

**Minutes of the Meeting of West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body**  
**14<sup>th</sup> May 2014**  
**Meeting Room Green Two, Jack Judge House, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, B69 2AJ**

**1. Attendance**

Adrian Cooper	Shropshire Council - Chair
Clifford Hill	Birmingham City Council
David Piper	Dudley MB Council
Gavin Ashford	Telford & Wrekin Council
James Cook	Veolia
Mark Watkins	Sandwell MB Council
Martin Everett	Environment Agency
Michael Dinn	Staffordshire County Council
Nick Dean	Worcestershire County Council
Tony Lyons	Warwickshire County Council
Peter Hopkins	Robert Hopkins Ltd
Peter Field	Technical Secretary

Apologies

Bruce Braithwaite, Brian Dore, Bryn Walters, Chris Crean, Christelle Harrison, Dawn Sherwood, Debby Klein, Harjot Rayet, Jeff Rhodes, Julie Castree-Denton, Maurice Barlow, Peter Hopkins, Rob Haigh, Sarah Elliott.

**2. Minutes of the Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2014.**

2.1 The minutes were agreed, subject to an amendment to para 3.2 to clarify its meaning.

**3. Duty to Co-operate**

3.1 It was noted that 8 of the 12 WPAs had signed up to the 'Protocol, and it was agreed that those still to sign should be given a gentle reminder.

3.2 Nick Dean sought clarification on the circumstances in which WPAs would be expected to make a formal presentation to RTAB when seeking a view on their Plans. The Chair suggested that a presentation would normally be helpful where the Plan concerned was either a specific Waste Plan or made specific provision for waste in it, and this was generally supported. Nick advised that Worcestershire's Minerals Local Plan raises 2 waste-related issues, and agreed to make a short presentation on it to the next meeting.

3.3 The Chair observed that the recent tendency for objections to allocations in Minerals Plans to focus on the use of historical share calculations may have implications for Waste Plans, particularly in view of the age of Regional Spatial Strategy technical work. He stressed that WPAs will need to demonstrate that the latest available information, including that relating to housing figures, has been used to test all assumptions regarding the need for waste provision.

#### 4. Engaging with LEPs

4.1 Although a number of LEPs have demonstrated an awareness of waste and related resource issues, and in the case of Warwickshire an energy business group has been established, the group felt that generally LEPs had not been successfully engaged over strategic waste planning issues. The group recognised that any future approach to LEPs should emphasise the significance of the waste industry to the local economy across much of the region, and the potential contribution of sustainable waste and resource management to the priority objectives of LEPs, namely encouraging investment, employment and economic regeneration. Tony Lyons agreed to explore the possibility of the Warwickshire energy business group making a presentation to a future RTAB.

4.2 Peter Hopkins alerted the group to a developing concern about the difficulties that the waste industry now face in securing insurance cover, in the aftermath of the proliferation of fires at recycling centres (over 400 nationally during 2013). Small companies with limited track record are particularly vulnerable. There are significant implications not only for the waste industry in terms of viability, but also for local authorities and the EA who may be faced with the need to make safe or clear uninsured sites. Peter agreed to keep the group informed of developments, and the Chair agreed to raise the matter at the National RTAB Chairs meeting. The group also felt that it would be helpful if the ESA could address the issue.

#### 5. Environment Agency – update

5.1 Martin Everett explained that implementation of the EA's change programme has been delayed. Middle tiers are being removed to produce a smaller, more efficient organisation, but the new structure is not yet finalised. He hoped that waste planning will still have a profile in the new structure, that smarter targets would be devised, and that the need for better quality data would be recognised. Martin confirmed that the Waste Data Interrogator series would be maintained, but that EA data was to be transferred to a different web site.

#### 6. SITA Report – 'Mind the Gap'

The Chair explained that the report had been launched as part of the Circular Economy Conference, which had looked at what the larger waste management companies could do to improve the quality of data for decision-making. The report drew attention to a gap in provision particularly for energy recovery. The Chair had contacted SITA and suggested a collaboration between the company, RTAB and NISP focusing on the West Midlands. He agreed to bring further details to the next meeting.

James Cook referred to a Veolia report, prepared by Imperial College in response to Defra's pfi report. James agreed to provide a link to the report:

[https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CCgQFjAA&url=https%3A%2F%2Fworkspace.imperial.ac.uk%2Fenvironmentalpolicy%2FPublic%2FNV%2520Veolia%2FIC2014\\_waste%2520report.pdf&ei=ZIORU67LK-fe7AaNi4CwBw&usq=AFQjCNHKYQR3HCVHudJ0WYKALCZYEZz-eHw&bvm=bv.68445247,d.ZGU](https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CCgQFjAA&url=https%3A%2F%2Fworkspace.imperial.ac.uk%2Fenvironmentalpolicy%2FPublic%2FNV%2520Veolia%2FIC2014_waste%2520report.pdf&ei=ZIORU67LK-fe7AaNi4CwBw&usq=AFQjCNHKYQR3HCVHudJ0WYKALCZYEZz-eHw&bvm=bv.68445247,d.ZGU)

## 7. Progress on Plans and Developments

Staffordshire have started work on their AMR.

Worcestershire are anticipating the first appeal against provisions in their Waste Core Strategy – with respect to the way in which areas defined as being suitable for waste development are identified on the key diagram as opposed to an OS map base.

In Birmingham, Tyseley is attracting further investment in a wood biomass power station (£49m investment, opening January 2016), and potential investments in a gasifier plant and AD are being pursued. Clifford Hill stressed that a common concern is to secure reliable good quality feedstock. Tony Lyons asked about progress on the Enviro study on waste capacity in Birmingham, which Warwickshire would like to see before making representations on the Birmingham Plan.

Telford are currently consulting on housing and employment sites and are about to commission a waste capacity study. The next step is to identify preferred sites, and the Draft Plan is scheduled for February 2015.

Dudley's Development Strategy DPD will go to Cabinet in July, with public consultation through to September. The DPD will identify employment sites and cross refer to the adopted Black Country Core Strategy, which provides sufficiently detailed guidance regarding waste sites. An appeal against refusal of permission for development on a Network Rail site by Clean Power has been withdrawn.

Shropshire's pre-submission Plan was published recently and attracted 420 objections, few of which were waste related. The Plan will be submitted at the end of July, hearings are anticipated in the autumn, with adoption in spring 2015. Battlefields efw plant is to open in autumn 2015. There have been no significant applications, though there have been a number of small scale AD proposals.

There has been no significant change to the situation in Sandwell.

Veolia have submitted an application for an integrated waste recycling and transfer facility in Telford.

## 8. Robert Hopkins Environmental

8.1 Peter Hopkins explained that the company specialises in treating difficult hazardous materials, and provides a bulk waste transfer station for hazardous waste, facilities for secure destruction and treatment of contaminated packaging. A new facility has now been commissioned following a 7-8 year programme of research and development. The new technology addresses weaknesses in traditional gasification and pyrolysis techniques which create uneven burn in retorts due to hot-spots and cold-spots, by using the char to heat the retorts. It can take any organic waste.

8.2 Peter invited the group to inspect the new plant.

West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body  
Chair: Adrian Cooper, Shropshire Council

8.3 The Chair thanked Peter for his presentation. He congratulated the company on its imaginative and creative approach to dealing with difficult wastes, which serves as an excellent example. He thanked Peter for the splendid hospitality provided to the group.

