

Public Document Pack

Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Committee



Minutes of the meeting held at Purbeck District Council,
Worgret Road, Wareham on Thursday, 23 March 2017.

Present:

Anthony Alford (West Dorset District Council) (Chairman)
Michael Roake (North Dorset District Council) (Vice-Chairman)

Members Attending

Pauline Batstone (North Dorset District Council), Graham Brown (Purbeck District Council), Robin Cook (Dorset County Council), John Ellis, (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council), Margaret Phipps (Christchurch Borough Council), Ray Bryan (East Dorset District Council), Barbara Manuel (East Dorset District Council), David Budd (Purbeck District Council) Kevin Brookes (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council) and Timothy Yarker (West Dorset District Council).

Dorset Waste Partnership Officers Attending:

Matthew Boulter (Commercial Services Manager), Gemma Clinton (Head of Service (Strategy), Grace Evans (Clerk), Michael Moon (Head of Service (Operations), James Potten (Senior Communications Officer), Karyn Punchard (Director), Andy Smith (Treasurer) and Denise Hunt (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

Other Officers in attendance

Steve Mackenzie (Purbeck District Council), Stephen Hill (Dorset Councils Partnership) and Rebecca Kirk (Purbeck District Council).

- (Notes:(1) Publication In accordance with paragraph 8.4 of Schedule 1 of the Joint Committee's Constitution the decisions set out in these minutes will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of five working days after the publication date. Publication Date:**Thursday, 30 March 2017**
- (2) These minutes have been prepared by officers as a record of the meeting and of any decisions reached. They are to be considered and confirmed at the next meeting of the Joint Committee to be held on **Monday, 12 June 2017.**)

Apologies for Absence

- 13 Apologies for absence were received from Peter Finney, Robert Gould, Colin Bungey, Ray Nowak, Alan Thacker, David Walsh and Peter Webb.

Code of Conduct

- 14 Councillor Margaret Phipps declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 12 – Commercial Waste Pricing Policy and Item 13 – Commercial Services Business Plans 2017-18 as she had a commercial bin for her business. It was confirmed that she would not take part in the debate and leave the room during consideration of these items.

Minutes

- 15 The minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2016 were confirmed and signed.

Public Participation

16 Public Speaking

A public question was received at the meeting in accordance with Host Authority Standing Order 21(1) which the Chairman read aloud on behalf of Mr J Graham who was unable to attend the meeting. Both the question and response provided by the DWP Director at the meeting are attached as an annexure to these minutes.

The Chairman confirmed that he would send the response to Mr Graham and that this

would also be circulated members of the Joint Committee following the meeting.

There were no public statements received at the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 21(2).

Petitions

There were no petitions received in accordance with the County Council's petition scheme at this meeting.

Minutes of Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Scrutiny Group

17 The minutes of the DWP Joint Scrutiny Group meetings held on 18 November 2016 and 10 February 2017 were noted.

Dorset Waste Partnership Forward Plan 2017

18 The Joint Committee considered the forward plan and members were informed that an item regarding the Recycle for Dorset Service Policy was likely to be considered at the meeting on 12 June 2017.

Noted

Finance and Performance Report March 2017

19 The Joint Committee considered a report by the Director of the Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP) which set out the key performance trends, risks of variance in income and expenditure and predicted underspend of £2.656M in the 2016/17 revenue budget.

The Director of the DWP outlined some of the reasons for the underspend and explained the following points in relation to those savings that had been categorised as "likely":-

- A £112k positive variance arising from slippage in the vehicle replacement programme would be incurred in 2017/18;
- Other central costs related mainly to agency staff;
- Positive variances in the commercial trading accounts were due to growth in excess of that predicted for both trade and garden waste;
- A significant positive variance in the waste disposal budget due to the diversion of 15,000 tonnes of residual waste following installation of a new bailer at the New Earth Solutions facility. In addition, the disposal of waste from Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) was being dealt with by W&S, however there was some uncertainty whether this was sustainable and officers would be meeting with the contractor the following week to discuss this;
- A positive net effect in fuel and transport related costs, but the need to keep a close eye on prices in 2017/18;
- A new area of savings identified in the operations (collections) revenue budgets. This largely related to staffing costs due to a reduction in long term sickness levels and associated use of agency staff and tighter budgetary controls in place since December 2016;
- Savings on recycle prices remained positive and the DWP was currently receiving a small income for recycle.

