

**Minutes of the 27th Meeting of SERTAB held on 16 March 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
Ian Prosser	Milton Keynes Council
Peter Day	Oxfordshire CC (Secretary)
David Lamb	Surrey CC
Tony Odam	West Sussex CC
Keith Bates	Environment Agency (EA)
Sarah Dye	ESA (Cory)
Nick Hollands	ESA (Veolia)
Paddy Johnston	SEFS (T J Composting)
David Payne	SEERA
Melvin Caton	SEEDA
Chris Waite	SEERAWP

I. Introductions and Apologies for Absence

I.1 Apologies were received from:

Graham Liddiard	Buckinghamshire CC
Bryan Lyttle	Berkshire Joint Strategic Planning Unit
Marcus Wood	Atkins – for Berkshire JSPU
Hilary Herbert	Surrey CC (represented by David Lamb)
Gill King	Milton Keynes Council (represented by Ian Prosser)
John Bolden	ESA (Cory) (represented by Sarah Dye)
Richard Read	Hampshire CC
Gareth Phillips	ESA (SITA)
Sarah Earis	GOSE
Roy Leavitt	East of England RTAB (Essex CC)
Wayne Hubbard	London RTAB (GLA)

- I.2** John Prosser is the new representative for Kent CC. Keith Bates was attending as a temporary representative for the EA, pending the replacement for Brian Jones taking up post in about a month's time.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 12 December 2006 and Matters Arising

- 2.1 The minutes of the SERTAB meeting on 12 December 2006 were agreed.
- 2.2 Item 2.2 – A further meeting of WPAs, SEERA and GOSE should be held, but this should wait until the Hampshire Core Strategy Inspector’s Report has been received, which is expected in May 2007. This is to be discussed again at the June SERTAB meeting.

- 2.3 Item 2.3 – Nick Hollands has taken up ESA representation on SERTAB with the ESA Planning Committee. He is awaiting feedback.
ACTION: Nick Hollands
- 2.4 Item 3.2 – Kath Mondon (Defra) has passed the request for regional figures on arisings of low level radioactive waste to the NDA, but no figures have been received. She has now moved to another post and has suggested SERTAB makes a direct approach to the NDA.
- 2.5 Item 4.2 – The report by Beyond Waste for SEEDA on recycling and reprocessing infrastructure is now on the SEEDA website.
- 2.6 Item 10.4 – The judgement on the High Court Challenge to adoption of the East Sussex Waste Local Plan has been received; Tony Cook will circulate it.
ACTION: Tony Cook
- 2.7 Other matters arising were covered under items elsewhere on the agenda.

3. Regional Waste Capacity Survey and Establishment of Methodology and Monitoring Procedure for Regional Waste Management Capacity

- 3.1 David Payne and Peter Day had met Simon Aumonier and Phil Short of ERM the previous day for a briefing on the final report, which is now complete. Copies will be circulated to SERTAB members; the spreadsheets will also be made available. There are still some data problems; the data in the model should be improved over time. It has been designed to allow fields to be updated easily. The model contains separate sets of spreadsheets for each WPA, which are linked together to generate regional figures. The presentation given by Phil Short will be circulated
ACTION: David Payne; Peter Day
- 3.2 The next stage is to decide how this model should be used as a tool for monitoring delivery of the regional waste strategy, and for monitoring at WPA level. A system and programme is needed for annual updating of information on waste management capacity, etc to generate annual reporting at WPA and regional level. This should ensure regular and timely provision of information and consistency between AMRs produced by WPAs and SEERA.
- 3.3 Overall responsibility for the model will lie with SEERA (David Payne), but responsibility for individual WPA spreadsheets will lie with WPAs. The WPA spreadsheets contain individual site data, which should be updated on a regular

basis and will thereby update the regional figures. The site data will not be published in regional reports. It will be for each WPA to decide whether site data is confidential or not.

- 3.4 When WPAs receive the final report and model, they should check whether it makes sense and whether they are able to use it. It was agreed in principle that ERM should be retained to provide instruction and support to WPAs on an individual basis, to ensure that WPA personnel who will be using the model understand it; this additional consultancy work would be financed from the SERTAB budget.

4. South East Plan EIP – Matter 7 Waste and Minerals Apportionment of Waste from London (Policy W3)

- 4.1 A special meeting of SERTAB had been held on 6 March 2007 to consider recent data from the EA on waste arisings from London that are landfilled in the South East Region. A note of the meeting had been prepared by David Payne and agreed by those present. This had been submitted to the South East Plan EIP Panel and had been circulated to SERTAB members. The Panel have published the note and invited comments on it by 21 March.