**10. Next meetings:**

10.1 The next meeting will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2014, venue to be advised.

PF 29/1/14

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**Minutes of the Meeting of West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body  
24<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

Birmingham City Council offices, 1 Lancaster Circus, Birmingham

**1. Attendance**

Adrian Cooper	Shropshire Council - Chair
Brian Dore	Birmingham City Council
Chris Crean	Friends of the Earth
Christelle Harrison	Birmingham City Council/ Aston University/ EBRI
Clifford Hill	Birmingham City Council
David Piper	Dudley MB Council
Dawn Harris	Walsall MB Council
Harjot Rayet	Telford & Wrekin Council
Ian McLeod	Birmingham City Council
Jim Davies	Environment Agency
Julie Castree-Denton	Staffordshire County Council
Martin Everett	Environment Agency
Mark Watkins	Sandwell MB Council
Nick Dean	Worcestershire County Council
Rachel Lombardi	International Synergies/ NISP
Tom Pond	Wolverhampton City Council
Tony Lyons	Warwickshire County Council
Peter Field	Technical Secretary

Apologies

Bruce Braithwaite, Bryn Walters, Debby Klein, Jeff Rhodes, Peter Hopkins, Rob Haigh, Susan Juned.

**2. Minutes of the Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2013.**

2.1 The minutes were agreed.

**3. Duty to Co-operate**

3.1 So far, 5 Waste Planning Authorities have 'signed up' to the Agreement. Remaining WPAs are encouraged to sign up as quickly as possible. Nobody anticipated any difficulties.

3.2 The tendency for some WPAs to consult all other WPAs, even where the scale of waste movements between respective areas was very small, was generally felt to be a time-wasting and unnecessary reaction to the rejection by PINS of some Plans because of failure to co-operate in plan preparation. Attempts so far to get PINS to provide guidance on the interpretation of the Duty to Co-operate (DtC), including advice on what constitutes a significant impact, have so far failed. The Chair will continue to push for this at national RTAB Chairs meetings; ME suggested that it could also be raised at the forthcoming RTPI national waste planning event.

3.3 It was noted that North London has proposed thresholds of 1,000 tonnes of waste and 100 tonnes of hazardous waste pa. Walsall's proposed thresholds are 5,000/ 1,000 tonnes pa. Walsall is also considering setting up a web page detailing its interpretation of significant movements, and inviting responses. The group felt that 'significant impact' is a function of the overall scale of activity in a particular WPA as well as the total scale of movements, and therefore thresholds might not be applicable across all WPAs. Nevertheless, without such thresholds there remains the prospect of widespread, unnecessary and time-wasting consultation from WPAs across the country.

3.4 It was therefore agreed that, in the West Midlands RTAB area, thresholds will be adopted in determining significant waste movements for the purposes of consultation in relation to the DtC. These will be as proposed by Walsall – see annexed, and will be reviewed as part of the regular monitoring process. All possible steps will also continue to be taken to encourage a national approach.

#### **4. Government consultations on waste policy**

4.1 The Chair reminded the Group that responses to government consultations on the National Waste Plan and revised waste planning guidance had been submitted by Walsall on behalf of RTAB. These responses were well-received, and the Chair thanked Dawn Harris on behalf of RTAB. The status of the revised waste planning guidance in relation to the National Planning Policy Framework continues to be unclear yet crucially important, and the Chair will continue to press for clarification at national level.

4.2 Martin Everett reminded members of the need to take into account the Waste Prevention Programme for England, adopted in December 2013, when preparing Plans. (See <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/waste-prevention-programme-for-england>.)

#### **5. Birmingham Development Plan**

5.1 Ian McLeod gave a presentation on Birmingham City Council's Development Plan. The Plan has been substantially reviewed since the Draft Core Strategy was published in 2010, in response to the abolition of regional planning, the adoption of the NPPF, and new population/ household projections. It identifies 8 key locations for growth to 2031 to help to accommodate the requirement for 80,000 dwellings and 400 ha of employment land. Much of the extra housing will need to be provided in adjoining areas.

5.2 The Plan encourages waste reduction and aims for equivalent self-sufficiency in waste management provision. It includes policies to protect existing waste management facilities; encourages new technologies and district heating; designates the Tyseley Environmental Enterprise District and supports expansion of the Tyseley Energy Recovery plant; gives support for waste treatment facilities in industrial areas, including core employment areas; and sets out criteria for determining waste planning applications.

5.3 The Waste Capacity Study, prepared by Enviro in 2010, identifies the key priorities for waste management provision as additional MRF and organic waste treatment capacity. An update of the Study is being commissioned, to be completed by Easter 2014. This will take account of the revised growth requirements set out in the pre-submission draft Plan and up to date information on waste management and movements.

5.4 The City Council has consulted neighbouring Waste Planning Authorities (and held specific discussions with Staffordshire and Warwickshire). Public consultation will take place January – March 2014, submission Spring 2014, Examination Autumn 2014. The aim is to adopt the Plan in early 2015.

5.5 The group welcomed the Plan's ambition for equivalent self-sufficiency, and particularly the progress being made with the Tyseley project (including 2 major investments in waste capacity with a combined value of some £100m). It was noted that self-sufficiency depends significantly on the continuing operation of the Tyseley plant, the current contract for which ends in 2019 and is therefore likely to be under review in the near future. Ian confirmed that the municipal waste strategy is currently being reviewed.

5.6 Following further detailed discussion, it was agreed that the Plan's approach to identifying and meeting waste requirements takes appropriate account of available data on waste arisings and movements, and makes appropriate provision through either specific proposals or criteria to identify suitable sites.

## **6. RTAB presence on CLG-WM web site**

6.1 The Chair confirmed that arrangements have been made for RTAB minutes and other information to be maintained on the CLG-WM web site. These arrangements were noted. NB Following the demise of CLG-WM, RTAB's web presence is now to be found at <http://www.westmidlandsiep.gov.uk/index.php?page=891>.

## **7. Environment Agency – update**

7.1 Martin Everett briefly outlined key changes and developments in the work of the Environment Agency. These included:

- a) Budget and headcount cuts and a major restructuring of the Agency by October 2014, which will see the Midlands region cease to exist as part of the move towards local delivery focussing on river catchments.
- b) Moving data to the .gov website, which will reduce access to useful information; feedback on the new site will be welcome.
- c) Lifting of the statutory 'planning bar' for waste facilities. Group members expressed concern that this could lead to unauthorised development on contentious sites unless measures (such as a 'weekly list') were put in place to alert WPAs.
- d) Introduction of charges to developers for pre-application advice, which will also apply to advice provided to WPAs over and above that required under statutory procedures (statutory responses will be free of charge).

## **8. Progress on Plans and Developments**

Worcestershire: no challenges as yet to the adopted waste plan, and no significant waste planning applications. Consultation currently taking place on options in the Minerals Local Plan, which takes a restoration-led approach. Nick Dean raised the potential future issue of difficulty in securing quarry restoration because of a shortage of suitable materials; this would be a material consideration when considering quarrying applications in the future. A

related issue is the current debate between the Minerals Products Association and the Environment Agency about the status of 'inert' materials.

Dudley: Cabinet consideration of the consultation draft of the Development Strategy DPD has slipped to June 2014. A speculative waste planning application in Brierley Hill has been refused on amenity grounds and is going to appeal.

Wolverhampton: 2 Area Action Plans have been submitted, Hearings into which will be dealt with by written representations.

Telford & Wrekin: the Site Allocations document will be out to public consultation in April 2014. The Ironbridge Power Station site is due to close in 2015; the future use of this large site will be a significant issue for debate.

Birmingham: There is an emerging need in Birmingham for a local clearing house to bring together those with waste to dispose of and those who have a use for such waste. The Chair suggested that RTAB may be able to act as a clearing house if details of what is required could be provided.

Walsall: preferred options for the SAD, which safeguards existing sites and allocates new ones, will be published in summer 2014. Disappointingly, only one response was received from the waste industry to earlier consultations. Detailed discussions have taken place with Staffordshire.

Staffordshire: the Four Ashes energy from waste plant is now operational. Districts in the county area are taking the lead on preparing municipal waste strategies. The county is receiving a large number of applications for minerals quarrying.

