

## **Minutes of the 28th Meeting of SERTAB held on 5 June 2007 at ESA, 154 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1 9TR**

### **Present:**

Pete Raine	Chairman (Kent CC)
Tim Hines	Atkins – for Berkshire JSPU
Tony Cook	East Sussex CC
John Prosser	Kent CC
Bryan Geake	Medway Council
Hannah Moores	Milton Keynes Council
Peter Day	Oxfordshire CC (Secretary)
David Maxwell	Surrey CC
Tony Odam	West Sussex CC
Steve Storey	Environment Agency (EA)
Sarah Dye	ESA (Cory)
David Paine	GOSE
Sarah Earis	GOSE
David Payne	SEERA
Chris Waite	SEERAWP
Deborah Sacks	East of England RTAB (EERA)

## **1. Introductions and Apologies for Absence**

### **1.1 Apologies were received from:**

Graham Liddiard	Buckinghamshire CC
Richard Read	Hampshire CC
Gill King	Milton Keynes Council (represented by Hannah Moores)
Hilary Herbert	Surrey CC (represented by David Maxwell)
John Bolden	ESA (Cory) (represented by Sarah Dye)
Nick Hollands	ESA (Veolia)
Gareth Phillips	ESA (SITA)
Paddy Johnston	SEFS (T J Composting)
Melvin Caton	SEEDA
Wayne Hubbard	London RTAB (GLA)

## **2. Minutes of Meeting held on 16 March 2007 and Matters Arising**

### **2.1 The minutes of the SERTAB meeting on 16 March 2007 were agreed.**

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- 2.2 Item 2.3 – Peter Day to ask Nick Hollands again whether the ESA Planning Committee has considered ESA representation on SERTAB.

**ACTION: Peter Day / Nick Hollands**

- 2.3 Item 7.1 – John Prosser had spoken to Paul Frank (Defra); there is not yet any data available to view on the Waste Data Hub website. The inter-regional officer group has met Paul Franc and he has agreed to provide data on inter-regional movements of waste in advance of publication. The next report is to be published on the Waste Data Hub in September. Steve Storey agreed to provide a report on what data is available and where, and what data will be available and when. It was stressed that data is needed at WPA level.

**ACTION: Steve Storey**

2.4 Other matters arising were covered under items elsewhere on the agenda.

### **3. Waste Strategy for England 2007**

- 3.1 It was agreed Waste Strategy 2007 is generally good and ambitious. The revised targets and the links to climate change and energy policy were particularly welcomed. It concentrates on local-level matters and does not seem to add anything significant at the regional level.
- 3.2 The reason for the emphasis on anaerobic digestion in the section on recovering energy from waste in Chapter 5 is not clear. It was suggested that it may be because in principle anaerobic digestion performs well against climate change criteria and local facilities can be provided which are more likely to be publicly acceptable. It was noted however that this technology has yet to be proven for MSW at a full-scale, commercial level. The Strategy has a positive section on recovery of energy from waste wood.
- 3.3 The Strategy seems to be thin on C&I wastes. It does (Chapter 6) encourage local authorities to take a lead on business waste but it is not clear how this is to be done in practice. It was pointed out that not every authority is in a position to take the sort of approach that Hampshire has. The Strategy is also thin on resourcing changes in management of MSW.
- 3.4 The meaning of the target for reduction in landfill of CDE waste, which the Government is considering, is not clear; the base date is not stated (but there is more on this in Annex C3). It is also not clear how such a target would be monitored given the poor state of data on CDE waste. It was suggested data could be collected via the proposed Site Waste Management Plans for construction sites; these may also be seen as the driver to achieve the target.
- 3.5 Tony Cook pointed out that the waste growth scenarios used in Annex A – Impact Assessment were different from those used previously. Consequently East Sussex are revising their needs assessment.
- 3.6 On the operational review of LATs that is to be carried out in 2007, Sarah Earis said Defra would like input from WDAs.
- 3.7 SEERA would be making a response to Waste Strategy 2007. David Payne asked for any further comments to be sent to him.

