

Member Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes

Location, Date & Time of Meeting:		Shire Hall, Warwick, 26/06/08, 2:00pm
Attending:	Members	Officers
<i>Coventry</i>	Cllr Cliff Ridge (sub for Cllr Noonan) Cllr Bains (sub for Cllr Townshend)	Chris West (CW) John Daly (JD) Andrew Walster (AW)
<i>Solihull</i>	Cllr Wild Cllr Hawkins	Jim Harte (JH) David Hingley (DH)
<i>Warwickshire</i>	Cllr Browne Cllr Heatley (Chair)	Martin Stott (MS) Kalen Wood (KW) Mahendra Wadhwana (MW)
	Bill Rhatigan (BR) – Project Transform – Interim Project Director Bruce Braithwaite (BB) – Staffordshire County Council – Guest speaker	
Apologies:	Cllr Noonan Cllr Townshend Cllr Mackiewicz Cllr Lee Cllr Goode Clive Whereat	
Status:	Action:	Initials:
AMBER	Circulate Member information pack	KW
AMBER	Include dates for approval of OBC in minutes	KW
RED ACTIONS	AMBER ACTIONS	GREEN ACTIONS
Requires urgent attention	Requires actioning before the next meeting (or within 2 months of the meeting- whichever is sooner).	Requires actioning for the next meeting

1 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed by the Chair.

2 Matters Arising

None raised

3 Presentation by Bruce Braithwaite – Waste Policy Officer, Staffordshire County Council

BB is a member of the core team that is working on Staffordshire's residual waste treatment project – Project W2R (Waste to Resources). Bruce is an experienced planner who chairs the Regional Technical Advisory Panel for

the region on planning. He was also involved in development process of the Hanford Energy from Waste Facility in Stoke.

BB gave a presentation on Staffordshire's experience in the development of project W2R to the current stage. Staffordshire are ahead of Project Transform, as they have submitted their Outline Business Case for PFI credits and are awaiting a response from Defra and the Treasury regarding their bid.

Following his presentation BB answered questions – a summary of the responses is provided below.

SCC took the decision to purchase a site and apply for planning permission themselves to offer a 'level playing field' to potential bidders. In Staffordshire there are two waste management companies with a significant interest in the County, Veolia and Biffa. To increase the competition at the bidding stage – SCC took the decision to offer a site to increase the number of bidders.

Energy from waste is the preferred treatment option. The impact of EfW has been assessed using a toolkit specifically developed to consider the environmental impact of waste treatment facilities including the level of CO₂ produced by different technologies.

SCC has relied primarily on an in-house team to carry out the work to deliver the planning application. Consultants have been used to carry out specialist work such as site investigations and ecological investigations but the whole process has been driven by SCC.

The project is high profile and politically sensitive. The leading party in Staffordshire is working with the opposition on this project and there is a good level of cross-party support for the project. SCC have ensured that the districts have been engaged in the process, particularly the district where the proposed facility will be located. The majority of concerns over the proposal have been from Parish Councils and not the districts. The project team have been talking to the Parish Councils to discuss the project and have avoided public meetings as they tend to be confrontational and counter productive. SCC prefer to hold exhibitions which enable one-to-one discussions which tend to be more productive.

Another point to consider is to look at the bigger picture regarding the community that is being affected.

All key decisions on the project have been passed through Cabinet, Council and the Scrutiny Board.

SCC did not consider Compulsory Purchase of the land due to the time it would take to do this.

In addition to the main site SCC will also be providing three transfer stations to support the project to reduce the number of vehicle movements.

SCC and Stoke City Council have the experience of operating the EfW at Hanford in Stoke for the last 10 years. Over this period the calorific value of the waste has not changed significantly, despite the fact that recycling has increased as material with a low CV has been taken out of the waste stream e.g. garden waste.

SCC aim to reach 55% recycling by 2020 and are proposing to develop a 300,000 capacity facility. Any spare capacity in the plant will be taken up by commercial waste. There is a general lack of processing capacity for commercial within the Midlands region. SCC used the needs of the Regional Spatial Strategy to justify the increase in tonnage of the facility (being over SCC's direct needs), which demonstrates that there is a large treatment capacity gap, this is due to there being a high number of landfill sites in the region, particularly in Staffordshire and Warwickshire.

SCC has considered transporting waste by rail, but linking into the West-Coast mainline is prohibitively expensive and logistically problematic.

The Chair thanked Bruce for his presentation.

4 Feedback from Project Board Meeting

Bill Rhatigan (Interim Project Director), provided an update of progress with the project and feedback from the Project Board meetings.

4.1 Issues workshop

A workshop was held with members of the Project Board on 23/07/08 to go through a series of key issues which will impact on Project Transform.

The issues discussed are:

- Scope of the Project
- Project Governance
- Recycling performance
- Sites, land and planning
- Plant treatment capacity
- LATS

A second workshop is planned to discuss other key issues.

4.1.1 Sites and Land

For the Outline Business Case we need to have a Planning Strategy in place. Therefore we are looking at potential alternative sites to the preferred site. We are also in discussions with Coventry's planners to discuss issues relevant to the preferred site and how they might be resolved.

The potential to use any heat from a facility is important and therefore Combined and Heat and Power will be considered.

4.2 Appointment of Advisors

Pinsent Masons have now been appointed as legal advisors to the project. The first piece of work that they will be asked to contribute to is the development of options for the Governance structure for the project.

4.3 Project Programme

It is intended to have a first draft completed by the end of July, with a final version scheduled for the end of September. The completed document needs to be submitted by the end of October.

The OBC will need to be approved by each of the Partners Cabinet's before submission to Defra.

The scheduled approval dates for each authority are as follows

Authority	Scrutiny Board	Cabinet	Council
Coventry	08/10/08	21/10/08	28/10/08
Solihull	-		
Warwickshire	-	16/10/08	-

4.4 Risk register

The current risk register was circulated at the meeting. The key risks are currently Planning and Governance.

4.5 Affordability

JD reported back on the affordability of the project. The consultants and project team are working examination and compilation of data that is required to calculate the affordability gap for the project. The affordability gap is the difference between what the project will cost and the partners budgets. Sensitivity analysis will be carried out on the data and a presentation will be made to the panel once this information is available. CW emphasised the fact participating in the project will mean increased costs for all of the authorities.

5 Communications

A communications project team has been set up and they are working on the communication strategy for the project. An information pack has also been drafted which will be circulated to Members.

6 Programme for the next meeting

The communications team will attend the next meeting and will give a presentation on expected questions and standard answers. The technical consultants will also present the results of the waste flow models.

7 AOB

None raised

8 Date of future meetings

The date for the next meeting was proposed as:

Date: Wednesday 23rd July
Time: 2 pm
Location: Committee Room 2, Shire Hall, Warwick

Chair:

Circulated:	All attendees	Date:
Author	Kalen Wood	