Warwickshire: no challenges yet to the adopted Plan. No major applications to report. The draft local aggregates assessment is almost complete, and consultation on preferred options is planned for summer 2014. A reduction in quarrying is proposed to be offset by an increase in recycled aggregate from construction and demolition waste.

Shropshire: the pre-submission draft of the Site Allocations Plan will be considered by members in February 2014, with consultation taking pace in March and April and submission in July, Examination in October/ November, and adoption early 2015. The Battlefield EfW plant is under construction, and planned to be operational in mid/ late 2015.

International Synergies: are now approaching LEPs offering 'off the shelf' low carbon growth programmes to local partnerships, which offer the possibility of business and job creation, CO<sub>2</sub> reductions, resource efficiencies, inward investment, innovation, diversification and a shift to the low carbon economy.

## **9. Update on the BioEnergy Support Centre and European Bioenergy Research Institute**

9.1 Christelle Harrison reminded the group that the West Midlands Bioenergy Support Centre (BSC) was established in March 2012 as one of 5 regional BSCs in NW Europe through a European Inter-reg project. The West Midlands BSC is run by the European Bioenergy Research Institute (EBRI) at Aston University in collaboration with Birmingham City Council.

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9.2 The project focuses on the promotion and adoption of small-scale bioenergy schemes. The West Midlands BSC brings together companies, organisations, academia and local authorities who all have an interest in the green agenda. Members are able to access a wide range of free services and support provided by the EBRI and other organisations throughout NW Europe who are part of the BioenNW project. Membership of the BSC is free and is available to all private and public organisations based in the West Midlands who have an interest in bioenergy or who wish to be part of the bioenergy supply chain. The Pyroformer plant developed by EBRI combined heat and chemical treatment in a sealed environment, and uses multiple waste sources to generate cost-effective heat and power and biochar which can be used as a fertiliser to increase crop yields.

9.3 Discussion focussed on the importance of securing feedstock, the benefits of a technology that can meet local, small scale needs, and – conversely – the feasibility of ‘upscaling’ for example to a city-wide scale.

9.4 The Chair thanked Christelle for her presentation, and invited members to join her for a tour of the EBRI facilities at the end of the meeting.

#### **10. Next meetings:**

10.1 The next meeting will be held in the week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> May 2014, and will include a site visit to the new facilities at Robert Hopkins Ltd.

PF 29/1/14



**Minutes of the Meeting of West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body  
25<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

Lower House Farm Household Waste Recycling Centre  
and Waste Transfer Station, North Warwickshire

**1. Attendance**

Adrian Cooper	Shropshire Council - Chair
Charlotte Harper	International Synergies/ NISP
David Piper	Dudley MBC
Dawn Harris	Walsall MBC
Harjot Rayet	Telford & Wrekin Council
Michael Dinn	Staffordshire CC
Susan Juned	Greenwatt Technology
Tony Lyons	Warwickshire CC
Peter Field	Technical Secretary

Apologies

Bryn Walters, Chris Crean, Clifford Hill, Debby Klein, Jeff Rhodes, Martin Everett, Maurice Barlow, Nick Dean, Peter Hopkins, Tom Podd.

**2. Minutes of the Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2013.**

2.1 The minutes were agreed, subject to a correction to section 7 to state that Dudley's site allocations document will 'identify existing waste sites to be safeguarded'.

2.2 The training workshop on waste treatment processes and related amenity issues had taken place on 10<sup>th</sup> September. Martin Everett has requested feedback from participants; David Piper requested that copies of the Powerpoint presentation are distributed as promised.

**3. Government consultations on waste policy**

3.1 The chair confirmed that responses on behalf of RTAB (copies of which had been circulated for comment prior to the meeting) had been sent to Defra and DCLG regarding consultations on the draft 'Waste Management Plan for England' and the draft 'Planning for Sustainable Waste Management'. He stressed that it helped to raise RTAB's profile to make comment on these matters, which impact on the group's terms of reference and relate to matters that cross local authority boundaries. The group felt that the update to PPS10 in particular was a missed opportunity to confirm that, rather than being a problem that has to be dealt with, waste is an important economic and employment opportunity to be embraced and planned for. It would be helpful for the final version to also acknowledge the important role of RTABs.

**4. Duty to Co-operate**

4.1 There was general agreement that the group's terms of reference should be revised to include reference to Waste Planning Authorities as well as Local Authorities. The group's

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membership and terms of reference should be appended to the protocol. The title of the protocol should include reference to the Duty to Co-operate, which should also include the broad issues which would be addressed by RTAB when considering WPA plans. A revised draft of the protocol will be circulated. Once finally agreed, WPAs and others to whom the DtC relates should seek formal endorsement from their organisation.

4.2 The chair agreed to explore whether the Centre for Local Government – West Midlands could provide a web presence for RTAB's minutes, the Monitoring Report, and other documents.

4.3 After some discussion about changing the pattern and frequency of meetings, it was agreed to continue with the present pattern of 3 per year, but that in future the May meeting will be combined with a site visit and the other meetings will be held in a central location or at the offices of a WPA requesting a DtC discussion.

4.4 There was general support for seeking a 'de minimus' figure for the scale of waste imports/ exports below which consultation between WPAs would be unnecessary, and recognition that a national agreement would be very desirable. It was also acknowledged, however, that the figure may have to be proportional to the scale of waste facilities and/ or waste arisings in a WPA. As a starting point, Walsall had produced some figures and it was agreed that these would be circulated for comment.

## **5. Developing consistency and best practice in the use of available data**

5.1 The group agreed that the 'Waste Planning and Management Trends in the West Midlands 2011/12' report should be formally 'signed off', and that the final version of the Report, Appendices and covering report should be circulated.

5.2 It was recognised that resource constraints have dictated that progress on preparing WPA Annual Monitoring Reports across the West Midlands is uneven. The key area where RTAB could help to secure consistency is in the way in which waste management capacity is estimated and monitored. It was noted that Bryn Walters had agreed to make a presentation about Derbyshire's approach to estimating capacity, and that this would help to move the matter forward.

## **6. Progress on Plans and Developments**

Staffordshire: now beginning to monitor the adopted plan.

Walsall: now considering responses to the SAD.

Warwickshire: the Plan was adopted on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

Telford & Wrekin: preparation of the Strategy and Options stage of the plan continues.

Dudley: the consultation draft of the Development Strategy DPD is due to be considered by Cabinet in early 2014.

Shropshire: little comment has been received on the proposed site allocations (9 employment sites are identified as being suitable for waste development); the pre-submission draft is due to be considered by Cabinet in spring 2014 and the examination is anticipated in summer 2014.

## **7. Any Other Business**

8.1 Susan Juned explained that she had been commissioned by the Royal Agricultural Society of England to prepare a study into the opportunities for sustainable rural and farm transport, focusing on the potential to use renewable energy, such as wind and solar electricity, bio-methane, biofuels and energy from biomass processes such as gasification and pyrolysis. She invited comment on problems and opportunities, including suggestions for case studies, from RTAB members. The Chair noted that there are some 8 or 10 farm based AD plants in Shropshire, varying in size from 5k – 50k tonnes, and that farms are increasingly seeking to reduce energy bills by using materials produced on-farm and by importing food by-products. He agreed to provide the names of farms to Susan.

8.2 Charlotte Harper informed the Group that International Synergies is now CIWM approved and will be offering training courses in October and December 2013.

8.3 Dawn Harris noted that the government is now seeking views on a revised process for consulting communities on the location of sites for geological disposal of radioactive or nuclear waste.