Although mindful of the budget risks outlined in the report, members of the Joint Committee congratulated the DWP team for an excellent achievement. Members encouraged continuation of the education programme so that the momentum was maintained and the public understood the costs of irresponsible behaviour such as fly tipping. The Chairman stated that the DWP was proactive in education and he had recently been involved in launching a competition for students.

The Director of the DWP confirmed that the two recycling officers each focussed on

primary and secondary schools and identified opportunities to link into the national curriculum where possible. However, she appreciated that in the absence of a national standard, the service was confusing for some people and there was also a focus on “right stuff right bin” campaign to reduce contamination of recycle and ensure that there was reinforcement of the Dorset message to residents. She reminded members that they were also advocates of the service and could refer residents to the website which provided a wealth of information. It would be important to keep providing the information in future in order to maintain recycling rates.

Members suggested exploring ways to improve engagement with the press and were informed that the Senior Communications Officer already worked closely with the press in relaying positive press releases. In addition, information via Dorset for You, twitter, facebook and an e-newsletter was also used dependent on the message conveyed.

Councillor Batstone thanked officers for the leaflets produced in Bulgarian and Polish that had been circulated in North Dorset in order to improve understanding of the service for Eastern European residents.

Noted

Revised Dorset Waste Strategy

20 The Joint Committee considered an update report on the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Dorset 2008 – 2033.

The Head of Service (Strategy) advised of a change to the report recommendation in order to approve an addendum to the Joint Municipal Waste Strategy outlined in Appendix 1 and 2 of the report.

Councillor Phipps wished it to be noted that the reference to Local Government Reform (LGR) in the report could have a considerable impact on the costs of the Partnership, particularly in relation to the potential withdrawal of Christchurch Borough Council from the Partnership. She referred to references made at a briefing with Christchurch Borough Councillors prior to the meeting that this could have an impact on costs and divert administrative resources away from other work.

The Director clarified that LGR could have an impact on the work programme and priorities that had been identified for 2017/18 in that it would divert staff resources from other projects. However, the impact on DWP finances would not be apparent until such time as the options and implications were known.

The Chairman stated that LGR would result in the disaggregation of a wide range of county council services and that it might be deemed a reasonable proposition to preserve the existing waste service in the short to medium term in order to allow greater focus on the reorganisation of other public services. He reflected that the revised Waste Strategy set out a long term view that required some imagination regarding the future shape of the service. The infrastructure review, to be considered at the next meeting, would be a key element that would define the capability of the DWP for many years ahead as well as having the capacity to limit its flexibility for change. This therefore represented an opportunity for a long term view of what the service would look like going forward.

Resolved

That the addendum to the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2008 – 2033 outlined in appendices 1 and 2 of the report be approved.

Reason for Decision

1 To ensure that the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Dorset

continued to set out the strategic direction and vision for municipal waste management for the period up to 2033.

- 2 To ensure that the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Dorset remained a valid, high level document which could provide a framework for future decisions regarding waste management in Dorset.

Key Performance Indicator (KPIs) and Targets for 2017/18

- 21 The Joint Committee considered a report that proposed a reduction in those KPIs that were formally reported from 24 to 12 to allow the key information to be presented to Joint Committee via e-mail.

The Director highlighted some new key performance indicators relating to street cleanliness and the number of enforcement actions taken, including fly tipping, commercial duty of care and littering.

Resolved

- 1 That the set of 12 KPIs for 2017/18 be approved;
- 2 That the annual targets for the 12 KPIs be approved; and
- 3 That waste performance data is provided on a DWP wide basis only.

Reason for Decisions

To inform Joint Committee of the DWP KPI's and targets for 2017/18, and so that figures reflected the increased cross boundary working, sharing of waste disposal locations and differences in social demographics.

Request for Removal of Public Convenience Cleansing Service East Dorset District Council

- 22 The Joint Committee considered a report requesting removal of the public convenience cleansing service from the Service Agreement with East Dorset District Council (EDDC).

The Director explained that removal of the service represented a saving for EDDC and that other partner contributions would not be affected. The change in service would mean that staff could be reallocated to other duties in addition to less reliance on agency staff.

Resolved

- 1 That a reduction in service in the East Dorset District Council area in the removal of the public convenience cleansing service from of 01 April 2017 be approved; and,
- 2 That an adjustment to East Dorset District Council's contribution to the DWP budget from 2017/18 be approved so that the full net savings are passed on to East Dorset District Council.

Questions from Councillors

- 23 Some questions were submitted by Councillor Margaret Phipps, a Member of the DWP Joint Committee.

