

Minutes

Subject: 14th Waste Programme Board
Place: Room 501, Ergon House London
Date: 10 February 2011
Time: 10:00 – 12:30

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| Chair: | Neil Thornton | Defra |
| Present: | Sara Eppel | Defra |
| | Clare Hawley | Defra |
| | Diana Linskey | Defra |
| | John Burns | Defra |
| | Roy Hathaway | Defra |
| | Sarah Wymer | Defra |
| | Campbell Davis | Defra |
| | Emily Yri | Defra |
| | Matt Brown | Defra |
| | Rebecca Barrett | Defra |
| | Sal Burgess | Defra |
| | Steve Nelson | Defra |
| | Laurence Smith | Defra |
| | Gary Lovett | Defra |
| | Alexia Davison | Dept for Energy and Climate Change |
| | Kerry Vitalis | Dept of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) |
| | Mark Plummer | Dept of Communities and Local Government (CLG) |
| | Chris Saville | Environment Agency (EA) |
| | Will Armitage | Her Majesties Treasury (HMT) |
| | Martin Wheatley | Local Government Association (LGA) |
| | Caroline Arnold | Waste Strategy Board non-executive |
| | Liz Goodwin | WRAP |

Item 1 - SRO introduction

- 1.1 Neil Thornton welcomed everyone to the 14th Waste Programme Board. Neil informed everyone that this would be Diana Linskey and Roy Hathaway's final WPB before they retired. Sabine Mosner will be joining the Waste Programme in March. Sabine's post will be one of two permanent policy DSRO roles in the Waste programme – the other being held by Clare Hawley and Karen Lepper.

Item 2 - Review of Waste Policies

- 2.1. Diana Linskey updated the Board on the progress of the Review. A first full draft was provided to Ministers before Christmas with subsequent constructive feedback received. Amongst others the key challenges to the Review are ensuring the Government's pledge to be the Greenest ever is met, the pledge for a Zero Waste Economy, Packaging, Food Waste, Rewards and recognition; and a code of practise for MRFs.

- 2.2. Martin Wheatley felt that while political enthusiasm around tackling food waste was not new the issue could sit badly with Local Government if it is not sufficiently funded. LGA members are expecting deliverability and affordability from the Review. Diana Linskey welcomed this view and agreed it is something we must consider but stressed we must ensure we are not mandating change but encouraging it. Martin requested a meeting between the LGA and the Secretary of State to discuss this issue. Alexia Davison asked if encouragement for behaviour change regarding food waste doesn't succeed do we have a Plan B? Diana Linskey confirmed if this was the case we would have to go back to Ministers.

Action: Adam Crook to ensure planned meeting between Caroline Spelman and LGA leaders is in hand

- 2.3. Sal Burgess updated the Board on the Future Waste Scenarios project as part of the larger Waste Review. There was agreement that the Scenarios document was useful although there was recognition that there was still a degree of 'what if' with the data from the report open to interpretation.

- 2.4. Martin Wheatley referred to his previous point on funding (para. 2.2) and felt it would be useful to compare this view against the scenario Models. Martin also asked if the Scenarios had been tested outside of Whitehall and in particular anyone from Local Government. Sal Burgess confirmed that as well as colleagues in OGDs the scenarios have been tested on the 'Big 5' waste companies, academics, Defra's agencies and independent consultants. Neil Thornton noted the importance of ensuring that there had been, or would be, sufficient engagement with local government experts

Action: Sal Burgess to circulate final Scenarios report to colleagues

Action: Sal Burgess to consider the timing, format and strategy for releasing the Scenarios project report into the public domain

Action: Sal Burgess to ensure we have the appropriate level of local government scrutiny of the Scenarios report before it is released

- 2.5. There was consensus that it would be sensible to publish the Scenarios model at the same time as the release of the Review, but not before. However there was discussion around how we manage public expectations following the release, in particular which of the 4 scenarios is the Review moving towards. Sara Eppel also highlighted that the current report seems to indicate that by 2015 lots of waste would be a good thing; Neil Thornton agreed the data still needs to be refined.

Action: Alexia Davison to put Sal Burgess in touch with DECC 2050 team so she can learn from their experience of publishing research work

Item 3: Waste Programme Implementation Group (WPIG) Report to the Waste Programme Board

- 3.1. Sarah Wymer updated the Board following the Waste Programme Implementation Group meeting on 02 February 2011. The overall RAG status for Progress of Delivery remains as Green/Amber. The Mining Waste directive is the only project with Red/Amber RAG rating; this is due to resources being deployed on the Waste Framework Directive.