## **9. Next meetings:**

9.1 Dates and venues to be agreed for January, May (including site visit) and September 2014.

## **Visit to Lower House Farm Household Waste Recycling Centre and Waste Transfer Station**

The Chair introduced Laura Vesty, Area Contracts Manager at Warwickshire County Council and responsible for the Lower House Farm Household Waste Recycling Centre and Waste Transfer Station. He thanked her for agreeing to host the meeting and provide a tour of the Centre.

Laura explained that the Centre is located on a former colliery site and adjacent to a large industrial estate. Use of the Centre is shared between Warwickshire County Council, Biffa, and North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth and Tamworth District Councils. Historically, most of Warwickshire's waste has been sent to landfill. The County Council has now entered into a contract to send residual waste to the Four Ashes EfW facility. This site will provide for the transfer of waste collected by the district councils to Four Ashes. It also accommodates a large public household waste facility and includes a re-use shop.



**Minutes of the Meeting of West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body  
8<sup>th</sup> July 2013  
Birmingham City Council Offices, 10 Woodcock Street, Birmingham**

**1. Attendance**

Nick Dean	Worcestershire CC – in the chair
Andrew Christelow	Staffordshire CC
Brian Dore	Birmingham CC
Bryn Walters	East Midlands RTAB
Bushra al-Duri	University of Birmingham
Chris Crean	FoE
Christelle Harrison	Aston University/ Birmingham CC
Clifford Hill	Birmingham CC
David Piper	Dudley MBC
Dawn Harris	Walsall MBC
Jeff Rhodes	Biffa/ ESA
Martin Everett	Environment Agency
Matt Wedderburn	Telford & Wrekin Council
Maurice Barlow	Solihull MBC
Mohammed Salim	Sandwell MBC
Peter Hopkins	Robert Hopkins Ltd
Rachel Lombardi	International Synergies Ltd
Tony Lyons	Warwickshire CC
Peter Field	Technical Secretary

Apologies

Adrian Cooper was unable to attend, and Nick Dean took the chair. Apologies were also received from Bruce Braithwaite, Ian Humphreys and Mark Rowley.

**2. Minutes of the Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2013.**

2.1 The minutes were agreed, subject to an amendment to reflect the status of the Solihull Plan – hearings were complete, but the examination itself was not yet finished. It was noted that there had been no legal challenge to the Staffordshire plan.

**3. Presentation by Dr Bushra Al-Duri, University of Birmingham - The Noxyclean process for the treatment of hazardous waste**

3.1 Bushra explained that the Noxyclean process uses 'supercritical water technology' to convert organic based hazardous wastes into benign gases, liquid water and mineral salts, leaving metals to be recovered. The process is effective in treating 99% of the waste. It is rapid, produces zero emissions and is very energy efficient; recovered heat is used to pre-heat and treat the waste and energy is left over for other uses. As examples, she quoted the costs associated with medical waste treatment by the NHS and the treatment of sewage sludge, and illustrated the potential cost savings which Noxyclean could achieve. Problems with the technology include corrosion and blockages due to salt precipitation, which have led to plant closure in the past. Bushra concluded by stressing the need for time and technical

knowledge to be invested in addressing the engineering issues associated with new techniques.

### 3.2 Discussion focussed around

- a) The scale at which a plant would be viable – the inherent flexibility of the process means that plants could range from 5 tonnes pa to 70k tonnes pa. A facility could potentially be provided for individual hospitals or apartment blocks, for example – though full construction costs would need to be known and viability demonstrated for funding to be secured.
- b) The need for testing at scale, for which a waste stream has to be secured. Hazardous wastes tend to arise in relatively small and disparate quantities, which poses viability issues.
- c) Potential water pollution from the liquid remaining after treatment – discussion with the EA would be desirable.

## 4. RTAB Monitoring Report, 2011/12

4.1 The draft report and appendices were discussed. The main issues raised were:

- a) The impact of the economic recession on the level of arisings, and the uncertainty regarding the likely trajectory of arisings as economic recovery takes place. Is there any evidence of actual waste reduction by industry and the decoupling of waste and economic growth? This is an issue which RTAB could look at further, perhaps when considering Defra's forthcoming Waste Prevention Programme.
- b) How to measure and monitor existing capacity, and what account to take of approved but not operational capacity. It would be desirable to arrive at an agreed method of calculating existing capacity which might be based on actual inputs over time. Bryn Walters agreed to share the approach taken by Derbyshire at a future meeting.
- c) The desirability of agreeing a 'de minimus' figure below which waste movements could be disregarded from the point of view of the Duty to Co-operate. This might for example be in the region of 1,000 tonnes pa for wastes other than hazardous wastes.

4.2 It was agreed:

- a) that any further comments on accuracy would be provided to the Technical Secretary, following which the reports and appendices would be formally 'signed off';
- b) to receive a presentation from Bryn Walters on Derbyshire's approach to assessing existing capacity, and to consider further the possibility of promoting an approach which could be agreed across the West Midlands and beyond;
- c) to consider further a 'de minimus' figure for waste movements in connection with the Duty to Co-operate at the next meeting.

## 5. Duty to Co-operate

5.1 The draft protocol was given further consideration. It was noted that RTAB's role is supported in PPS10, which is under review. The Group felt that the effectiveness of RTAB's



involvement in assisting with the Duty to Co-operate would be greatly enhanced if the protocol were to be agreed at high level by individual WPAs.

#### Telford & Wrekin Council - Shaping Places Local Plan - Strategy and Options

5.2 Matt Wedderburn summarised the waste policy aspects of the plan. The aim is to provide for a level of capacity equivalent to self-sufficiency, to identify appropriate locations, and to include sufficient employment land to meet these requirements. He sought guidance on who to consult with, and asked whether RTAB supported the approach adopted in the Plan.

5.3 RTAB agreed with the way in which the Plan assesses required capacity and the approach adopted to identify appropriate locations for waste development and allocate sufficient employment land. RTAB also stressed the importance of cross-boundary consultation, particularly regarding Telford's possible reliance on landfill outside its area and whether the receiving authorities are in agreement.

#### Walsall Site Allocations Document (SAD) and Walsall Town Centre Area Action Plan (AAP)

5.4 Dawn Harris explained that the purpose of this Plan is *inter alia* to deliver the Black Country Core Strategy to 2026, which sets diversion targets for waste but does not identify locations or sites for waste-related development. The key waste-related issues which are addressed are: how much and what type of additional capacity is required; how to safeguard existing infrastructure; whether to identify specific sites; and whether further locational guidance is required. Three sets of options relating to these issues have been identified, on which views were sought during the consultation process, which took place between April and June 2013.

5.5 Consultations have been initiated with all those parties identified under the Duty to Co-operate, and an analysis of waste movements is being used to identify others who need to be consulted regarding waste matters. Letters have been received from distant authorities regarding the Duty, and it is apparent that there are considerable differences in the way authorities are approaching the Duty. Dawn stressed that Walsall was very willing to meet with any party who wanted to discuss the Plan. Public consultation on Preferred Options is programmed for July 2014.

5.6 RTAB confirmed its support for the approach being taken by Walsall.

### **6. Workshop on waste treatment processes and related amenity issues**

6.1 Martin Everett confirmed that the EA are offering a free workshop on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2013 which will explore the waste technologies needed to replace landfill, their role in the waste hierarchy, and some of the issues these activities can cause. It will also address the increased risk of new housing encroachment on existing waste facilities, with greater potential for conflict. The workshop may be of most interest to anyone relatively new to waste planning, and to lower tier authorities (eg to help them identify "sham" landspreading and infilling proposals). It is not available to non-LA staff.

## 7. Progress on Plans and Developments

Solihull (Maurice Barlow): Modifications to the draft Local Plan will include additional text regarding waste.

Staffordshire (Andrew Christelow): the Joint Plan has been adopted by Staffordshire CC.

