

**CD1003 Record of April 2012 Meeting Between Officers of Beds, Northants, Milton Keynes
and Buckinghamshire Authorities**

Ian

Further to my email of 10th April I am emailing to confirm that I have been unable to find a copy of minutes of the Duty to Co-operate meeting held with Northants (Mark Chant and Laura Jones) on 4th October 2012. These would have been taken by my former colleague who attended the meeting who has now left the authority. I would have anticipated that NCC might have their own record to demonstrate DtC but they do not have a record of the meeting either. There is a record of every other DtC meeting except this one!

I can find no other emails or contact from NCC with the Bedfordshire authorities, other than official consultations, since September 2012 when Laura Jones sent through an update note to be tabled at our DtC meeting with Milton Keynes in September 2012 that NCC were unable to attend.

The email below is the one that I sent out to officers at NCC, Bucks CC and Milton Keynes trying to set up a regular DtC meeting between the authorities.

No doubt you will update the Inspector accordingly.

regards

Susan Marsh B.SC (Hons), Dip. TP, MRTPI
Principal Minerals & Waste Planning Officer
Operating a Shared Minerals and Waste Planning Service for Central Bedfordshire,
Bedford Borough and Luton Borough Councils

Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford,
SG17 5TQ

From: Susan Marsh **Sent:** [01 February 2012 09:41](#) **To:**
'mchant@northamptonshire.gov.uk'; 'bob.wilson@milton-keynes.gov.uk';
'gliddiard@buckscc.gov.uk' **Subject:** Duty to Co-operate - meeting up?

Dear Mark, Bob and Graham

We have been conscious for a while that whilst we meet up relatively regularly with our colleagues in what was the eastern region to discuss minerals and waste planning matters (with the WTAB and AWP and Peer Group meeting (DM matters)) we do not have similar contact with officers at authorities bounding the Bedfordshire Plan area who are not in that region. So we do see officers from both Cambridgeshire CC and Hertfordshire CC but not Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire or Milton Keynes.

The Duty to Co-operate has brought this into sharp focus. I am therefore e-mailing to suggest that officers from the four authorities meet up to discuss minerals and waste matters of mutual interest. If you are happy with this in principle I can set up the first meeting at these offices and we can then agree the regularity of meetings (quarterly?) and topic areas for future discussion. This could cover both policy and development management matters. Perhaps the meeting could rotate between

authorities.

I should be grateful if you could confirm whether you are happy with this idea in principle and also whether I have contacted the right person! If you would attend a meeting are there particular days/times to avoid? Also would more than one officer attend from the authority?

Look forward to hearing from you.

regards

Susan Marsh
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Agenda for Meeting between officers from Bedfordshire, Northants, Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire – 10.30am, Thursday 26th April 2012

1. Introductions
2. Purpose of meeting
3. How minerals/waste is dealt with at the different authorities
4. Update on progress on MW Plans
5. Waste data/monitoring
6. minerals issues
7. matters arising at respective AWP's and RTABs
8. NPPF
9. implications of the NPPF ('10 year' local supply requirement methodology v previous apportionment, where does this leave MPS1 advice - such as 'extensions').
10. the needs of the 'growth area'
11. AOB
12. date and time of next meeting

Meeting between officers from Bedfordshire, Northants, Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire – Thursday 26th April 2012

Attendees:

Roy Romans, MW Team Leader Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC)
Lester Hannington, Principal MW Officer – policy CBC
Susan Marsh, Principal MW Officer – policy and DM CBC
Tom Podd, senior policy planning officer Milton Keynes Council
Laura Jones, planning officer, Northamptonshire CC

Apologies:

Graham Lydiard, Buckinghamshire CC

Purpose of Meeting

SEM said that the meeting had partly been set up because of the Duty to Co-operate set out in the Localism Act and now the NPPF. However, CBC were thinking of setting up such meetings even before then as they were conscious that whilst they fully participate with authorities in what was the East of England Region (both the Waste Technical Advisory Body and the Aggregates Working Party) they are on the edge of that region and abutting both the SE Region and Midlands. It would be helpful to share information to mutual benefit.