- 3.2. There was discussion around the Review of Schedule 2 having been delayed due to new scrutiny procedures for new regulation, with the Statutory Instrument laid in May. The discussion centred on the reluctance of the Government to putting legislation in place which will cost business money. Martin Wheatley of the LGA expressed alarm at this delay. The LGA feel it is a straight forward issue where the cost of dealing with waste should be paid from where it originated. Diana Linskey informed the Board that the process for laying legislation doesn't allow for benefits to be considered at this stage. There was agreement that this delay should be reflected in the RAG status of the WPIG document.

Action: Programme Office to change RAG rating of Schedule 2 to Amber/Red

Item 4: Update on the Waste Framework Directive transposition

- 4.1. Roy Hathaway updated the Board on the progress of the transposition of the Waste Framework Directive. Roy presented a letter to the Board which discussed the regulations transposing the revised Waste Framework Directive, which were laid before Parliament on the 08 February. Defra will implement the Directive in a way that delivers the waste policies of the Coalition Government and keeps costs to businesses, local authorities, regulators and taxpayers to a minimum.

Item 5 - Waste Infrastructure

- 5.1. Neil Thornton gave a brief summary on issues around Infrastructure. Infrastructure UK has now been formed with an Infrastructure Plan scheduled for release in the autumn, covering a wide range of sectors. It was confirmed that the Review of Waste Policy will include something on the Infrastructure needed to support delivery. John Burns will be working on the delivery while Clare Hawley will be working on the Infrastructure Plan for the Review.
- 5.2. Mark Plummer updated the board on the [Localism Bill](#) which was laid before Christmas. The Bill gives powers to Local Communities and includes National Authority, Local Government and Neighbourhood plans. Waste is excluded from the Neighbourhood plan, unless prescribed by the SoS, although includes Energy from Waste but not renewable waste (wind farms etc). Mark informed the Board that almost certainly large waste infrastructure will be covered by the Bill.
Action: Mark Plummer to give an update on Planning at the at April's WPB agenda.
- 5.3. Chris Saville presented the Environment Agency's report on facilities covered by environmental permitting. This report was commissioned by the Waste Programme Board in January 2010 with the aim of helping Government understand what waste infrastructure is available for use in England. This in turn helps us to understand what new infrastructure may be needed, where and when. Chris informed the Board that while the report doesn't cover every type of waste facility it is a significant step forward in helping us to build a national picture.
Action: Clare Hawley to arrange a workshop with Waste Programme Board colleagues to discuss Infrastructure
- 5.4. Chris informed the Board that the EA intend to publish an annual report in the autumn which would allow for current gaps in knowledge to be filled. There are two main gaps in the knowledge, firstly infrastructure that is not part of the EA's permitted estate; and secondly infrastructure that is in development, which may for example, have planning permission but has yet to obtain an environmental permit. However Chris thought it would probably be feasible to include an annex which lists sites exempt from requiring a permit as they still need to register with the EA.
- 5.5. Alexia Davison was keen for DECC to have access to information on infrastructure in the pipeline if it was available. Chris agreed that cross checking data with other organisations (such as DECC and WRAP) would be key to ensuring accuracy. Liz Parkes also asked that the report be clear on the definition of a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) as they can differ. It is important to get the terminology correct. Chris thought there was no reason why the time series data shouldn't allow for projections.

Item 6 - Setting the 4th Carbon Budget

- 6.1. Alexia Davison (DECC) presented a slide pack on setting the 4th Carbon Budget. The 3 main areas set by the Climate Change Act 2008 are the ambitious targets to reduce emissions, binding Carbon Budgets and a clear accountability framework. Alexia ran

through the timeline for the 4th Carbon Budget to be set. The Government is required to publish the Carbon Plan by October 2011 with debate in both houses between the 06 and 27 June.