Warwickshire (Tony Lyons): the Plan is due to be adopted on 9<sup>th</sup> July. It is no longer intended to prepare a site specific allocations document. An application has been received for a 50k tonne AD plant at Coleshill, and a revision to the 300k tonne development at Rugby Cement Works has been submitted.

Sandwell (Mohammed Salim): the EMR project at Oldbury is still under construction.

Worcestershire (Nick Dean): planning applications are now coming forward, and the EfW plant at Hartlebury is progressing. However, facilities have been lost as a result of fires at 2 sites, and there are circumstances where a fire can lead to the loss of planning permission.

Dudley (David Piper): the site allocations document will identify existing waste sites for safeguarding.

Birmingham (Brian Dore): Consultation on the Birmingham Development Plan Options was completed in December 2012. (This consultation was as a result of Birmingham being potentially not able to meet its housing growth needs up to 2031. By 2031 Birmingham's population is projected to grow by 150,000 which is far greater than previously envisaged in the previous Issues and Options (Core Strategy) draft.) The results from the consultation will feed into a 'Publications draft' which will also undergo a period of consultation during the later part of 2013. The Publication draft will contain waste policies as it did with previous drafts. No specific sites for waste management are allocated within the document as new or expansion of waste management facilities will only be considered on appropriate 'employment land sites' during the plan period. The City Council is willing to enter into discussions with Waste Planning Authorities under the Duty to Co operate on issues of concern relating to Minerals and Waste provision.

Tyseley Information Exchange (Clifford Hill): seminars are planned to help bring people together to talk through alternatives to incineration.

Derbyshire (Bryn Walters): the preferred options consultation will take place in late summer/autumn 2013.

FoE (Chris Crean): It would be useful if RTAB could take an overview of the impact/implications of the spate of fires affecting waste sites in the West Midlands; issues include insurance (Peter Hopkins confirmed the difficulties now faced), the effect on costs of recycling, and the impact on the ongoing debate about alternative methods. (Martin Everett confirmed that the EA is doing some work on the recent fires.)

## 8. Any Other Business

8.1 The Chair thanked Birmingham City Council and the EBRI for agreeing to host the meeting and the site visit.

**9. Next meeting:**

10.1 It was noted that a venue and site visit is still required for the next meeting, which will be on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

**Visit to the European Bioenergy Research Institute (EBRI) Pyroformer waste treatment plant**

Jim Scott, a researcher at EBRI, explained that the project was an innovative bioenergy process that uses waste products to generate cost-effective heat and power. The Pyroformer process coupled with gasification can convert a wide range of waste and residues into oil, gas and char. The process provides energy for the University campus, feeds into the national grid, and supports a district heating scheme. It is carbon negative since carbon can be returned to the soil in the form of fertiliser.

The EBRI works closely with the West Midlands Bioenergy Support Centre, which has been established through an Interreg project and is part of a network of excellence (other centres are located in France, Belgium and the Netherlands). The Centre seeks to promote the transfer of knowledge through site visits and provides a range of free advice to its members.

PF 17/7/13



**Minutes of the Meeting of West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body  
12<sup>th</sup> March 2013  
International Synergies, Kings Norton**

**1. Attendance**

Adrian Cooper	Chair; Shropshire Council
Chris Crean	FoE
Clifford Hill	Birmingham CC
Charlotte Harper	International Synergies
David Piper	Dudley MBC
Ian Humphreys	International Synergies/ NISP
Martin Everett	Environment Agency
Maurice Barlow	Solihull MBC
Michael Dinn	Staffordshire CC
Mohammed Salim	Sandwell MBC
Nick Dean	Worcestershire CC
Owen Dimond	Veolia
Rachel Lombardi	International Synergies
Rhiann Harris	Shropshire Council
Tony Lyons	Warwickshire CC
Peter Field	Technical Secretary

Apologies

Brian Dore (Birmingham), Dawn Harris (Walsall), Debbie Klein (Herefordshire), Jeff Rhodes (Biffa), Mark Rowley (Sandwell), Peter Hopkins (Robert Hopkins Ltd), Tom Podd (Wolverhampton). It was noted that Craig Rowbottom had left Wolverhampton CC to take up a new role with Birmingham CC - the Group thanked him for his contribution and wished him well.

Our hosts – International Synergies Ltd

The Chair welcomed representatives of International Synergies and thanked them for their hospitality in hosting the meeting.

**2. Minutes of the Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012.**

2.1 The minutes were agreed.

**3. Tyseley Environmental Enterprise District**

3.1 Clifford Hill (Birmingham CC) explained that the Tyseley Environmental Enterprise District (TEED) was a product of the City Council's 'Green Ambitions' which include reducing carbon emissions by 60% by 2027. The TEED covers 100ha and embraces some 230 businesses within a traditional industrial area of inner Birmingham, and was designated in 2012. Projects within the TEED include an ERDF funded Property Assistance Programme targeting SMEs, support for businesses seeking top-up funding for projects from the Regional Growth Fund, and infrastructure and other investments funded from the DCLG's Growing Places Fund.

3.2 The industrial symbiosis project within the District looked at how waste streams can best be managed and utilised for investment, regeneration and employment creation. Clifford gave examples of how initiatives with metal recovery and low carbon fuel technologies might help achieve these objectives now and in the future. He identified one constraint as the difficulty in securing feedstock to test innovations at scale, because of the City Council's long-term waste management contract with Veolia.

3.3 In discussion, the Chair commented that it was encouraging to see a practical application of many of the principles that the Group had been promoting, for example through RSS. In response to a question about contact with LEPs, Clifford observed that making such contact was not always easy, and that LEPs tend to follow rather than intervene in markets. They support marginally unviable projects rather than getting involved in the regeneration agenda, which seeks to address market failure.

3.4 Asked for advice to others seeking to promote similar projects, Clifford stressed the importance of proper market orientated research, and that markets do not respect local authority boundaries. He observed that it was surprisingly difficult to engage SMEs and to get them to accept grant aid.

3.5 The Chair thanked Clifford for his presentation, a copy of which accompanies these minutes.

#### **4. Duty to Co-Operate**

4.1 The Chair reminded the Group of its role in helping local authorities work together on issues that cross administrative boundaries, and observed that the Planning Inspectorate now expected planning authorities to demonstrate that these had been addressed. There were several examples of where the failure to engage had led to plans being found to be unsound. The draft protocol seeks to provide a framework to assist authorities to address these issues. It requires a more formal approach to the Group's consideration of progress on Plans in the West Midlands, and recognises the importance of contextual data monitoring. If the Group supports the protocol, a formal letter of agreement from participants will be required.

4.2 In supporting the proposed protocol, Nick Dean commented that the Duty to Co-operate is the first test to be applied, and that in Worcestershire's case the fact of RTAB's existence had been material in demonstrating that issues had been addressed appropriately. Maurice Barlow informed the Group that Solihull had just completed the examination of its Plan, and that joint work on RSS and with Warwickshire had been important in satisfying the Inspector on the 'Duty'. He supported the proposed approach.

4.3 The Chair stressed that it will be important to manage expectations of the process. Resource constraints inhibit the extent to which RTAB can provide technical support for example to update the RSS work on targets and infrastructure needs – though the scope to fund such work from grant aid would be worth pursuing. It was suggested that RTAB might seek to establish a 'de minimus' level below which waste flows between authorities become insignificant, which would be of practical help in terms of the 'Duty'.

4.4 It was agreed that

- a. local authorities and others involved in the Duty to Co-operate are invited to give formal support for the principles established in the protocol;
- b. the Chair will explore the scope for external funding to update the technical work underpinning RSS targets and report back to the next meeting;
- c. a report on establishing de minimus levels of waste movements will be submitted to the next meeting; and
- d. authorities wishing to raise cross boundary issues in connection with their plan-making at the next meeting should give advanced notice to the secretary and provide any relevant information in advance of the meeting.