How minerals and waste is dealt with at the different authorities

Bedfordshire

RR said that a shared service had been provided for the last 3 years. This was for Development Management (DM) between CBC and Bedford Borough Council and for M&W policy with Luton Borough Council as well.

LH said that we had been working on the M&W LDF since 2009. The original intention had been to produce 4 separate plans – separate minerals and waste core strategies and site allocations documents. However, in 2009 it was decided to merge these together and to produce a single document.

The production of a single Plan reduced costs and the amount of consultation etc. The councils also have to go through the committee processes of the 3 councils and this was a significant issue even with one plan and would have been extremely difficult with 4.

CBC, who operate the shared service, have both policy and DM M&W officers. However, increasingly, officers are gaining experience of both aspects. This provides for both flexible working and will allow officers to gain experience and assist their careers.

Milton Keynes

TP said he was responsible for waste policy and Fiona ? was responsible for minerals policy. They also have a more general policy role.

Any M&W applications were dealt with by the general DM team. There are 8 in the team.

No dedicated M&W team. There had been discussions with BucksCC about officers there undertaking M&W work on MKs behalf but this did not progress.

Northants

NCC is about to start a partial review of their M&W DPDs.

NCC undertake M&W policy work for Rutland council.

Separate policy and DM teams.

Mark Chant is Head of Planning Services

Phil Watson is Head of DM

Shari MacDonald is head of policy

Update on progress on MW Plans

CBC/BBC/Luton – about to undertake a focused change consultation on changes following consultation on soundness and as a result of the NPPF. This is scheduled early June. Submission is anticipated in August.

There will be a change to the text on radioactive waste. Published research has shown that there is only 3.5kg of such waste arising in the Bedfordshire area each year. No sites have been put forward for managing such waste. The MPAs are not justified in putting forward a site on the basis of such small amounts of waste. Should an application be received it will be dealt on the basis of national Policy. (*RR suggested forwarding the link to the paper to NCC*)

NCC – DPDs adopted in 2011. About to undertake a partial review.

Kings Cliffe – proposed extension of time for landfill of Low Level radioactive waste until 2026 – just accepted for Examination by the Major Infrastructure Unit.

The review of the DPDs will cover the SA/waste forecasts and minerals to get more accurate and realistic figures (due to demise of RSS). No intention to review individual sites. Likely to be lower figures and sites identified will 'last longer'. Plan period to be extended from 2026 to 2031.

Milton Keynes – has an adopted Waste DPD up to 2026. Thinking about a review.

Working on an Issues and Options paper for minerals.

Minerals Local Plan was adopted in 2006. The landbank remaining is not adequate and need more sites.

NCC has no enforcement/ monitoring officer. Have been advertising for one and have had 7 applicants. Three to be interviewed.

Waste Data/monitoring

Difficult to obtain reliable data. EA data is at a regional level as used to feed into the national and European level. This may improve as the EA collect information electronically.

LH – it would be useful to know what MW sites there are in MK and NCC – the information is needed to plan new facilities and to ensure that they are not too close together. i.e to take note of other facilities close to boundary of Plan area.

LH will contact authorities separately on this.

Bucks CC have now determined the Calvert EfW application.

Minerals Issues

RR There is the OFT investigation into local aggregates supply. Lafarge and Tarmac are potentially merging making a very large company. There is perceived, by some, to be a too cosy relationship between the MPAs and mineral companies on the AWP's. Information was provided to the recent Office of Fair Trading study by the independent marketing company BDS - they did not contact AWP's. They say that there may be difficulties for smaller minerals companies getting into the market as extensions to sites are allowed. LPAs may be contacted as part of this investigation.

Any Other Business

LH We need to agree what the outputs are going to be from the joint meetings.

i.e. exchange of information and discussion on specific issues between authorities.

Other authorities will need to do this as well. It will be important when plans are reviewed.

It was agreed that meetings should be arranged about every 3 months initially but that they could be postponed if there was inadequate business to discuss

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It was agreed that the Central Beds offices at Chicksands provided a central location to meet rather than rotate venues

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Next meeting would be arranged for the end of July/early August.