

## **SERTAB**

**Date :** 22 March 2010

**Subject :** The Role of the SERTAB and 2010 Action Plan  
- Discussion Document

**Report of:** Adrian Lee, Hampshire County Council

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 This report sets out options and proposals for discussion about what role SERTAB should play in waste planning in the region and how it should look to achieve its objectives. The report sets out the background and key drivers for its work and makes suggestions for discussion ahead of agreeing a work plan for 2010/ 2011. The proposals may need further consideration after the general election, but will enable the group to formulate some initial views now.

### **2. Background**

2.1 Planning Policy Statement 10 – “Planning For Sustainable Waste Management” sets out both the general need for local monitoring of waste arisings and capacity to underpin delivery of waste development plans and the specific role of the RTAB in that process (see appendix 1 to this report). In summary the role is to;

- Provide regular monitoring reports to the regional planning body
- Provide clear and integrated arrangements for effective monitoring
- Set contextual indicators and monitor capacity delivery

The note in appendix 2 from the Chair of the National Group of RTABs is also pertinent.

2.2 RTABs across the country are active in this role, promoting technical studies on waste issues and supporting the regional waste planning process and / or preparation of local development frameworks. SERTAB has recently completed an Annual Strategic Waste Monitoring Report, via an external consultant, and has provided data for the regional waste capacity model, managed by the SEEPB.

2.3 The key drivers to undertake an active role are;

- Fulfilling the requirements of PPS10
- Working towards fulfilling the country's obligations in the European Waste Framework Directive
- Helping to influence development of appropriate new technologies for waste to support the market and stimulate sustainable economic development in the region

- Through the above, support for the preparation and delivery of regional plans
- Formulating the evidence base for Minerals and Waste Local Development Frameworks, improving the quality of policy making and avoiding delays to their preparation
- Enabling the delivery of waste and resource management infrastructure to meet local targets for diversion of waste from landfill
- Helping to meet targets for local government efficiencies by controlling costs and meeting performance targets
- Helping to meet other environmental objectives such as those for climate change and sustainable energy generation etc.

**Q1. Do you think SERTAB currently fulfils the role for regional waste monitoring set out in PPS 10 ?**

**Q2. If not, what are the gaps between this role and what it currently achieves?**

**Q3. Do you think it should consider a wider role, working collaboratively to develop its reputation and provide a stronger influence on waste planning in the region?**

### **3. Interactions with Other Bodies**

3.1 Individual SERTAB authorities and officers have contacts with a number of planning and other bodies, but it does not have strong connections collectively. In line with its defined role from PPS 10, its main contacts are at present with the South East England Partnership Board (SEEPB) and, through the Partnership Board, the South East England Leader's Board (SEELB);

[http://www.separtnershipboard.org.uk/pdf/who\\_we\\_are/what\\_we\\_do\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.separtnershipboard.org.uk/pdf/who_we_are/what_we_do_brochure.pdf)

3.2 The two main **decision making** groups within SEEPB and SEELB are;

- The Partnership Board itself, which includes membership from the SEELB and is responsible for commissioning and signing off the Regional Strategy and;
- The Strategy Board which steers the Regional Strategy process and content.

The **advisory groups** to the Strategy Board include the Delivery Boards on Housing and Regeneration, Economic Development, Transport and Planning.

**Technical support** to the above groups is provided by the Partnership Board staff and, in turn, SERTAB and SERAWP are advisory bodies to them.

3.3 The principal outcome of their work is the Regional Strategy which combines work previously known as the Regional Plan and the Regional Economic Strategy, setting out how regional development

ambitions for economic and other development will be achieved within a sustainable framework;

<http://www.se-partnershipboard.org.uk/page/5/view/73/regional-strategy>

**Q3. Do you think SERTAB should operate along similar lines to SERAWP (the regional minerals group), including a stronger 'industry' representation?**

**Q4. Do you think SERTAB's function could be better achieved by another body / grouping?**

#### **4. Towards an action plan - developing our role**

4.1 Whether we accept our key role as that set out in PPS 10, or wish to see amore enhanced role, we need to have clear terms of reference in order to focus on what we need to do and deliver these outcomes. The East of England RTAB bases its Terms of reference on PPS 10 Annex D (see appendix 1 to this report).

