



**TRANSITIONAL WASTE SCRUTINY TASK GROUP
REPORT OF A MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12th MAY 2008
AT COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE**

Present:

Task Group: Mr Alan Hill (NWDC), Mr Dennis Brown (SDC), Mr Graham Hedley (WWDC), Mr Jonathon Seed

Officers: Ceri Williams (Scrutiny Support Officer), Tracy Carter (WCC – Assistant Director – Operations), Mark Smith (Director KDC)

1. Report of the previous Meeting

Members noted the report of the previous meeting.

3. Interim Report – Response of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Transitional Board

The Chairman fed back the response of the JOSTB to the task group's interim report. Following the decision to support the continuation of its work the Chairman emphasised that the task group would need to seek evidence demonstrating adequate resource and ensure the plans for transformation were on track.

Agreed

To note the JOSTB resolution to request continued scrutiny of the Waste Project Board's Transformational Plan.

4. Project Team Update

Tracy Carter and Mark Smith provided the task group with a project update. All 5 sub-projects were making progress with highlights including:

- a) Project Plans – now being developed and available for the next meeting
- b) Quick wins – each group was focusing on areas that may deliver savings in the short term

- c) Transformation – a number of options for the new service had been identified, although the immediate focus of the project team was towards transition and finalisation of the budget
- d) Transition – the budget requirements for 2009-10 were being drafted for June
- e) Fleet Management – the project team had formed a new group to review the fleet the fleet management arrangements of the 5 councils
- f) Enforcement policy – the task group highlighted the importance of sensitive communication to the public
- g) Communication – the task group explored the plans for communicating the changes in arrangements to the public

Following the update Tracy Carter presented members with an overview of the Hills Contract.

The 20 year contract was awarded in 1996. Hills were paid by WCC as the disposal authority and in 2008/09 the annual cost was £14m. The contract was very flexible and had regularly been changed in response to legislation and the annual development plan produced in conjunction with Hills.

Hills were a medium sized company and the contract had presented a risk in terms of competitive tension with the Waste Collection Authorities.

During discussions Cllr Jonathon Seed stated that officers from Kennet were encountering difficulties in obtaining appropriate information to support the Transformation Project, with commercial sensitivity being sited as the reason for restrictions on information flows.

Other issues discussed included:

- The potential for a landfill site in the south of the county
- The options to recycle commercial waste

Agreed

- **To thank the officers for the briefing**
- **To request Tracy Carter to write to the KDC Works Manager clarifying the position in response to access to information**

5. Date of Next Meeting

June 10 – 9.30am

Items to be discussed:

Project Plan
 Project Highlight Report
 Cllr Jonathon Seed's question sheet