

## Minutes of the 25th Meeting of SERTAB held on 21 September 2006 at Milton Keynes Materials Recycling Facility

### Present:

Bryan Lyttle	Berkshire Joint Strategic Planning Unit
Tony Cook	East Sussex CC
Bill Murphy	Kent CC (Acting Chairman)
Gill King	Milton Keynes Council
Rebecca Trowse	Milton Keynes Council
Peter Day	Oxfordshire CC (Secretary)
David Lamb	Surrey CC
Tony Odam	West Sussex CC
Brian Jones	Environment Agency (EA)
David Payne	SEERA

### Present for introductory talk and tour of plant:

Andy Hudson	Milton Keynes Council
Richard Cutts	Community Waste Ltd
Philip Serfaty	Community Waste Ltd

## 1. Introductions and Apologies for Absence

### 1.1 Apologies were received from:

Pete Raine	Chairman (Kent CC)
Graham Liddiard	Buckinghamshire CC
Richard Read	Hampshire CC
Bryan Geake	Medway Council
Hilary Herbert	Surrey CC (represented by David Lamb)
Gerald Owen	ESA (Cory)
Joanna Colvin	ESA (Cory)
Owen Dimond	ESA (Grundon)
Nick Hollands	ESA (Veolia)
Gareth Phillips	ESA (SITA)
Paddy Johnston	SEFS (T J Composting)
Melvin Caton	SEEDA
David Paine	GOSE
Terry Clarke	GOSE
Chris Waite	SEERAWP
Roy Leavitt	East of England RTAB (Essex CC)
Wayne Hubbard	London RTAB (GLA)

1.2 In the absence of the Chairman, it was agreed Bill Murphy should chair the meeting.

1.3 The Directors of Community Waste Ltd and officers of Milton Keynes Council were thanked for the presentation and tour of the Milton Keynes Materials Recycling Facility that had preceded the meeting and for their hospitality.

## 2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 June 2006 and Matters Arising

2.1 The minutes of the SERTAB meeting on 6 June 2006 were agreed.

- 2.2 Item 2.2 – It is no longer necessary to send a follow-up letter to the EA, Defra and DCLG on detailed data requirements.
- 2.3 Item 2.3 – Following the meeting of WPAs and SEERA on monitoring systems and AMRs on 30 June, a note by David Paine (GOSE) giving feedback on the first round of AMRs had been circulated. David Nkrumah-Boateng (SEERA) and Bryan Lyttle have discussed a consistent set of indicators for AMRs and David will circulate a draft to MPAs/WPAs for comment. East Sussex CC is in discussion with GOSE about the possibility of doing a waste trajectory, similar to the trajectories used for monitoring housing. Milton Keynes Council has been told by GOSE to include waste growth scenarios in their plan to reflect different housing growth scenarios. It was reported that GOSE have asked that requests to save local plan polices beyond the 3 year period should not be submitted through AMRs, but by separate letter early in 2007; and have advised that these requests need political approval within authorities. It was agreed that a further meeting of WPAs, SEERA and GOSE should be held after the Hampshire and Surrey Examinations in early 2007.  
**ACTION: Peter Day**
- 2.4 Item 2.5 – Richard Read had not been able to provide a paper on PPS10. It was felt SERTAB members are now sufficiently familiar with PPS10 for this to no longer be required.
- 2.5 Item 2.6 – SEERA submitted a response to the DEFRA consultation on Management of Low Level Radioactive Waste.
- 2.6 Item 2.7 – A summary of responses to the Chairman’s questionnaire to SERTAB members had not yet been prepared. The lack of ESA representation at the meeting was noted; the Secretary said he had spoken to Nick Hollands about ESA representation on SERTAB and he would be raising this with the ESA Planning Committee. It was also noted that local authority representation on SERTAB is still very planning dominated, with only one representative from the waste management side.  
**ACTION: Nick Hollands**
- 2.7 Item 3.1 – The Crossrail presentation to the last meeting had been circulated. Surrey CC officers have met Crossrail to discuss possible disposal sites.
- 2.8 Item 4.4 – Bill Murphy had found the CIWM CD on the National Waste Data Strategy very useful.
- 2.9 Item 5.2 – The Secretary had not received any further information from Paul Franc about voidspace data.
- 2.10 Item 7.1 – The SEEDA Waste Markets Development Group is meeting the following week, when Alan Potter will present his report to SEEDA. David Payne had seen the report. It concludes that the public sector role in developing reprocessing capacity is limited because the industry is very market driven. Alan Potter has also done a survey of other EU countries for SEEDA. It was agreed David Payne should ask Alan Potter to present his report to the next SERTAB meeting.  
**ACTION: David Payne**
- 2.11 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 An update report by ERM on the project had been circulated. ERM emailed WPAs earlier in the week asking for clarification of data. Queries were raised on the table in the update report: the meaning of the lines '??' and 'CLOSED'; and why the bottom three lines seem to repeat other lines. Lack of confidence in landfill capacity data could have implications for modelling of further options for apportionment of waste from London. David Payne will ask ERM to explain the table. WPAs should respond to ERM by the end of September.

