

**North West Region Waste Management Group Joint Committee
Wednesday 7th September 2011
District Council Offices, Coleraine**

Present:

Ballymoney Borough Council

Councillor Evelyne Robinson (**Chair**)
Alderman Cecil Cousley
John Dempsey
John Michael

Coleraine Borough Council

Councillor William King
Councillor William McCandless
Roger Wilson
Jonathan Wilson
Kieran Doherty

Derry City Council

Councillor Shaun Gallagher
John Kelpie

Limavady Borough Council

Alderman Jack Rankin
Alderman Michael Coyle
Liam Flanigan
Martin McNichol

Magherafelt District Council

Councillor Kate Lagan
Andrew Cassells

Moyle District Council

Councillor Robert McIlroy
Richard Lewis
Aidan McPeake

Strabane District Council

Councillor Kieran McGuire

NWRWMG

Eamon Molloy
Jonathan Gray
Keith Swerdlick
Joanne Curran

Item 1 - Apologies

The following apologies were recorded:

Councillor Michael Cooper
Councillor Catherine McCambridge
Councillor Jay McCauley
Councillor Sean McPeake
Phillip Faithful
John McLaughlin

John Meehan
Noel Crawford
Malcolm Scott
Alan McVicker
Oonagh Warke

Item 2 - Minutes

The Chair reviewed the previous minutes with the Committee on a page-by-page basis. The minutes of the meeting of the 6th July 2011 were:

PROPOSED by Councillor J Rankin **and SECONDED** by Councillor S Gallagher

Item 3 - Matter Arising

Mr Michael raised the issue regarding tyre disposal and stated that there is still the issue regarding illegal dumping. Councillor S Gallagher said that NILGA would be meeting with the Environment Committee to discuss this issue on the 22nd September 2011 and it was agreed that if any Council had a specific issue this should be relayed to Councillor Gallagher who would bring this to NILGA's attention.

There being no other matters arising the Chair moved to the next item of business

Item 4 - Update on the Waste Infrastructure Project - Confidential

The Development Officer updated members on the progress of the Waste Infrastructure Project. He stated that the Competitive Dialogue had been completed and that the Invitation to Submit Final Tenders had been issued. The remaining bidder had submitted a bid and this was currently under evaluation.

He added that the evaluation process is taking longer than thought due to the complex nature of the final bid documents. This will impact on the timetable in bringing a recommendation to the Joint Committee and Councils. It is envisaged that the delay in will result in a November 2011 recommendation.

John Michael said that in light of this timeline would there be a consideration in giving new members to Council an update on the project. Others contributed and it was suggested that perhaps a workshop open to all members would be the most effective solution given the time constraints.

The Development Officer undertook to investigate this matter and to bring a recommendation to the next meeting. In the interim he stated that if any of the Chief Executives or Directors feel it necessary to have a further presentation to their Councils they should let him know.

Item 5 - WasteWatch

Copies of the new Summer/Autumn Waste Watch magazine were distributed for information.

He drew Members' attention Pg 13, the introduction of a new online video presentation and educational tool.

He also stated that the Wastewatch newsletter and the new online presentation had been entered for CIWM and CIM awards.

Item 6 - Consultations

The Development Officer asked that if any individual council is making a submission to waste or environmental related consultations that they send a copy to the Group so that where appropriate, a group submission can be made reflecting the collective council position.

Item 7 - Efficient Delivery of Northern Ireland's Waste Management Services - Economic Appraisal

The Development Officer stated that the Department has completed an economic appraisal on the above matter and he had distributed this for comment as it will be tabled at the next meeting of the Waste Programme Board (WPB) that will take place on the 29th September 2011. The Development Officer took the meeting through the relevant sections and referred to correspondence sent to the previous Minister on this matter. He added that the two options being considered included a Single Waste Authority and strengthened co-operation between the three Groups.

Mr Kelpie stated that the level of cooperation between the Groups is excellent and he questioned whether a mandatory cooperation would exceed this.

Councillor S Gallagher agreed with Mr Kelpie and added that he did not think the Group's position had changed and that as this was not a consultation that those members on the WPB should listen and report back to the Group at as at this stage he did not think any decision was likely.

Various members contributed and the Chair stated that the NW Group was a good model of both cooperation and efficiency and she like other remained to be convinced of the need for wholesale change.

The Development Officer referred members to the appraisal and noted that the comparisons with GB were not wholly reflective of the position here.

The Development Officer stated that the Minister had stated that ultimately this would be a decision for Councils and at this stage it was his opinion that group should restate its position as he was aware that all three Groups have differing opinions that range from absolute no to firm support.

Item 8- A.O.B.

The Development Officer raised an issue regarding the next stage Mixed Dry Recyclable (Blue Bin) procurement. The existing contract is on a gate fee basis. It is proposed to also include a revenue share of the value of the recyclable materials sold by the contractor in the new contract documents to be issued. This provides better value for money but Members need to be aware that market conditions and thus the revenue paid back to Councils can go down as well as up over the period of the contract.

PROPOSED by Councillor S Gallagher and **SECONDED by** Robert McIlroy.

The Development Officer stated that Members may recall that a previous discussion had taken place regarding study visits to the proposed technologies. This matter was also raised at a number of Councils during presentations made by the Development Officer and the Project Manager in the early part of the year. He added that as there is a delay in the evaluation stage of the programme that members might wish to consider taking the study visit before making a recommendation to member Councils.

The estimated cost is £1000.00 per representative and this will have to be met by member Councils. In light of this a recommendation would need to come from the Joint Committee so that Councils can consider this matter.


NWRWMG Joint Committee

Councillor Gallagher stated that this matter had been raised in Council and that he felt it was appropriate that Councils are asked to consider taking a study trip to view the proposed technologies.

PROPOSED by Councillor S Gallagher and **SECONDED** by Alderman J Rankin.

There being no further business the Chair thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting.

The meeting terminated at 2.35pm

Signed: 
Cllr Evelyne Robinson
Chair