Both the questions and responses were given at the meeting and are attached as an annexure to these minutes. It was agreed that this would be circulated to members of the Joint Committee following the meeting.

Exclusion of the Public

- 24 **Resolved**
That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for minute numbers 25 and 26 because it was likely that if members of the public were present, there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in the paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A and the public

interest in withholding the information outweighed the public interest in disclosing that information.

Commercial Waste Pricing Policy

- 25 The Joint Committee considered an exempt report setting out a revised pricing structure for the DWP Commercial Waste Service.

Councillor Margaret Phipps left the room for consideration of this and the following items.

Resolved

- 1 That the proposed pricing strategy be approved; and,
- 2 That authority be delegated to the Director to set prices and vary prices, subject to the outcome of formal reviews and being reported to the Joint Committee via the finance reports.

Reason for Decisions

To ensure the commercial waste service recovered its own costs and was not subsidised by the domestic service and to allow the DWP to provide prices that were competitive, flexible and which maximised contributions to overheads.

Commercial Services Business Plans 2017-18

- 26 The Joint Committee considered an exempt report concerning the Business Plans for Commercial Services in 2017-18.

Councillor Margaret Phipps was not present during consideration of this item.

Resolved

That the Commercial Waste Business Plan 2017-18 and Garden Waste Service Business Plan 2017-18 be adopted.

Reason for Decision

To achieve the vision and strategic aims of the DWP.

Meeting Duration: 10.00 am - 11.25 am

This page is intentionally left blank

Public Participation

The following question has been raised by Mr J Graham for consideration by the DWP Joint Committee on 23 March 2017:-

How does the Council intend to address the problem of litter on the county's main and minor roads? And how does the Council intend to do this within the context of the Government's imminent national litter strategy?

I drive a lot in the course of my work across Dorset and am often amazed at the amount of litter which has been dropped and has accumulated at the side of the road. Some of it clearly falls off goods vehicles but a great deal is dropped by car and van drivers. It has become a real eyesore in many places, and near where I live, especially the A35 and Weymouth Relief Road. But the problem is widespread across the county. It really detracts from what is an incredibly beautiful part of the country and I feel that if it continues, will act as a real deterrent to tourism and inward investment into the area. It is also very damaging to wildlife and water courses.

I realise that funds are tight but I do think that a more concerted effort needs to be made to keep the county's roads cleaner. Quite often the litter ends up being chopped up and spread around when the grass is cut on verges and a lot of it (I'm thinking of the wooded area of the A35 going towards Poole) has been there for a very long time. Perhaps also, the council might consider how to harness volunteer support in tackling this litter problem. I realise that there is a problem with road safety using volunteers to clear main roads. But, volunteering works very well, as long as it is coordinated by a central organisation. It tends not to happen if left solely to communities.

I look forward to the committee's response.

Response from Dorset Waste Partnership:-

The Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP) is responsible for the removal of litter from highway verges in Dorset, apart from the A35 Bere Regis westbound to the edge of the county which is the responsibility of Highways England. Whilst the DWP waits for the release of the National Litter Strategy, which is expected later this year, we continue to work with our partner councils and Highways England to remove the litter which is left on the roads across the county, either by being blown off vehicles or being thrown out of vehicle windows. Close working with Highways England has led to a recent overnight works on the A31 in the Ferndown area and additional works around the Ashley Heath roundabout are taking place w/c 20 March 2017.

Over the past two years a number of DWP staff have been trained to work on high speed roads across the county so that the removal of litter can be carried out safely and in accordance with safety guidelines. We are currently reviewing this year's training requirements to ensure as staff leave we have sufficient cover, this is for the physical litter picking, the risk assessments, and supervision on site. We work closely with the verge cutting crews to co-ordinate cutting and cleansing where practicable and we use approved contractors to supplement our own cleansing crews as and when required. Measures are being put in place along some stretches of road where the grass and the litter will be collected at the same time thereby removing the need to litter pick these areas. We share dates, times and contacts to try to provide advance notice to each other of verge cutting and litter picking dates.

Sometimes when external contractors are involved communication has not been effective and despite the efforts of senior officers the litter picking and verge cutting has not always been able to be co-ordinated, and this is frustrating to us all. As a result, the tender specification for rural verge cutting 2017/18 means the successful contractor will either liaise with DWP to coordinate the timings of grass cutting and litter picking; or liaise with DWP to discuss the potential for undertaking litter picking by the successful contractor, under separate contract to DWP - or a combination of both. We are also investigating jointly with our partners new verge cutting equipment that would cut-and-collect everything along the highway verges including litter, and would enable mechanical 'litter picking' safely on roads where currently the risk is too high for staff to be deployed on foot without complete road closure.