**ACTION: David Payne / WPAs**

3.2 Brian Jones gave an update on the EA's new SWMA. 2004/05 data should be available at the end of October at regional level, with sub-regional data available later in the year. Data for the calendar year 2005 should be available (but not necessarily published) in November at national and regional levels. 2006 data should be published in September 2007 at national, regional and sub-regional levels, and that will set the timescale for future years. The EA are still working on resolving the issue of confidentiality of site data.

### **4. South East Plan**

#### **4(i) South East Plan EIP Matters for Discussion**

4.1 The draft EIP timetable includes a session on waste and minerals on 15 December 2006, covering policy W3 (apportionment of London's waste); policy W15 (hazardous waste); and policy M2 (secondary and recycled materials).

#### **4(ii) Draft South East Plan: Policy W3 – Apportionment of Waste from London**

4.2 SERTAB is funding further work by Jacobs Babtie on alternative options for apportionment of waste from London. A note of the meeting of WPAs and SEERA with Andrew Wooddisse of Jacobs Babtie on 15 August had been circulated. Jacobs Babtie will produce a technical report on alternative options for SERTAB, to provide advice to SEERA for the EIP. A further meeting with Jacobs Babtie has been arranged for 5 October to discuss a draft report.

4.3 A final report is needed before 30 October, the deadline for EIP statements. It will not be possible to hold a meeting of SERTAB to consider the final report and it will therefore not have been endorsed by SERTAB member authorities. It was agreed it should be provided to SEERA as a report prepared by consultants for SERTAB, but not endorsed by SERTAB, to inform the EIP.

#### **4(iii) Draft South East Plan: Policy W15 – Hazardous Waste**

4.4 There were differing views from WPAs on this policy. Surrey does not see a need to identify facilities specifically for hazardous waste as it is difficult to distinguish between hazardous and non-hazardous waste facilities. Kent intends to prepare a separate DPD on hazardous waste, mainly for contaminated soils. Berkshire has asked GOSE for advice on whether they must identify sites specifically for hazardous waste, including low level radioactive waste.

4.5 There was some feeling that policy W15 may be over-prescriptive and that a more open policy is needed to encourage more facilities. Gill King saw a need not only for sufficient capacity but also for competition, in line with government policy in PPS10. David Payne suggested the paper prepared by Owen

Dimond and the Hazardous Waste Task Group in 2005 may need updating; in particular the conclusions on provision required for WEEE facilities can now be seen to be insufficient.

- 4.6 No conclusions were reached and it was left that SERTAB members should prepare their statements for the EIP in the light of this discussion.

**4(iv) Sustainability Appraisal of Draft South East Plan Waste Policies**

- 4.7 A draft sustainability appraisal by ERM of the revised waste policies included in the Draft South East Plan had been circulated. This was generally felt to be weak, with insufficient analysis and justification and lacking clear conclusions. David Payne will take these comments back to SEERA.

**ACTION: David Payne**

**5. EA Study of Hazardous Waste in Thames Gateway**

- 5.1 A note by John Prosser, Kent CC, on this study and a project update dated August 2006 had been circulated. The poor quality of data and large ranges of figures in the project update were noted. The notion that there is a lack of hazardous waste management capacity was questioned, given that the market seems to be responding to demand. John Prosser is on the project steering group. It was agreed SERTAB should maintain a watching brief via John.

**ACTION: John Prosser**

**6. Liaison with Other Regions**

**6(i) London**

- 6.1 The Panel Report on the London Plan Alterations EIP has just been published. Two of the Panel's recommendations are of particular significance for the South East Region: W32 – that the Mayor, SEERA and EERA should seek to resolve differences over export of waste from London after 2015; and W33 – that the Government Offices for London, the South East and East of England should establish an inter-regional technical body to consider establishing markets for and processing of recyclate. Consideration also needs to be given to the implications for the South East of the figures in the London Plan Alterations of amounts of waste to be exported from London.

- 6.2 London Borough of Bexley, supported by the Mayor of London, is seeking a judicial review of the Belvedere Incinerator decision. No date has been set yet for the hearing.

**6(ii) East of England**

- 6.3 The Panel Report on the Draft East of England Plan EIP was published on 22 June 2006. In response to the Panel's recommendations EERA has submitted a set of possible new waste policies for the East of England to the Government Office, including a sub-regional waste apportionment.

**6(iii) National Meetings**

- 6.4 The meetings of the National RTAB Chairs and the RTABs National Forum held on 4 July 2006 were attended by Pete Raine. Minutes of these meetings are awaited.

**7. Update on Waste Development Frameworks and Major Waste Management Development Proposals**

### 7.1 **Berkshire**

GOSE have indicated they will accept the revised LDS.  
Reg 26 consultation on Core Strategy Options is due in January 2007; Reg 25 consultation on Minerals and Waste Site Issues and Options is also in 2007.  
Biffa have appealed against refusal of two hazardous waste landfill cells in Slough; an inquiry will be held.  
Grundon have applied to double the size of the Beenham MRF to 120,000 tpa and increase the composting site to 30,000 tpa, both in AONB.  
Reading BC have made an application for a MRF (50,000 tpa), WTS (200,000 tpa) and HWRC (30,000 tpa).  
There is a problem of allocations for housing on mineral bearing land in DPDs prepared by Unitary Authorities.  
A large housing proposal west of Reading will require infilling of mineral workings.