## **5. Recent Policy Guidance and consultations**

5.1 Regarding the DCLG guidance on implementing the WFD, Nick Dean commented that it usefully stresses the need for all planning authorities (including Districts) to assist in ensuring compliance with the Framework. Maurice Barlow commented that their Inspector had asked for their Plan to be modified to comply with the checklist in the document.

5.2 The Chair commented that 'streamlining the consent process' provided some welcome removal of the bureaucratic burden, but there was a danger that some valuable steps could be lost in the process. The LGA Waste Review was more relevant to local authority waste management, and he understood LARAC were responding – a copy of their response will be circulated if it becomes available.

## **6. Update on Waste Data Sources and Monitoring**

6.1 Annual Monitoring Reports: all local authority representatives confirmed that their 2011 AMRs are posted on their web sites; 2012 reports are at various stages in preparation, with those of Staffordshire, Stoke and Worcestershire already posted.

6.2 The secretary confirmed that the West Midlands Monitoring report for 2012 is well advanced and includes information on waste movements. Information on new capacity/permissions up to 2010/11 will be included.

6.3 There is nothing further to report on the national initiative.

6.4 Martin Everett updated the Group on significant developments including the Industrial Emissions Directive, which rationalises 7 separate directives into 1, extending the range of regulated activities, and in the longer term providing for a simpler, more consistent and clear regulatory regime. He also signposted the Group to the Defra consultation on waste prevention, the information on landfill waste density on the Agency web site, and commented on the recent prosecution case involving export of waste to Brazil.

## **7. Workshop on waste treatment processes and related amenity issues**

7.1 Martin Everett agreed to liaise with East Midlands and provide dates to the secretary.

## **8. Progress on Plans and Developments**

Solihull (Maurice Barlow): the examination hearings into the Solihull Plan are complete; now awaiting feedback from the Inspector. Permission granted recently for a biomass centre at the NEC.

West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body  
Chair: Adrian Cooper, Shropshire Council

Staffordshire (Michael Dinn): Joint Plan found sound by the Inspector, subject to some modifications; a recommendation has been made to the Council to adopt the Plan, but a letter challenging the Plan (in relation to RSS matters) has been received. NB the Joint Plan was adopted on 15<sup>th</sup>/ 21<sup>st</sup> March.

Warwickshire (Tony Lyons): the Plan contains policies including 'preferred areas' for waste development (no sites are identified); the Inspector asked 83 questions which have been answered and further questions are now being considered. 11 main modifications are being consulted on. Hazardous waste was an issue, raised by Northamptonshire, and a policy for the assessment of proposals has been included. Tony noted that the Northamptonshire policy regarding hazardous waste is restrictive and includes the establishment of need as a requirement (contrary to guidance in PPS10). The Packington AD plant has been approved.

Sandwell (Mohammed Salim): the Site Allocation Plan has been adopted.

Shropshire (Adrian Cooper): as a unitary council, the proposed Site Allocation Plan will replace 8 whole plans, including the 'saved' minerals and waste plans, which will be replaced by 5 policies and specific allocations. There are no landfill proposals; instead, growth in the materials and resource sector is promoted on employment sites, 15 of which are identified as appropriate. The Plan seeks to encourage rather than restrict waste infrastructure provision, both to counterbalance the current pattern of waste export and to increase the amount of waste available to the local economy as a resource. Submission is expected in late 2013, adoption in late 2014. Battlefields efw plant (90k tpa) is under construction. The county is experiencing increasing interest in AD as a commercial waste technology, at this stage largely farm-based: 6 are operational a further 5 applications under consideration.

Worcestershire (Nick Dean): the Plan has been found sound and adopted.

Dudley (David Piper): Allocations DPD – preferred options soon to be published for consultation; the Plan contains locational criteria but no specific allocations for waste infrastructure developments, which are considered suitable in principle on employment sites. Coseley eco-park, a mixed use scheme, now has planning permission. An enquiry has been received via the Black Country Consortium from an Israeli company looking for a source of plastics which Dudley; David agreed to send details to Ian Humphreys.

Veolia (Owen Dimond): Four Ashes plant expected to be commissioned Sept/ Oct 2013; Battlefields plant under construction; application for Telford composting plant was refused by Telford & Wrekin Council.

NISP (Ian Humphreys): undergoing commercialisation as grant funding is reduced; this provides opportunities to extend activities into new projects and other sectors, for example the NISP network membership programme. NISP has a wealth of data collected as part of its activities, particularly on Commercial and Industrial and Construction and Demolition waste, which it may be possible to use for waste planning purposes.

FoE (Chris Crean): the Tyseley Incinerator contract ends in 2019. Other incinerators are coming to the end of their contracts. The contract/ procurement processes will be underway and ought to take into account changed circumstances. The large AD plant at Cannock has given rise to bad news reports (Martin Everett explained that this was largely due to smell).

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West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body  
Chair: Adrian Cooper, Shropshire Council

What is the status of the gasification proposals on the EMR site in Sandwell (Mohammed Salim will find out and inform the secretary).

**9. Any Other Business**

9.1 The Chair referred to an enquiry he had received regarding the need for locations/sites for disposal of surplus excavated material in connection with the HS2 route development, which could provide potential for reprocessing or site restoration. Solihull, Warwickshire and Staffordshire have also been approached and will be meeting the consultants.

**10. Next meeting:**

10.1 It was agreed that the next date planned for May should be put back to late June/early July. The following date, 25<sup>th</sup> September, is confirmed. Suggestions for venues and site visit opportunities are welcome.

PF 20/3/13



**Minutes of the Meeting of West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body  
25<sup>th</sup> September 2012  
Walsall Council House, followed by Interserve Aldridge**

**1. Attendance**

Adrian Cooper	Chair; Shropshire Council
Adam James	Warwickshire CC
Bryn Walters	East Midlands RTAB
Bill Hughes	Shropshire Council
David Piper	Dudley MBC
Jo Cornock	Environment Agency
Julie Castree-Denton	Staffordshire CC
Martin Everett	Environment Agency
Mohammed Salim	Sandwell MBC
Nick Dean	Worcestershire CC
Peter Hopkins	Robert Hopkins Ltd
Phil Johnson	International Synergies
Adrian Green	Waste and Transport Manager, Interserve
Peter Field	Technical Secretary

Apologies

Craig Rowbottom, Debbie Klein, Ian Humphreys, Jeff Rhodes, Mark Rowley, Richard Hammersley, Susan Juned. It was noted that Richard Hammersley, a long-time member of RTAB, had now retired – the Group thanked him for his contribution and wished him well.

Our hosts – Walsall Council and Interserve

Mike Smith (Walsall MBC) welcomed the Group to Walsall and explained that Dawn Harris was unable to attend because of a family bereavement. The Group extended their sympathy and best wishes to Dawn.

The Group welcomed Adrian Green (Interserve) to the meeting and expressed their thanks to him for arranging the forthcoming visit to his premises.

**2. Minutes of the Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2012.**

2.1 The minutes were agreed, subject to corrections to para 3.1 and section 6 relating to Worcestershire.

**3. Duty to Co-Operate**

3.1 The Chair introduced the item by underlining the importance of engagement before and during plan preparation and of establishing a track record of engagement as part of the evidence base. He suggested that this is particularly important for waste in view of its strategic, cross-boundary nature and that RTAB has a role in meeting these requirements.