**ACTION: All**

### **4. Regional Waste Capacity Survey and Establishment of Methodology**

## **and Monitoring Procedure for Regional Waste Management Capacity**

- 4.1 Hard copies of the final report had been circulated. ERM will send copies on CD to all WPAs. These will include all the spreadsheets and the sites data for the WPA concerned, to enable WPAs to carry out monitoring and updating of the model. The contribution from Defra towards the cost of this project was acknowledged.
- 4.2 It was agreed that ERM (Phil Short) should visit each WPA to provide training on how to use the model and that ERM should prepare a users manual for WPAs. This training should be completed by the end of September. It was agreed that this would be financed by SERTAB.
- 4.3 It was acknowledged that every WPA needs to be committed to using the model both for their own monitoring, for their AMRs, and to feed into the Regional Monitoring Report. WPAs need to have systems in place to record waste management capacity as it is permitted and as it comes into operation and to obtain annual updates of landfill capacity. Reporting on waste management capacity by WPAs needs to be consistent and timely. It would be left to WPAs to decide how frequently they update the model for their area, but all WPAs should provide information for the year to 31 March to SEERA by 31 December each year.
- 4.4 It was noted that there seems to be under-recording in the model of C&D waste recycling facilities. A more accurate picture is needed, but it is a question of trying to improve the data each time as information and understanding gets better.

### **5. Annual Monitoring Reports: Guidance for WPAs on consistency of AMRs with Regional Monitoring Report**

- 5.1 In the light of the ERM monitoring model, the guidance for WPAs on annual monitoring reports needs to be revised. David Payne will revise and simplify it and it will be circulated to WPAs.

#### **ACTION: David Payne**

- 5.2 It was acknowledged that WPAs are not in a position to provide all the information required for the Regional Monitoring Report; information on arisings, growth rates and management by type is needed from the EA and/or Defra. SERTAB therefore needs to know what data the EA can provide and when. Steve Storey will provide a note on waste data availability by the end of

July (see also paragraph 2.3 above). It was agreed that the focus of SERTAB's work over the next year should be on monitoring.

**ACTION: Steve Storey**

## **6. Hazardous and Low Level Radioactive Waste – proposed research project to inform review of South East Plan**

- 6.1 David Payne had made an informal bid for funding from the Defra WIP Regional Support Fund for this project; SEWAG supported this and two other bids and it therefore was likely that funding of £10,000 would be approved. David Payne will now make a formal bid to Defra. SEERA will put £10,000 into the project. It was agreed that SERTAB should match this with funding of £10,000, to make a total of £30,000. For this amount of funding it would not be possible to get a detailed study; it will need to be a fairly high level study of arisings and facilities required. A September start for the project looks likely.

**ACTION: David Payne**

- 6.2 Deborah Sacks said the East of England had engaged Scott Wilson to carry out a quite large scale study of hazardous waste, to identify arisings, current capacity and future needs by WPA. But the project had been delayed awaiting 2006 data from the EA. She agreed to provide the project brief and a list of potential consultants to David Payne.

**ACTION: Deborah Sacks**

## **7. Liaison with Other Regions**

### **7(i) London**

- 7.1 The EIP on the Alteration to the London Plan involving changes to the waste apportionment to the London Boroughs takes place this month. The proposal for a single waste authority for London is being considered by Parliament; EERA supports this but SEERA opposes it.
- 7.2 The Inter-Regional Forum met last week and waste was on the agenda. The Inter-Regional Technical (Officer) Group has now been set up, on which the South East is represented by David Payne.

### **7(ii) East of England**

- 7.3 A note on the main areas of work addressed by the East of England RTAB at meetings in March and May had been circulated by John Prosser. The three main issues were: the Hazardous Waste Study; a Review of the Regional Waste Management Strategy; and proposals for a Memorandum of

Understanding (MOU) with the EA. A draft MOU is to be drawn up for possible discussion by the National Forum of RTAB Chairs. Steve Storey said it would be helpful to have a MOU for the South East so that the EA knew what information it is expected to provide.

## **8. Update on Waste Development Frameworks and Major Waste Management Development Proposals**

8.1 A schedule of programmes for South East Region Waste Local Development Documents had been circulated. Any missing information or updates should be sent to Peter Day so that a revised schedule can be circulated.

**ACTION: All WPAs / Peter Day**

### **8.2 Berkshire Authorities:**

Consultation on Core Strategy Preferred Options and consultation on Waste Sites and DC Policies Issues and Options are all scheduled for September / October 2007.

### **8.3 East Sussex and Brighton & Hove:**

A legal agreement is being prepared for the Newhaven EFW Plant to enable the planning permission to be issued. A decision is still awaited following the Inquiry on the Brighton Sewage Treatment Works application. The Councils' waste contractor is having to provide information in response to FOI requests. Arisings of MSW increased last year.

### **8.4 Kent**

An application for a hazardous waste landfill site involving a land swop had resulted in a decrease in capacity of 2.5 million tonnes. The Allington EFW Plant is now running at 70-80% of capacity; in the light of Waste Strategy 2007 this plant should be sufficient to meet the County's needs. Arisings of MSW declined last year.