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

The High Court challenge to adoption of the Waste Local Plan is to be heard in October.  
A revised LDS has been submitted to GOSE; there will now be a combined Minerals and Waste Core Strategy, a Minerals Sites DPD on the same timetable, and a Waste Sites DPD after submission of the Core Strategy.  
An SCI Examination hearing has been held.  
The Veolia proposal for a MRF in Brighton is subject to judicial review.  
The Newhaven incinerator planning application is subject to a lot of objection.  
There is a proposal for a WEEE facility and MRF at the Light Brothers site.  
The Municipal Waste Management Strategy is out for public consultation.

### 7.3 **Kent:**

Minerals DPDs are being prepared in advance of Waste DPDs. An interim consultation on the Waste DPDs was carried out in the summer; this included spatial options for landfill and treatment facilities; Preferred Options consultation is due in January 2007.  
Consultation on the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy was carried out in tandem with the interim Waste DPD consultation; it has been criticised for having unambitious recycling targets.  
A 50,000 tpa IVC plant has been approved at Blaise Farm.  
A sewage sludge treatment plant at Ashford has been approved, but one at a sewage works in West Kent has been refused.  
A Golf Course proposal involving tipping of 350,000 m<sup>3</sup> of inert material was being handled by the district council although Kent CC said it was a county matter. An appeal against non-determination has resulted in the Planning Inspectorate also concluding it should be a county matter.

### 7.4 **Milton Keynes**

Waste DPD Preferred Options are currently out for consultation. 550 responses have been received to date. A further site for a waste treatment facility is proposed, on an existing industrial site.  
The process of procuring new municipal waste management facilities was commenced but has been put on hold pending consideration of joint working with Northamptonshire; a study is underway of the costs and benefits of separate and joint working. Milton Keynes would like to go to the market with a site earmarked for waste management facilities, to make the contract more attractive, but the waste DPD process is running behind the procurement process.

## 7.5 **Oxfordshire:**

The revised LDS has not yet been agreed with GOSE.  
The inspector's report on the SCI has been received, following a hearing.  
Reg 25 consultation on Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Issues and Options took place in the summer; Reg 26 consultation is due before Christmas.  
A new Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy has been prepared by the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership and agreed by all 6 authorities (WCAs/WDA).  
The process of procuring new municipal waste treatment facilities has been commenced.

## 7.6 **Surrey**

The Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy is going through the adoption process.  
The 3 DPDs making up the Waste Plan were submitted in June. The examination will be in February 2007. Surrey are in dialogue with GOSE, who do not think Surrey have demonstrated sufficiently that the plan will deliver the capacity required in line with regional policy. ERM and LUC have been used to carry out Appropriate Assessment in relation to the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. The EA object to the Plan on the grounds that it is unsound because no strategic flood risk assessment (SFRA) has been carried out but they have not raised this objection to Hampshire's Plan, nor to Kent's. Surrey's view is that SFRA is covered by the SA/SEA of the Plan. DCLG (Lester Hicks) have advised Surrey to do a retrospective SFRA, but this is not yet a requirement of PPS25; it is only currently in the draft PPS25  
A new planning application for an EFW plant at Capel is expected in 2007. Surrey are considering the timing of this application in relation to the Waste Plan; PINS have advised that submission before the examination could complicate the examination; but Surrey had thought the information in the application would help the examination.  
Environmental and amenity problems were caused by a fire at a composting site at Bush Kiln Copse, Bookham.

## 7.7 **West Sussex**

The Core Strategy and Waste Sites DPD are being prepared in parallel; Reg 26 Preferred Options consultation will be in January 2007.  
Consultation is being carried out on the SPD on design of waste facilities.  
A strategic flood risk assessment has been commenced; the results will probably not be available until early 2007.  
An extension to 2009 has been approved for Brockhurst Wood Landfill, to take West Sussex MSW; import of waste from London is to be phased out. An application is expected for an extension of approximately 1 million tonnes, and including a treatment facility (probably MBT or IVC).  
An inquiry is to be held into a landfill proposal near the county boundary.  
A landfill proposal is expected at Rock Common Sandpit, Washington.

## 8. **Future Meetings**

- 8.1 12 December – half day meeting, in London if possible.  
It was agreed that the other half of this day should be used for an informal meeting of WPAs, SEERA, GOSE and any other interested SERTAB members on current planning issues of common concern, in particular development frameworks and annual monitoring reports.  
**ACTION: Peter Day**

## 9. **Any Other Business**

- 9.1 It was noted that Owen Dimond would shortly be leaving Grundon to join Veolia and would therefore cease to be a representative on SERTAB. Thanks were expressed to Owen for his contribution to SERTAB's work, particularly in leading the Hazardous Waste Task Group.