3.2 Nick Dean outlined Worcestershire's experience; the Duty was introduced after the plan was prepared and this necessitated a retrospective process in which the role of regional

bodies, including RTAB and RAWP, as well as specific correspondence with others, had been accepted by the Inspector as satisfying the requirement. He noted, however, that the approach adopted and outcomes elsewhere were inconsistent. The North London Waste Plan process had failed the test. Northamptonshire had adopted a 'scatter-gun' approach regarding hazardous waste, and it might be expected that others will do the same for example regarding radioactive waste. Discussions with a senior Inspector suggest that it is not sufficient to demonstrate that consultation had taken place; it is also necessary to show that effort has been made to accommodate views. Mohammed Salim questioned how far WPAs have to go in consulting other WPAs who receive or send waste to them; it was agreed that this will depend on the scale or significance of those movements and that lack of data is an issue here. Bryn Walters underlined the confusion arising from the different approaches adopted and inconsistency in PINS. He suggested that the provision made in plans needs to reflect and be in balance with the movements of waste and the co-operation agreements entered into.

3.3 Julie Castree-Denton stressed the importance of monitoring the actions taken under the Duty. In response to the Inspector's requirement, Staffordshire has introduced indicators relating to active involvement in RTAB (or its successor if it ceases to exist) and data on waste movements. She also noted that east Sussex and Derbyshire had asked Staffordshire to accommodate waste. Nick Dean observed that new regulations require AMRs to detail action taken under the Duty. This might help to address problems such as those faced by Gloucestershire when Natural England refused to attend their PLI.

3.4 Peter Hopkins stressed that economies of scale in the provision of waste management infrastructure, and increasing specialisation, mean that waste has to travel distances and this contradicts the concept of limiting provision to meet local needs.

3.5 Martin Everett commented that the Agency had to be careful to ensure that the resource implications of entering into agreements or protocols were properly assessed.

3.6 In summing up, the Chair suggested that there was broad agreement that a protocol would be helpful, and that there may be scope for agreements with other RTABs and the EA. **It was agreed to pursue the preparation of a protocol, and to refer the matter to the forthcoming National RTAB Chairs meeting. It was further agreed to invite Natural England to join the West Midlands RTAB.**

#### **4. Landfill diversion targets and RSS additional infrastructure requirements**

4.1 Julie Castree-Denton explained that at the Staffordshire PLI the Inspector argued that the targets for diversion of C&I waste should be more ambitious, in anticipation of revised national targets. He also considered the RSS figures to be out of date. The WPA therefore proposes to raise its target to 100% diversion and make provision accordingly.

4.2 The Chair observed that securing the funds to update the RSS figures in the present economic climate was impractical.

#### **5. Update on Waste Data Sources and Monitoring**

5.1 The Secretary reminded WPA members of the request for them to provide him with data on planning applications for new waste capacity and new operational waste capacity. He also suggested that future additions to the RTAB AMR should include a statement on

actions taken with respect to the Duty to Co-Operate, and (so far as this is practical) a comparison of actual provision and the projected requirement. **This was agreed.**

5.2 Martin Everett updated the group on several of the current activities of the EA, including consideration of the impact on waste trends and behaviour patterns of the Controlled Waste Regulations 2012 and progress with the integrated planning approach. The Agency is interested in establishing the level of interest in a workshop on the technical aspects of the amenity impact of waste development. He announced that the 2011 data interrogator information would be available imminently. **The Group generally supported the proposed workshop and agreed to encourage attendance. They also supported the proposal that Natural England should be invited to participate and Martin agreed to contact them accordingly.**

## 6. Progress on Plans and Developments

Shropshire: construction of the Battlefield incinerator is to start shortly; there is a legal challenge regarding assumptions made about waste management matters. The Council has to demonstrate consistency between the Core Strategy and the NPPF by March 2013, and is confident of doing so. Progressing the Site Allocation Plan is proving very staff intensive as a result of the 'localism compliant' approach but it is hoped that the final plan will be published shortly after the local elections in 2013. Waste management site requirements are met through employment land allocations, to which there have been few objections. There is a discernible trend in the county towards farm-based energy related developments; an interesting application for a wood chip bio plant at a Wenlock Edge quarry; and a proposal to import 2-3 mt pa of wood pallets for use at the Ironbridge Power Station.

Staffordshire: additional modifications to the Joint Waste Strategy will be published in October/ November 2012. The Inspector's report into the PLI is anticipated in November 2012. (Julie Castree-Denton informed the group that she was transferring to a Development Management role whilst Matt Griffin prepared the Minerals Plan.)

Dudley: preparation of the Development Strategy DPD, involving site allocations and development control policies, continues.

Sandwell: The Inspector found the Sites Allocation document to be sound; adoption is anticipated in late 2012/ early 2013.

Warwickshire: hoping to submit the Waste Core Strategy in October, with the PLI in January/ February 2013. A planning application has been submitted for 50kt AD capacity at Packington.

Worcestershire: adoption of the Waste Core Strategy will be considered by Council in November. Work is beginning on the Minerals Plan with consultation on the start of the process in October; a key issue is likely to be the shortage of recycled material to meet the 29% requirement under Government policy. Planning permission has been granted on appeal for an incinerator on an industrial estate in the green belt. The County now has 3 facilities with 250kt pa capacity (Sims Metals MRS - "automotive shredding", The Forge, Kidderminster- mixed recycling and Hartlebury EfW, MSW). This is a marked change in the structure of the industry locally - 65% of sites in the County are less than 0.5Ha in size.

East Midlands: preparation of the Derbyshire Waste Plan has been held up by a series of appeals and a High Court challenge regarding a large waste treatment facility at Sinfen, Derby, permission for which has now been granted. The decision is of interest in relation to The treatment of the waste hierarchy; health impact, perception and the role of the EA & HPA; and the current status of policy, specifically RSS versus Waste Plan/Core Strategy.

International Synergies: funding from WRAP is being progressively reduced and the drive is towards more commercially funded activities. This will give freedom from WRAP constraints on materials and allow involvement with the construction industry. More projects and services are being developed, eg licensing a database for marketing resources, working with LAs on economic development projects, supporting companies and their supply chains, and a climate change project in Poland.

Robert Hopkins Ltd: the company has invested £150K in new plant for energy generation and is increasingly moving into treatment of difficult wastes. This involves both adapting machinery and establishing connections with other specialists.

## **7. Presentation by Adrian Green, Interserve Aldridge**

7.1 Adrian explained that Interserve has been in Aldridge since 1977. With a capacity of 25kt pa, in its early days the 'low spec' plant achieved diversion rates of around 60%. After a £2m relocation was approved in 2008, the new MRF opened in May 2012. It has a 250kt pa capacity, is currently managing about 28kt pa, and is averaging diversion rates of around 90%. The plant currently mainly handles construction and demolition wastes. The Aldridge plant is envisaged by Interserve as being one in a national network of 10, with the timing of further developments being dependent on market conditions.

7.2 In contrast to earlier experience, the permitting and planning process for the new plant was speedy and uncontroversial: the license was issued in 4 days, and planning permission was granted quickly following effective pre-application discussions and a recognition by the LPA of the local employment generation promised by the development.

7.3 Adrian highlighted two issues as particularly problematical: the difficulty of dealing with plastics, and uncertainties in the market for secondary materials.

