

Minutes of this meeting – 24 February 2017, City Chambers, Dundee

1. Introduction

Councillor John Alexander welcomed all to Dundee for the meeting of the Waste & Recycling advisory group.

2. Attendance and Apologies

See attached.

3. Minutes of previous meeting held on 18 November 2016

These minutes were noted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising for the previous meeting.

5. Going underground: waste storage systems

Paddy Knowles of APSE Solutions delivered a presentation on the potential of introducing underground bins across Scottish local authorities. Paddy began the presentation by outlining his initial scepticism of the system before undertaking this piece of research. He described what local authorities do now (bins on the street 24/7, residents having to place bins out for collection, different frequencies) and the various issues with the current system (e.g. labour intensive, vandalism of bins, cleanliness, cost of/storage of replacement bins).

Paddy then went on to show an example where Princess Street Gardens in Edinburgh switched from 200 litter bins to 16 silo bins, and went from emptying bins every day to once or twice a week. He showed that this system was much faster, making it possible for one person to empty the equivalent of 20 bins in 1 minute 40 seconds (rather than a usual crew emptying 20 bins, which takes roughly 10-15 minutes).

Paddy showed several videos of different underground bin systems being emptied by collection vehicles using bottom opening and bag opening systems, and explained that it was possible to either retrofit HIAB systems to existing vehicles or to buy specially built vehicles. He also pointed out that these types of systems could be combined with fill level sensors, which can then alert the Council when these bins need to be emptied.

Paddy explained the benefits of the system which included: removing the adverse visual impact, releases space above ground, allows bins to be placed in locations where they otherwise might be unacceptable to the community, increased resistance to vandalism/arson/adverse weather, potential reduced collection costs through reduced collection times, potentially reduced operational costs and residents not having to worry about missing collections.

Paddy mentioned that APSE Solutions are looking to hold an event with Cambridge University that would feature a live demo of underground bins being emptied.

Paddy also answered several questions from the group on costs, the viability of installation, the potential for contamination and planning guidance.

6. SWITCH Forum update

Charlie Devine from Zero Waste Scotland provided an update on the SWITCH Forum (Scottish Waste Industry Training, Competency, Health & Safety Forum), which is a multi-partnership forum made up of public, private and third sector organisations within the Resource Management Industry. Its purpose is to provide leadership for the resource management sector by working collaboratively to raise standards within the sector regarding Health & Safety, training, learning & development and technical competence.

Its' objectives are that the Resource Management Industry is a safe and healthy place to work, actively supports education, training, learning and development, increases workforce capacity and competence, develops and shares good practice, creates an industry that is attractive as a career choice and creates clear career and learner pathways.

Charlie spoke about the work of SWITCH's Health and Safety working group, which includes monthly informative emails that drive people towards existing WISH guidance and provide updates on sector specific/related legislation, recent incidents and guidance towards best practice examples. Additional areas of focus include transport as well as Reducing Fire Risk at Waste Management Sites (Summer 2017) and Occupational Health (Autumn 2017).

The Education, Training and Competence working group's current focus includes the Competence Framework & Assessment Tool (Level 1) and Guides, SWITCH/WISH Attitudes & Behaviours Guidance & Tool, Apprenticeship Levy and a Passport Style Scheme for the Risk Management Industry.

Charlie mentioned of the availability of several SWITCH Case Studies available on their website on East Lothian and Moray Councils, as well as Competence Framework Case Studies for North Lanarkshire, West Lothian and Fife Councils.

Charlie also highlighted the open vacancy as APSE's representative on the SWITCH Forum; any interested parties were encouraged to either speak to Charlie or to contact Louise Melville at APSE for more information.

7. Group discussion – compliance and contamination of recycling bins – local authority policy and initiatives

Group discussion topics included: at what stage do local authorities remove bins, the effects of changing contractors on contamination, the contamination of communal bins, designing out the issue of contamination with flatted properties and legal issues to do with enforcement.

8. Group discussion – impact of budget cuts on services

Group discussion topics included: the removal of staff posts, the effects of non-redundancy policies, the efforts involved in generating savings, the implementation of **modern changes, the effects of May's elections on services, fleet savings (e.g. costs of running 40 vehicles vs double-shifting a smaller number of vehicles)**, industrial relations, charging for garden waste and the experience of moving towards three weekly collections.

9. APSE update

Garry Lee provided an update on the work of the Association, which included recent briefings, publications, recent advocacy work as well as updates on the work of APSE Solutions, APSE Energy, APSE Performance Networks and APSE Training. Attendees were also encouraged to submit topic ideas for the forthcoming APSE Scotland Fleet, Waste and Grounds seminar and reminded of the impending deadline of the Striving for Excellence Awards.

10. Date of the next meeting

23-26 May 2017 – Scottish Fleet, Waste and Grounds seminar.

11. Close of meeting

Councillor John Alexander thanked the attendees for their participation in the meeting.

Attendees List

Name	Council	Count
Garry Lee	APSE	1
Paddy Knowles	APSE	1
Pam Walker	Aberdeen City Council	1
Tony Westwick	Aberdeenshire Council	1
Peter Rhodes	Aberdeenshire Council	1
Brenda Carcary	Angus Council	1
Mike Kelly	City of Edinburgh Council	1
Janet Wade	Dundee City Council	1
Stacey Burge	Dundee City Council	1
Richard White	Dundee City Council	1
Cllr John Alexander	Dundee City Council	1
Martin Kingham	Fife Council	1
Steven Andrews	North Ayrshire Council	1
Lynn O'Neill	North Lanarkshire Council	1
Jackie Lyttle	North Lanarkshire Council	1
Sheila Best	Perth and Kinross Council	1
Graeme Beattie	Renfrewshire Council	1
Gary Mooney	Scotland Excel	1
Andrew Macdonald	South Lanarkshire Council	1
Bob Black	South Lanarkshire Council	1
Paul Charters	Stirling Council	1
Paul Graham	Stirling Council	1
<u>Total</u>		22

Apologies

Susanne Austin	Angus Council
Graeme Cunningham	Clackmannanshire Council
Stephen Dickie	East Dunbartonshire Council
Harry Hughes	East Dunbartonshire Council
Alan Bentley	Highland Council
June Ross	Highland Council
Andy Summers	Highland Council
John Morrison	South Ayrshire Council
Stephen McDonald	South Lanarkshire Council