers have been refreshed. To date, over 14,000 kilos of paper has been shredded for recycling. There has also been ongoing communication with staff to promote switching off lights when not in use, using public transport (through the use of travel cards) and making use of the video conferencing facilities available. It was also confirmed that there are plans to upgrade the video conferencing facilities. There are also plans to install filtered mains water; the department are waiting on funding to finalise these plans.</p> <p>Ursula Walsh from the University of Ulster suggested that DEL should issue guidance to colleges and universities to ensure waste management plans are in place there. Cllr Gallagher reiterated the need for the sharing of best practice.</p> <p>Fiona McCausland from DETI informed members that their particular department has a relatively small amount of waste to contend with in comparison with other departments. Nonetheless, DETI encourages use of email, uses recycled paper and recycled printing cartridges and is currently looking at other areas to use recyclable material. Invest NI is also initiating the 'enviro-wise' programme which will net £2.6 million of potential savings.</p> <p>The Minister thanked the departments for coming to the meeting to present their waste management action plans and reiterated that it is important that departments play their part in the Waste Management Strategy.</p>	
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Annual Report Format</b>	
	It was confirmed that the DOE will take the lead in developing a format for the Annual Report. Local government felt that the content focussed too much on internal policies and suggested that the Annual Report should also consider external workings and sharing best practice. To this end DOE will consult with other Departments on a standard template for future reports	DOE to develop standard report format and consult with other Departments

<b>5.</b>	<b>Waste Programme Steering Group Report - Includes Strategy Delivery Programme Progress Report</b>	
	<p>Members were asked to note the Waste Programme Steering Group Report which outlines 6 themes, namely: waste prevention, recycling and recovery, waste planning, data and research and legislation and enforcement. The report is split into 2 sections which details the themes and then sets out the progress. In his report Leo O'Reilly highlighted progress being made across the strands and recent improvements on staff resources. He also stated that WPSG was particularly concerned about funding support for the communications plan and the waste infrastructure programme.</p> <p>Members raised concerns regarding the lack of resources and suitably skilled staff necessary to take the communications plan forward.</p> <p>Sue Christie noted that while she was pleased that additional staff resources were now in place, she remained worried that there was as yet no allocation of funding for the L &amp; C plan, and reiterated that investment is needed urgently to avoid future costs and potential EU infraction fines.</p> <p>Leo O'Reilly acknowledged that there had been slippage across the infrastructure programme, and advised members that he was working with DFP to resolve funding issues. He noted the appointment of Denis McMahon as the new Director of the Waste Infrastructure Team in PEPG.</p>	<p>DOE to continue to work to access resources for waste management strategy implementation</p>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Learning and Communication Action Plan</b>	
	<p>Members were asked to note the Learning and Communication Action Plan which sets out the communication activities for the next few years.</p> <p>The new campaign brand is 'ReThinkWaste' and design development work is already underway in respect of the logo and the new website: <a href="http://www.rethinkwasteni.org">www.rethinkwasteni.org</a>. Members noted that the plan itself is a positive development and the DOE are working with key stakeholders to take this plan forward.</p> <p>Sue Christie welcomed this step forward, but queried if the use of the word 'rethink' was a strong enough message as it may imply 'thought' rather than 'action'. Use of the word 'react' instead of 'rethink' was suggested. Cllr Hubert Nicholl reiterated the sentiments of Sue Christie, asserting that the message needs to be much stronger.</p> <p>Ian Maye stated that he was happy to consider any alternatives. Karen Smyth affirmed that local government are pleased that a plan is in place and suggested that local government work with DOE to take forward action points since funding is so scarce.</p> <p>Ian Maye advised members that the department is keen to explore with local government alternative funding opportunities from Europe and the private sector, possibly through social responsibility budgets.</p>	