## **8. Any Other Business**

8.1 Nick Dean raised the question of consistency of interpretation when LPAs advise on the status of small control kiosks; whilst most LPAs advise that these are subject to planning control, some accept them as permitted development. **It was agreed to raise this at the next National RTAB Chairs meeting.**

8.2 David Piper suggested that the lack of consistency in Inspectors reports on Waste Plans, for example in relation to diversion targets, was a matter of wider concern and **it was agreed that this would also be raised at the next national RTAB Chairs meeting.**

## **9. Next meeting:**

9.1 **It was agreed to hold at least 3 meetings in the next year, in January, May/ June and September/ October 2013; and to fix the dates of these meetings well in advance.**

West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body  
Chair: Adrian Cooper, Shropshire Council

PF 10/10/12

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**Minutes of the Meeting of West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body  
Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2012  
Brown Recycling Ltd, Burslem, Stoke on Trent ST6 2DZ**

**1. Attendance**

Adrian Cooper	Chair; Shropshire Council
Adam James	Warwickshire CC
Bryn Walters	East Midlands RTAB
Craig Rowbottom	Wolverhampton CC
David Piper	Dudley MBC
Dawn Harris	Walsall MBC
Gerald Owen	Cory Environmental/ ESA
Jeff Rhodes	Biffa/ ESA
Julie Castree-Denton	Staffordshire CC
Martin Everett	Environment Agency
Matthieu Evans	Stoke on Trent CC
Mohammed Salim	Sandwell MBC
Nick Dean	Worcestershire CC
Peter Hopkins	Robert Hopkins Ltd
Susan Juned	Greenwatt Technology
Tony Lyons	Warwickshire CC
Ian Hancock	Director and General Manager of Brown Recycling Ltd
Peter Field	Technical Secretary

Apologies

Bruce Braithwaite, Brian Dore, Dave Coxill, Debbie Klein, , Ian Humphreys, Richard Hammersley, Rob Haigh. It was noted that Derek Greedy, a long-time member of RTAB, had recently retired – the Group wished him well.

Our hosts - Brown Recycling Ltd

The Chair thanked Ian Hancock for agreeing to host the meeting, and welcomed him to the meeting.

**2. Minutes of the Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011.**

2.1 The minutes were agreed.

**3. Update on Waste Data Sources and Monitoring**

3.1 Martin Everett brought the meeting up to date with the ongoing dialogue between the EA and East and West Midlands RTABs regarding WPA data needs and the EA's policy towards meeting them in the future. The EA will be focusing on enhancing the utility of the annual Waste Data Interrogator. He stressed the need to recognise the limitations imposed by the data gathering methodology when using this and other data sets, such as the Defra C&I survey. Bryn Walters emphasised the significance of the 'Duty to Co-operate' to the WPAs and the benefits to the EA of a co-ordinated approach as advocated by the RTABs.

On other EA matters, Martin referred to work with Birmingham/ Solihull and Leicestershire LEPs on a proportional and integrated approach to regulation.

3.2 Discussion focused on recent experiences in Public Inquiries into Waste Plans, including the status and relevance of RSS targets/ projections – the question of updating had been raised at the Staffordshire/ Stoke Inquiry; the importance of considering and difficulty in quantifying cross-boundary waste movements; and the evolving views of PINS regarding best available data. All these were viewed as further emphasising the importance of RTAB's continuing role.

3.3 Peter Field introduced the work on the West Midlands Monitoring paper and Data appendices. It was noted that Defra had not been able to produce LA level data from WasteDatFlow, and it was agreed that WPA reps would send their data to Peter for inclusion in the appendix. Similarly, WPA reps are asked to provide copies of their data on waste planning application monitoring – PF to supply a specification as guidance. It was agreed that future monitoring should look at the relationship between the projections used in the RSS work and actual trends.

#### **4. National RTAB Chairs meeting**

4.1 The Chair referred to the circulated notes of the meeting and highlighted the recognition of Defra and DCLG of the RTAB role and their support in principle for their continuation. He anticipated there would be opportunity in the future for RTABs to comment, through their Chairs, on national policy for example the replacement of PPS10.

#### **5. Progress on Plans and Developments**

5.1 National Planning Policy Framework: it was noted that the waste content was limited and would be addressed through the replacement for PPS10. The NPPF including the 'presumption in favour of sustainable development' is regarded as a material consideration in planning decisions, and Plan Inquiry Inspectors are requiring the 'presumption' to be written into plans.

5.2 Duty to Co-operate: the Inspector at the Staffordshire Plan Inquiry argued the need to monitor action taken under the duty to co-operate. The group debated RTAB's role in supporting cross-boundary co-operation and providing an interface between WPAs, the waste management industry, the EA and environmental organisations, and (going forward) the LEPs.

5.3 It was agreed to review the RTAB revised Terms of Reference with specific regard to the 'Duty' – any comments to PF. It was also agreed to consider preparing a 'protocol' under the Terms of Reference, setting out the role of RTAB in supporting the 'Duty', for example in providing data for contextual monitoring and a forum for technical discussion of cross-boundary waste issues. The standard agenda of RTAB meetings could reflect this protocol, which will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### **6. Progress on Plans and Developments in the West Midlands**

Worcestershire (ND): awaiting the inspector's Report. The Core Strategy takes the 'criteria' approach, does not identify specific sites but identifies broad locations as evidence of

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Chair: Adrian Cooper, Shropshire Council

deliverability. It is notable that of 10 permissions granted for composting, only 5 are operational.

Warwickshire (TL): Consultation on publication stage of the Waste Plan finishes on 15<sup>th</sup> June; submission expected in Autumn; identifies broad locations for waste development.

Staffordshire (JC\_D): Hearing into Joint Waste Strategy took place in April, but a further session to address relationship to NPPF is to be held; now working on modifications including a policy map showing all 253 existing waste sites.

Shropshire (AC): preferred options for site allocations (waste included as use on employment land) published, consultation period runs to 20<sup>th</sup> July. Submission likely to be early 2013.

Birmingham: Core Strategy publication stage planned for October 2012, adoption expected in 2013. SHLAA 2011 likely to be published in June.

Black Country (DH): validation checklist currently out to consultation.

Dudley (DP): preparing a Development Strategy DPD. A planning application has been submitted for 'Coseley Eco-park' but the EfW element has been dropped from it. Considering a separate unrelated EfW proposal on rail siding land.

Walsall (DH): waste management uses are included in a sub-zone of the Darlaston Enterprise Zone under the Local development Order.

Wolverhampton (CR): progressing site allocations plan to address the capacity gap identified in the Core Strategy - expect consultation on Options later in 2012. The Express Energy proposal submitted an EIA Scoping Opinion Report at the end of 2011, and a planning application is expected.

Sandwell (MS): anticipate adopting site allocation document in September.

Neighbouring authorities:

Derbyshire (BW): – Waste Plan has been delayed because a strategic waste application is still under consideration (now at its 3<sup>rd</sup> appeal).

Other developments:

Planning Aid casework and hotline operates, funded by RTPI. Community Planning/ Neighbourhood Plans activities continuing until August pending CLG review of community consultation programme.

Sustainability Live (May 2012): Susan Juned is giving a presentation aimed at stimulating debate about the needs of small businesses within the resource efficiency/ waste debate after the Waste Review and ahead of the National Waste Management Plan. (Small businesses employing less than 50 people account for 35% of the waste going to landfill, yet struggle for a recycling infrastructure that meets their needs and knowledge of the costs and solutions available to them. They are also less likely to have looked at other resource efficiency measures despite rising costs.)

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**7. Next meeting:**

Agreed that the next meeting will be held in September/ October 2012, and that the aim will be to hold 3 meetings each year. Suggestions for venues to PF.

**Presentation by Ian Hancock, General Manager of Brown recycling Ltd.**

Ian explained that Browns is a long-established company, first formed in 1926 and involved in waste management since 1954. The company is the largest waste firm in Staffordshire, employing 80 people at 3 depots and processing some 150,000 tonnes of waste pa. The company's operations extend across Staffordshire and into south Cheshire, major customers including Newcastle Council and Alton Towers. The company aspires to recycle 80% of all waste received and zero to landfill, and has studied European approaches to waste management extensively. A recently completed £1m + development has provided state of the art facilities. He noted that in parts of Europe waste was a much sought after resource.

Ian argued that the most effective model for waste collection is the 3 bin approach – one for each of green waste, food waste and general waste. With appropriate processing facilities, this would support a zero landfill ambition.

The Chair thanked Ian for his presentation and once again for his hospitality. The Group then took a tour of the site.

PF 9/10/12