5. Hazardous and Low Level Radioactive Waste

- 5.1 The Government proposes that WDAs and RPBs should take on responsibility for planning disposal of low level radioactive waste. This will require information and understanding about this waste. At the same time, there is a need for much better information and understanding about hazardous waste. This will be needed to inform a review of the South East Plan, to properly cover these waste streams. The Panel Report from the EIP on the Waste Changes to RPG9 had flagged up a need for clearer direction to be given on the need for and location of hazardous waste facilities.

- 5.2 David Payne proposed putting forward a bid to Defra for funding from the WIP Regional Support Fund for a project on these waste streams. It was agreed he should pursue this with Defra. It would be helpful to find out what other RTABs are doing on these issues and what information they have obtained.

ACTION: David Payne

- 5.3 Keith Bates said the EA should be producing data on hazardous waste in April

or May, but it was not yet clear what form this information would be in. John Prosser thought the problem was not so much lack of data on waste arisings as on the facilities where it is being dealt with. He mentioned that there are now two hazardous waste landfills in Kent: one for asbestos; and one for residues from the Allington incinerator. Keith Bates will also find out what the EA's knowledge is on radioactive waste.

Action: Keith Bates

6. Recycling and Reprocessing Infrastructure and Regional Waste Market Development Implementation Plan

- 6.1 Melvin Caton reported that the research that had been carried out, as reported at the last meeting, was now being followed up by the development of an implementation plan. Authorities with an interest in resource management are being identified. Issues include promoting resource recovery parks, C&D waste recycling, market development and business improvement and growth.
- 6.2 SEEDA is also developing action plans. During this year (2006/07), SEEDA has supported 5 reprocessing companies, in Kent and East and West Sussex, through capital grants. A more comprehensive programme of support is planned for the next year (2007/08). This will provide further opportunities for bids to be made for support. In particular, SEEDA is inviting bids for anaerobic digestion of waste from the commercial sector.
- 6.3 On market development, SEEDA is identifying the barriers, but recognises it is difficult to act at a local level in the context of a global market. SEEDA's role is as a facilitator, not as an operator. One thing being looked at is plastics recycling at Dagenham, to cater for materials from outside as well as within London.
- 6.4 Keith Bates commented that new requirements for pre-treatment of waste before landfill should be another driver for recycling and recovery of C&I waste; the EA has recently published guidance on this.

7. National Waste Data Strategy

- 7.1 A note (February 2007) by Paul Franc (Defra) on information available from the Defra Waste Data Hub had been circulated. Keith Bates said the EA is a key provider of data to the hub and is currently doing a lot of work on this. Data provision has moved up the EA agenda, and Area Managers now have performance indicators on data provision. There is an internal shadow project

board within the EA, headed by Liz Parkes (Head of Waste) to ensure the Data Hub is properly supported. Data will be on both waste streams and on waste management sites. SERTAB Members were asked to look at the Data Hub and give feedback on how useful it is to Keith Bates and Paul Franc. The Secretary will circulate the link to the website.

Action: Peter Day

8. Annual Monitoring Reports

8(i) Regional Monitoring Report 2006

- 8.1 A draft of the waste section of the Regional Monitoring Report 2006 was circulated by SEERA for comment in January. It is to be considered by the Regional Planning Committee on 21 March. Overall, the report was considered to look good, but SEERA were asked to update figures using the information now available in the ERM report. David Payne said it should be possible to do this.

Action: David Payne

8(ii) Guidance for WPAs on consistency of AMRs with Regional Monitoring Report

- 8.2 Bryan Lyttle had undertaken to revise the guidance, following the discussion at the meeting of WPAs, SEERA and GOSE on 12 December 2006 (held after the SERTAB meeting), but nothing had yet been received. The approach in the guidance note may now have been superseded by the ERM model. WPAs were asked to look at the model and give feedback to David Payne on whether guidance is still needed. This would be considered further at the next meeting.

9. National Meetings: RTABs Forum; and RTAB Chairs – 6 February 2007

- 9.1 Pete Raine had attended both meetings. He reported that little of significance had come up at either meeting. Discussion on radioactive waste had gone little further than at the last SERTAB meeting. Lester Hicks (DCLG) had made a plea for WDAs and WPAs to work together to ensure delivery of the waste facilities that are needed. The notes of these meetings will be circulated when they become available.

10. Liaison with Other Regions

10(i) London

- 10.1 SEERA has supported the proposed minor alteration to the London Plan, to change the internal apportionment to the London Boroughs. The EIP preliminary meeting is on 19 March. Further information is on the website.
- 10.2 Nick Hollands is now an ESA representative on the London RTAB; he would be able to provide input from SERTAB and report back to SERTAB meetings.
Action: Nick Hollands

10(ii) East of England

- 10.3 The Government's Proposed Changes to the Draft East of England Plan were published in December 2006. They were considered by the Regional Planning Committee on 31 January.
- 10.4 It was agreed that John Prosser should be the SERTAB representative on the East of England RTAB
Action: John Prosser
- 10.5 An Inter-Regional Working Group on Waste has been set up by the Inter-Regional Forum, involving the South East, East of England and London regions. This will look at inter-regional waste movements and market development for recycled materials and reprocessing.