- 6.2. The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) published their advice on setting the 4th Carbon Budget in December 2010. The advice recommended an indicative 2030 target to reduce emissions by 60% (relative to 1990), i.e. do more now as opposed to leaving till the end. The advice also recommends a Domestic Action forth carbon budget of 1950 MtCO₂e (without buying credits). Despite there not being a great deal on waste Alexia recommended colleagues read the [CCC report](#).
- 6.3. Campbell Davis from Defra's Carbon Budget Strategy presented the last 2 pages of the slide show which indicate waste policy having a significant impact on greenhouse gas emissions. Direct emissions from the waste sector are responsible for 3-4% of UK greenhouse gas; about 90% of these are from biodegradable waste in landfills. CCC advised that methane emissions could be 2 to 4 MtCO₂e lower than 2020 levels by 2030 however, the new model already shows the UK is on target to achieve this.
- 6.4. Paul Stansfield asked Alexia Davison whether she could give a quick update on latest thinking for a new carbon budget management system that would replace the old departmental carbon budgets. Alexia offered to do a presentation on it at the next Board if it was helpful.
Action: Alexia Davison to give an update on latest thinking for a new carbon budget management system.

Item 7 - Items for discussion at the next meeting

- 7.1. Items for discussion at April's WPB include Infrastructure, the revised Waste Programme Structure and a discussion on the future of the Waste Stakeholder Group. Mark Plummer will also give an update on Planning and Alexia Davison will provide an update on the Carbon Budget review. National Waste Plan to be included on April's WPB agenda.
Action: Programme Office to add National Waste Plan to April's WPB agenda.

Item 8 – AOB

- 8.1. Roy Hathaway informed the Board that Defra will be hosting a Waste Framework Directive awareness event on the 15th March. All member states are required to host an event of this kind with a wide range of stakeholders invited. There will be speakers from both Defra and the European Commission.
- 8.2. In view of their impending retirement Neil Thornton thanked Diana Linskey and Roy Hathaway for their endeavour in helping to drive forward the Waste Programme over the last few years and wished them luck for the future.

Close

ANNEX A: Actions from meeting

| No. | Action Owner | Note | Action | Outcome |
|-----|-----------------------------------|---|--|---------|
| 1. | Adam Crook | It was noted the importance of good political dialogue with LGA leaders on potential outcomes of the review. To this end Adam Crook will look into the planned meeting between Caroline Spelman and LGA leaders and ensure it was in hand. | Adam Crook to: ensure planned meeting between Caroline Spelman and LGA leaders is in hand. | |
| 2. | Sal Burgess Alexia Davison | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The board welcomed the development of the scenarios work and hoped that the final outputs would prove valuable for local government decision-making; provisionally concluded that the final report should be published alongside (or shortly after?) the review Noted the importance of ensuring that there had been, or would be, sufficient engagement with local government experts and encouraged dialogue between the scenarios team and DECC's 2050 exercise, and encouraged etc. | Sal Burgess to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Circulate final Scenarios report to colleagues Consider the timing, format and strategy for releasing the Scenarios project report into the public domain Ensure we have the appropriate level of local government scrutiny of the Scenarios report before it is released Alexia Davison to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> put Sal Burgess in touch with DECC 2050 team so she can learn from their experience of publishing research work | |
| 3. | Programme Office | Following discussion around the Review of Schedule 2 having been delayed due to new scrutiny procedures for new regulation. There was agreement that this delay should be reflected in the RAG status of the WPIG document. | Programme office to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to change RAG rating of Schedule 2 to Amber/Red | |
| 4. | Clare Hawley | Following discussion on the EA report: <i>'England's Waste Infrastructure: report on</i> | Clare Hawley to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> arrange a workshop with Waste | |

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| | | <i>facilities covered by environmental permitting</i> it was agreed that a workshop should take place with colleagues from the board to discuss Infrastructure further. | Programme Board colleagues to discuss Infrastructure | |
| 5. | Programme Office | National Waste Plan to be included on April's WPB agenda | Programme Office to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • add National Waste Plan to April's WPB agenda. | |
| 6. | Programme Office | Following changes to Programme, including the retirement of Roy Hathaway and Diana Linskey, and the results of the Review, the Programme Structure will change. | Programme Office to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose revised Waste Programme Structure at April's WPB meeting | |
| 7. | Mark Plummer (CLG) | Following on from the Infrastructure discussion Mark Plummer agreed to give an update on Planning from CLG | Mark Plummer to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • present an update on Planning at April's WPB meeting | |
| 8. | Alexia Davison (DECC) | Paul Stansfield asked if Alexia Davison could give an update on latest thinking for a new carbon budget management system that would replace the old departmental carbon budgets. Alexia offered to do a presentation on it at the next Waste Programme Board. | Alexia Davison to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give an update on latest thinking for a new carbon budget management system that would replace the old departmental carbon budgets. | |