There is of course also a strategy to reduce littering in Dorset – Litter Free Dorset (LFD). The DWP, in its commitment to reduce litter, has just funded a 14 month trial of a part time community Litter Free Dorset post. The post holder will now be able to implement the Litter Free Dorset Strategy, developed from community groups across the county. The vision of Litter Free Dorset is to work together as an independent partnership effecting positive change to reduce litter across Dorset's towns, villages and open spaces. We know there are large numbers in our communities who share your and our concerns and levels of littering along highways and elsewhere and, through education and communications we can all try to improve the situation through the LFD project

DWP Joint Committee Meeting 23 March 2017

Item 11: Questions from Councillors

Questions received from Cllr Phipps on 15 March 2017:

How many fly tipping incidents have been reported in the DWP area so far this financial year and how much has it cost to clear them up?

From April 16 until the end of February 17 there have been 2349 fly tips reported (January and February data for Purbeck yet to be verified).

The total estimated clearance and disposal costs of these fly tips, based on the size of each incident, is £126,787*.

How many of these were in the Christchurch area and what was the cost of clearance in Christchurch?

233 of these incidents were reported to the Christchurch Depot. The estimated cost of clearance and disposal of these 233 incidents was £11,611*.

Has the number of fly tips increased since we introduced charges at our HRCs and has there been an increase in fly tips containing the materials for which we now charge?

When looking at total number of fly tips for this year compared to last year the DWP has not seen an increase in number that can be linked to the introduction of charges at our HRC's. What we have experienced however, is an increase in flytipping generally when compared to previous years, but no spikes in number of incidents from September that is any higher than the background increase in fly tipping.

We do not have data for all the specific material types. The only data we have in relation to items we now charge for is asbestos, as we use a private contractor to collect this material. In July 2016 the DWP saw the highest number of fly tipping asbestos incidents recorded to date (15). Since the introduction of charges, the number of asbestos fly tips has decreased from 8 in September to 3 in January.

This data set is so small in relation to the total number of fly tips it is not a representative sample, nonetheless it doesn't show any links to the introduction of charges at the HRCs.

How much is the DWP saving by the introduction of charges at HRCs, and how does this compare with the cost of clearing the additional fly tips?

The DWP is saving £250k a year from the introduction of charges at HRC's. This financial year (7 months of charging, less a one-off set up cost of 25K) there was a saving in the budget of £145k. The total estimated cost of fly tipping this financial year from April to the end of February was £126,787*.

Last calendar year (2016) the cost of fly tipping was estimated to be £130,813*. This year we predict the annual cost to be around £150k.

In 2015, the estimated cost of fly tipping was higher than in 2016 at £140,115* even though the incidents were lower, this is because the cost of clearing and disposing of

fly tips relates to the size of them, so in 2015 there were fewer incidents in total but they were larger in size.

Where is the cost of clearing fly tips shown within DWP budgets reported to the Joint Committee?

Fly tipping is not separated in the budget. This is because most fly tips are collected on street cleansing vehicles, so the tonnage collected isn't separated out. This tonnage is included in the disposal budget and similarly the staffing costs in relation to fly tipping are included in the operations staffing budget.

All of the figures reported around the costs of fly tipping, in these answers and in the media, are estimated costs from WasteDataFlow (a web-based system for all Local Authorities from all UK regions to enter data relating to waste arisings)

What is DWP doing to counter fly tipping?

The DWP has 2 enforcement officers. In the new financial year we will be conducting a review of enforcement which will include looking at the level of resource we have, any possible use of contractors and reviewing our enforcement procedures.

The aim of the review is to enable the DWP to be more proactive in tackling fly tipping and littering, so we can explore the potential use of CCTV cameras in hotspot locations for example.

The DWP's education and communication teams also play a role in making residents aware of their legal duty of care in relation to waste, which in turn should reduce the number of flytipping incidents.

Furthermore, the DWP has been instrumental in setting up the Litter Free Dorset (LFD) Project. LFD is an umbrella for a broad range of stakeholders involved in litter prevention, providing an independent network and mechanism for partnership working on littering issues where new and existing resources can be coordinated for greater impact. Although LFD is focused on littering, there are many similarities in messaging around fly tipping and littering. Therefore this project will further aid the quest of countering flytipping.

**** Source of data is WasteDataFlow. The estimated clearance and disposal costs are estimated by the size of the fly tip.***