



Copeland Borough Council

Secretariat

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Cllr Jack Richardson,
Chair, Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership,
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Joint Scrutiny of the CSWP

31st January 2007

Dear Councillor Richardson,

Firstly, I would like to offer thanks to the CSWP Member and officers who attended the evidence session on 17th January in Whitehaven. As you probably know, the session was a positive and constructive one and this reinforced our conclusion that this should be the last scrutiny session for 12 months. Although we still have some concerns about areas of the CSWP's work and the rate of progress, many of our historical concerns have now been addressed.

We wish to put on record that we remain concerned about the level of resources available to the CSWP. Waste management is now an area of huge practical and political importance and we hope that you will be able to further expand your team to meet the challenges ahead.

Although we intend to have no more formal scrutiny sessions in 2007, there were a number of points raised and commitments made at the January meeting and we will use the following as the initial checklist for any future scrutiny work in a year's time:

1. Consultation on Waste Strategy – check that meaningful responses were gained from public and partners, if necessary involving chasing up the more important consultees. Strategy in place within 2007 and to include clear timetables, targets and review periods;
2. Commercial Waste – CSWP complete their county-wide project to consider collection of commercial waste and start to make changes as required. Further, to continue to consider the broader issues of commercial waste and how progress can be made;
3. Waste Statistics - CSWP closer to understanding the trends in municipal waste (BVPI84(a)) and therefore projecting future statistics and LATS fines with greater

accuracy. Research looking at other authorities to develop further waste minimisation measures in Cumbria will have been completed and the findings acted upon;

4. LATS fines: following on from the BVPI84(a) work noted at (3) above, the projections of LATS fines to be refined and further avoidance measures considered if necessary;
5. Lessons learned from the fraud inquiry in South Cumbria and checks to ensure that the waste statistics around the County are robust and reliable;
6. WRAP funded work – assessment of the effectiveness of some of this work, including changes in the number of ‘committed recyclers’ should have been completed;
7. Recycling and re-use credits – the arrangements for 2008/9 onwards to have been developed and reflect the need to drive further improvements in the rates of recycling and reuse across the County;
8. Website – look for continued improvements, particularly in the visible accountability of the CSWP – through documents, summaries of minutes etc on the Resource Cumbria website. Annual report to have been produced and made publicly available;

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your assistance with the scrutiny process and wish you well with the CSWP’s work for 2007.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Anne Bradshaw

(on behalf of the Cumbria Waste Management Scrutiny Working Group)

Chair, Environmental Well Being Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Copeland Borough Council

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