<b>7.</b>	<b>Update on Repatriation of Illegal Waste</b>	
	<p>Members noted the paper outlining the work being carried out with the Republic of Ireland to deal with the repatriation of illegal waste. It was noted that this was a heritage problem of historic activity, and members were advised that the Republic of Ireland will cover the full costs of waste management and 80% of costs associated with excavating, examining and removing the waste and remediating the site afterwards. The agreement relates, in the first instance, to the two priority sites, at Slattinagh, County Fermanagh and Trillick, County Tyrone, but will form the basis for action on the remaining 18 sites.</p> <p>The Minister affirmed an excellent working relationship between the two jurisdictions on this issue.</p> <p>A query was raised regarding why Northern Ireland had to cover a percentage of costs. The Minister advised that this was a reflection of our responsibility for policing and management of waste and; as this had not been previously carried out to an acceptable standard, Northern Ireland bore responsibility for some of the costs.</p>	
<b>8.</b>	<b>NIEA Annual Report- Waste Management</b>	
	<p>Members were asked to note the NIEA Annual Report on Waste Management. Controlling hazardous waste was an issue given high importance by the NIEA. Of particular significance are the number of waste consignment notes which authorise and track the transport of hazardous wastes from their point of production to an authorised treatment or disposal facility. NIEA controlling nearly 28,000 movements in 2008/09 and 100% of these were scrutinised, authorised and issued on the day of the request.</p> <p>A number of challenges were identified - in the need to deter illegal waste and the need to improve the relationship with district councils.</p> <p>Members noted that the Agency operated at 70% full cost recovery (full cost recovery is not possible because of the range of regulatory functions for which no charge can be levied) and in the year 2008/09 local waste businesses reported recovery of 76,000 tonnes of packaging. It was confirmed that further information would be presented at the next SWB meeting.</p> <p>The Minister queried if costs incurred by NIEA can be recovered. It was confirmed that costs incurred in investigations can be claimed.</p> <p>Karen Smyth asserted that it is important to liaise with district councils and advised that local government is currently developing a fly-tipping protocol and examining statistics of fly-tipping incidents. Local government wishes to work in partnership with the Department and there are a number of concerns that need to be addressed for future working. It is felt that local government is not being treated as a partner. Karen Smyth raised an ongoing case in Fermanagh where issues had arisen between the Agency and the Council. The Minister requested he be sent the information directly, in order to deal with problem.</p>	<p>Further information on the NIEA Annual Report to be presented at the next meeting.</p> <p>NILGA to ensure information regarding fly-tipping incident in Fermanagh is forwarded directly to Minister.</p>

	<p>Cllr Winston Fulton suggested that information is released to the general public, in order to highlight the volume of work being carried out to deal with waste. Anne Blacker confirmed that a press release is issued after each conviction, but it depends on local journalists picking up the story from there on in. The Minister noted that if there was a good news story to be told, this must be brought to the public domain and that councils should also be involved. Ian Maye agreed that the department and local government should consider how to improve the way we publicise such good work to the general public.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<b>Report from Waste Infrastructure Programme Board</b>	
	<p>Members were asked to note the report from the Waste Infrastructure Programme Board. It was advised that the Programme Board is making good progress and has robust governance arrangements. Issues from the programme were identified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vires: a number of suggestions have been received through the consultation on the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill to advance remaining waste procurement powers for local government through this Bill in preference to the later Waste Bill. The implications of this suggestion will be explored at the consideration stage of the Bill at the NI Assembly.</li> <li>• Waste Bill: it was confirmed that recommendations will be presented to the NI Assembly shortly.</li> <li>• Site Selection: members noted that progress is being made in this area.</li> <li>• Finance: the department are working with DFP and the Executive on the reclassification of appropriate capital funding to revenue. A slightly reduced bid for funding has been put forward which will be considered through in the September monitoring round and the department should know fairly shortly if the bid was successful. A SWIF re-profiling exercise is also underway.</li> </ul>	
<b>10.</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
	No other business was raised.	
<b>11.</b>	<b>Date and Venue of Next Meeting</b>	
	The next meeting will be held in or around 16 December 2009, in the arc21 area.	

*Meeting closed at 11.45am*