### **8.5 Medway**

There is uncertainty over whether the Core Strategy will be sound; this could affect the LDF timetable.

### **8.6 Milton Keynes**

The Pre-Examination Meeting on the Waste DPD will be held in July and the Examination will now be in October 2007. Two applications have been received for Bletchley Landfill, for a waste reception centre and to extend the site life to 2020. The proposals involve importation of 1 million tonnes a year

of waste from London, diverted from a current disposal site in the East of England. They are to be reported to Committee this month.

#### **8.7 Oxfordshire**

The LDF timetable is under review following comments from GOSE that the Core Strategy Preferred Options are not sufficiently spatial to be sound. Officers are in dialogue with GOSE and PINS to establish how the Core Strategy needs to be changed, but there are concerns that a more locationally and technology specific Core Strategy could conflict with the Council's technology neutral approach to procurement of new waste treatment facilities. An application by Grundon for a Hazardous Waste Transfer Station at Ewelme was recommended for refusal as being contrary to AONB policy but the Committee had resolved that it should be permitted.

#### **8.8 Surrey**

The part of the Examination dealing with the Core Strategy had been completed but there had been a delay to the Examination programme for the Sites and DC Policies, and the Capel Action Group were trying to get part of the Examination deferred to October. It will therefore be some time before the Inspectors Report is received. Pre-application discussions have been held for a new proposal for an EFW Plant at Capel. Arisings of MSW increased by 2% last year.

#### **8.9 West Sussex**

The LDF timetable has been revised to separate the Core Strategy and the Strategic Waste Sites DPD, following advice from GOSE and PINS. The Core Strategy will now be submitted in January 2008 and examined in September 2008; and the Sites DPD will be submitted in September 2009, after the Core Strategy has been adopted, and examined in June 2010. But it was noted that the Planning White Paper (paragraph 8.2) indicates that major sites should be in Core Strategies. The High Quality Waste Facilities SPD has now been adopted and is on the Council's website. An appeal by Cory for 1 million tonnes of non-inert landfill had been dismissed on grounds of AONB policy and insufficient need. Current proposals include landfill at Rock Common and an integrated waste facility at Brookhurst Wood. Tony Odam said he would be leaving West Sussex at the end of the week to take up a position with Veolia, where he would be dealing with the East Sussex contract. Tony was thanked for his contribution to SERTAB.

#### **8.10 Hampshire**

In the absence of a Hampshire representative it was noted that the Inspector's Report on the Core Strategy had been published. Richard Read

has prepared a note about it and it would be useful if this could be circulated.

- 8.11 It was noted that a DCLG / POS meeting about Waste LDFs, focussing particularly on Core Strategies, is being held on 13 July.

## **9. Future Chair of SERTAB**

- 9.1 Pete Raine would shortly be leaving Kent County Council. He suggested Paul Archer at Hampshire CC as the new Chair and agreed to ask him. David Payne thanked Pete Raine for chairing SERTAB over the last 2 years and this was endorsed by those present.

**ACTION: Pete Raine**

## **10. Future Meetings**

- 10.1 No date was fixed for the next meeting as this would need to be agreed with the new Chair, but if possible it will be in September combined with a visit to the Shanks MBT plant in East London.

**ACTION: Peter Day**

## **11. Any Other Business**

- 11.1 Sarah Earis reported that a regional waste conference is being planned for October or November, arranged by GOSE, SECE, SEEDA and SEERA. It was still in the planning stage but would focus on a joined-up approach to waste planning and management.
- 11.2 Deborah Sacks reported that a conference is being held in the East of England on 10 July.
- 11.3 Deborah Sacks also drew attention to a consultation by the Environment Agency on Groundwater protection, which is on the EA website. She thought this signalled the end of non-inert landfill.
- 11.4 David Paine referred to the Planning White Paper and said this provided an opportunity to express views on the LDF process. The Government will be putting forward proposals to amend the Regulations and PPS12.
- 11.5 The idea of holding a further meeting of WPAs, SEERA and GOSE on Waste and Minerals LDFs after the Hampshire Core Strategy Inspector's Report had

been received had been discussed at the last meeting. Support for such an event was confirmed although it was suggested it would be more useful to wait until the Surrey Inspector's Report was available. David Paine offered to host the event at GOSE and asked for possible dates and items for the agenda. He suggested inviting PINS and Defra (John Enright) as well.

**ACTION: Peter Day / David Paine**