

# **SOUTH WEST WALES REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT JOINT COMMITTEE**

**(Civic Centre, Neath)**

**Present:**

**1<sup>st</sup> August, 2014**

**Representing Bridgend County Borough Council:**

**Councillors** P.White

**Officers:** M.Shephard

**Representing Carmarthenshire County Council:**

**Councillor** D.C.Evans

**Officer:** M.Cresci

**Representing City and County of Swansea:**

**Councillors** C.Lloyd

**Officers:** C.Howells and M. Perkins

**Representing Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council:**

**Councillors** E.V.Latham and Mrs.S.Miller

**Officers:** J.S.Flower, A.Evans and Mrs.J.Woodman-Ralph

**Representing Pembrokeshire County Council:**

**Councillor** H.George

**Officer:** I.Westley

**Representing Welsh Government:** J.Roberts

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## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The following apologies for absence were noted:-

Councillors M.White and J.Burtonshaw – City and County of Swansea

Councillor H.Williams and G. Thomas – Bridgend County Borough Council

R.Workman – Carmarthenshire County Council

2. **VOTING MEMBERS**

In accordance with the Constitution, each Authority was represented by their voting members for this meeting:-

Councillor P.White (Bridgend);  
Councillor D.C.Evans (Carmarthenshire);  
Councillor C.Lloyd (Swansea);  
Councillor E.V.Latham (Neath Port Talbot) and  
Councillor H.George (Pembrokeshire)

3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2014, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

Members were pleased to see that in the minutes of the last meeting it recognised that each Local Authority had a statutory responsibility to ensure they had value for money which was a priority in the current financial climate.

5. **ACCESS TO MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED:** that pursuant to Section 100A (4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded for the following items of business which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 12 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the above Act.

6. **Private Report of the Director of Transportation, Housing and Environment, Pembrokeshire County Council**

**REGIONAL ANAEROBIC DIGESTION PROCUREMENT**

The Project Director outlined the three options that were detailed in the private circulated report for the Committees consideration at today's meeting.

Discussion took place on the three options. Each Member of the hub highlighted their individual issues and the need to progress a way forward as a matter of urgency with Members progressing individual options but with the opportunity of remaining in the hub if the procurement contract was progressed within timescale and of financial benefit to each authority. It was confirmed that each local authority had a duty to ensure value for money and that the timescale to progress the initiative was critical. It was confirmed that if the number of Members of the Hub reduced Welsh Assembly would consider the viability but the less tonnage would result in a more expensive option but there are other smaller hubs working successfully within Wales but any new proposal would have to gain the support of the Minister. The Welsh Government representative also confirmed that Welsh Government would continue to give support in regard to the progression of the initiative.

It was agreed that the Project Director would draft a letter to Welsh Assembly containing the outcomes of today's meeting as a matter of urgency and with the agreement of hub members would be forwarded to Mr. J. Roberts, Welsh Government representative for consideration.

- RESOLVED:**
- (1) that Committee notes the position regarding the Pembrokeshire County Council's intention (subject to due process) to merge with the Mid Wales Hub.
  - (2) that the Project Director draft a letter containing the outcomes/proposals from today's discussion and circulate to Hub Members for agreement, after agreement received the letter to be forwarded to Welsh Assembly for consideration as a matter of urgency.
  - (3) that Committee notes the potential for the Cardiff Council led interim procurement to provide a 'safety net' for service provision until October 2016.

7. The Chairman on behalf of the Committee wished Mr. J. Flower, Director of Environment best wishes on his forthcoming retirement and thanked him for all the support he had given to this Committee over many years.

**CHAIRMAN**