

Transforming Waste and Recycling Services in Wiltshire Scrutiny Task Group

The Task Group met for the first time on Thursday 13th March 2008 and consisted of Cllrs D Brown, A Deane, G Hedley, A K Hill and J Seed. Cllr Hill was elected Chairman. The Task Group has held 2 meetings in total. *(Ceri, Please ensure names and initials are correct throughout).*

Having noted the Task Group Protocol, the Task Group accepted the Terms of Reference (TORs) as presented. The Task Group also understands that its TORs relate to Municipal waste, i.e. domestic, shop and office waste. Industrial waste of all kinds is outside of the scope of the Task Group. *(Ceri, Please list the TORs here).*

Tracy Carter *(Ceri, Please list her roles here)* advised the Task Group of the work completed to date relating to the setting up of work streams to ensure a continuous provision of Waste management services during the transition to WC. She also explained the necessity of ensuring the adequate provision of funding for the process and briefed the Group on the role of the Wiltshire Waste Partnership (WWP) whose work will be pivotal in achieving the seamless transition.

The Task Group determined that there were two areas to address:

1. Provision of a seamless service to the public for the management of their waste during the transition to WC.
2. Setting up a standard level of service for waste management across the County following the start of WC.

The time scale for the first is approximately twelve weeks whereas the second may be much longer.

The Task Group was briefed by Cllr T Sturgis and by Mr A Conn *(Ceri, Please list their positions)* on the situation at the present time regarding preparations made for the transition to WC and the establishment of a standard service thereafter. The Task Group also heard a brief outline of long-term plans for the reduction of waste in order to meet future Government targets.

Although it is early days, the Task Group is satisfied that plans are in place that should ensure a seamless transition to WC in terms of service provision at current levels provided that adequate funding is available. However, the Task Group is concerned that decisions regarding levels of service provision to the public across the County **after unification** need to be addressed as soon as possible in order that the necessary preparations may be made towards equality. At present there is great disparity between the service provision of the Districts and that could lead to resentment among the public at large unless efforts are seen to be made to redress the imbalance as soon as possible.

As SDC is due commence collection of plastic bottles and cardboard from October 2008, the Task Group considers it advisable to seek an early briefing on the process involved, the collection and disposal difficulties envisaged and whether it would be feasible to roll out such a collection process across the whole of WC in the medium term.

Furthermore, the Task Group considers that a great deal of work needs to be done regarding the strategy for the future in order to lay the foundations to assist the WC to meet ever more stringent Government targets for waste minimization, and in this respect the collection/disposal of organic waste should also be explored.

The Task Group feels that it has a vital role to play in monitoring the progress towards WC to ensure a seamless transition of service provision and an equally vital role to play in monitoring the direction of waste management in the medium and long term.