11. Update on Waste Development Frameworks and Major Waste Management Development Proposals

- 11.1 A schedule of the programmes for South East Region Waste Local Development Documents had been circulated. Programme details were still required for the Berkshire Unitaries and East Sussex. Any further updates should be sent to the Secretary and a revised schedule would be circulated.
ACTION: Bryan Lyttle; Tony Cook; Peter Day
- 11.2 **Oxfordshire:**
A revised Minerals and Waste Development Scheme has been submitted to GOSE, but the timetables for the Core Strategy and Waste Sites DPD are essentially unchanged. Arisings of MSW have fallen in recent years, possibly due to dryer summer weather.
- 11.3 **Medway:**
The Core Strategy will go to examination in May. It is in conformity with the South East Plan; waste and minerals issues were resolved. Waste will be covered in a Climate Change and Natural Resources DPD, which is to be

commenced in February 2008. There is a proposal for a 0.75mtpa capacity waste recycling and transfer operation, possibly also including a thermal treatment plant. The rate of growth of MSW arisings has decreased.

11.4 Surrey:

The Surrey Waste Plan is currently going through examination. 2 weeks have been held on the Core Strategy. 4 weeks are scheduled in May/June for the Sites DPD; this will include 2 days of formal hearings on the Capel site (proposed for an efw plant). The Recycled Aggregates DPD has been put back. Arisings of MSW reduced last year; there was a reduction in waste received at civic amenity sites due to better policing.

11.5 East Sussex and Brighton & Hove:

Objectors to the adoption of the Waste Local Plan have been refused leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal. It looks as though adoption can now go ahead. The application for an efw plant at Newhaven was reported to Committee, with 16,500 objections. The Committee has resolved to grant permission but the application has been referred to the Secretary of State as a departure. MSW arisings increased last year.

11.6 Berkshire Authorities:

Core Strategy Preferred Options should soon be out for consultation. Work is also proceeding on waste sites.

11.7 Milton Keynes:

Consultation on the Waste DPD Preferred Options has been completed, with little objection. A major landfill application has been received; this proposes an input of 1 million tpa to a void of 18 million cu. m. Arisings of MSW are increasing, reflecting the growth of Milton Keynes.

11.8 Kent:

Review of the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme has led to slippage of 9 months and amalgamation of some proposed DPDs to simplify the process. Commissioning of the Allington efw plant is almost complete and it is nearly at full operation. MSW arisings have decreased for the third year running, but the reason is not known.

11.9 West Sussex

Consultation on Preferred Options has just finished. The timetable for DPDs is being reviewed in a revision of the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme. Applications have been received for landfill (5.5mt) at Rock Common and for a MRF, AD plant and landfill extension at Brockhurst Wood.

The decision on the Lidsey Landfill is reported in the latest edition of 'Waste Planning'; it raises significant issues on the application of PPS10. Arisings of MSW are declining, probably due to a combination of the weather and tightening up on waste deposited at civic amenity sites.

- 11.10 Pete Raine said the question of why arisings of MSW seem to be decreasing when population and household numbers are increasing is an important one. If this is because dry weather has led to a decrease in green waste, then if we get a wet year MSW arisings will suddenly increase again. This is a matter of concern. It illustrates the need for more tie-up between WPAs and WDAs.

12. Future Chair of SERTAB

- 12.1 Pete Raine said he intends to stand down as Chairman of SERTAB after the June 5 meeting, as he will be leaving Kent CC at the end of June. A new Chairman will be needed. SERTAB Members were asked to make suggestions to David Payne.

Action: All

13. Future Meetings

- 13.1 The next meeting is 5 June 2007, 10.30 at ESA Offices, London.

- 13.2 The date of the September meeting is yet to be fixed. It was suggested this meeting be combined with a visit to the new MBT plant at Rainham in East London. The Rainham RSPB visitor centre was suggested as a possible meeting venue.

ACTION: Peter Day

- 13.3 The subsequent meetings is 4 December (morning).

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Financial Contributions to SERTAB:

It was agreed there is no need for financial contributions from WPAs for 2006/07. The Secretary will write to WPAs to inform them of this but also to say that SERTAB does intend to ask for contributions in future years.

Action: Peter Day

14.2 Milton Keynes Representation:

Ian Prosser said that Milton Keynes Council is engaging consultants to do planning work; it may be that they would attend some future meetings,

although Gill King will continue to be the Council's SERTAB representative.