**Q5. Does SERTAB need to have clearer terms of reference ?**

**Q6. Should they be based on PPS 10 Annex D? If not how should they be framed?**

4.2 The following are suggested as the key components of an action plan;

- Data – a plan to improve collection and reporting
  - Developing a consistent framework for data input at the regional level
  - Agreeing common assumptions for using and presenting data
  - Facilitating the input of data through development of an easy to use data portal
  - Sharing good practice on data collection, analysis and reporting
  - Continuing the preparation of an annual monitoring report
- Research - a strategy to develop a more robust evidence base
  - C & I waste
  - CD & E waste
  - Waste forecasting
- Liaison – improving joint working and value for money, particularly on data provision and reporting –
  - revive the memorandum of understanding with EA
  - reporting key issues for discussion at SERTAB meetings
- Commitment - playing our part in fulfilling an enhanced role for SERTAB

- inputting accurate and up-to-date data in a timely manner
- supporting each other in waste planning work and safeguarding our reputation for innovation and excellence in the region
- supporting regional planning to develop a network of key waste infrastructure
- Co-ordinating the planning and delivery of key regional infrastructure requirements
  - identifying opportunities for key infrastructure
  - exchanging data on development applications
  - sharing good practice on development management
  - taking responsibility for key regional outcomes for waste

**Q7. Do you agree with these components of an action plan ?**

**Q8. Are there any missing?**

## **5. Resource Issues**

5.1 If we wish to achieve a wider role for SERTAB, particularly in terms of initiating research studies or improved data compilation, such as producing an increasingly robust annual SWMR, we need to decide how to approach it. This might include agreeing the scope and content of an enhanced programme and then agreeing the mechanism through which we manage it.

5.2 The options to provide the professional and technical resource to develop an enhanced programme fall into two broad categories. These are to;

- a) Hire in a resource, via an external consultancy.
- b) Examine how we use existing 'internal' resources and consider whether they could be used more effectively on a collective basis, either from existing resources or by providing a resource from within one or more of the WPAs, with recompense for this input.

5.3 The scale of financial resources required would depend on the staffing option chosen, but it does not necessarily need significant additional funds overall. Support could come from current SERTAB balances in the short term, but in the longer term a higher level of subscription could be considered.

**Q9. Do you think there is scope to make better use of existing resources for data collection and analysis within SERTAB authorities? Would your authority support this approach to an enhanced work programme?**

**Q10. Would your authority support a higher level of subscription to achieve a greater role (defined through terms of reference and an agreed action plan) ?**

**Q11. What other options are there to meet the professional / technical resource ?**

**6. Recommendation**

**1. All to comment on the issues and questions raised in this report and consider the way forward.**

### Relevant extracts from Planning Policy Statement 10 – “Planning For Sustainable Waste Management”

#### **Para 40:**

Regional and local monitoring should focus on the key actions and outcomes that underpin delivery and on contextual indicators that measure changes with direct bearing on an agreed strategy. As a minimum, monitoring should include changes in the stock of waste management facilities; waste arisings; and, the amounts of waste recycled, recovered or going for disposal.

#### **Para 41:**

It is important that there are clear arrangements to ensure close linkages between the production of regional and local monitoring reports, and that these arrangements integrate across the range of bodies that can contribute to effective monitoring. In particular, the Environment Agency has a pivotal role to play in the provision of relevant information. The annual monitoring co-ordinated by regional planning bodies and undertaken by constituent waste planning authorities should therefore be closely co-ordinated with data collection by the Environment Agency.

#### **ANNEX D:**

##### **Role and Composition of a Regional Technical Advisory Body**

Regional technical advisory bodies (RTABs) provide advice to regional planning bodies on the implications of waste management for the development and implementation of the

RSS. In undertaking this role an RTAB should:

(i) reflect, in accordance with advice from the regional planning body, the expectations

set out in the regional participation statement;

(ii) consider national policy expectations and requirements;

(iii) consider and interpret national data as they apply to the region;

(iv) work with neighbouring regions and countries to identify cross-regional concerns,

including movements of waste;

(v) receive and interpret relevant data from the Environment Agency and local authorities

in the region;

(vi) receive and interpret intelligence on local considerations on the development of

capacity from planning authorities and other bodies;

(vii) review and appraise data and options at the strategic level;

(viii) advise on the preparation of a strategy for waste management for inclusion in the RSS;

(ix) monitor the implementation of the strategy for waste management in the RSS,

including relevant contextual indicators, implementation through local development

documents and the delivery of capacity;

(x) provide regular reports to the regional planning body including recommendations as

appropriate for changes to the strategy in the light of this monitoring.

To undertake this role effectively an RTAB will need to be broadly-based, drawing from

those with a direct interest in and knowledge of sustainable waste management including:

- the Regional Assembly and its Regional Development Agency;
- the Environment Agency;
- waste planning authorities;

### **The Single Regional Strategy Requirements to fulfil the need for a Regional Waste Strategy in the SRS**

A note for information from the Regional Technical Advisory Bodies on Waste (RTABs) to the Regional Development Agencies.

#### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 RTABs were set up on the recommendation of PPG10 and its successor PPS10 as a group of technical officers who can advise the Regional Planning Body on the implications of waste management for the development and implementation of the RSS. Detailed terms of reference are contained in Annexe D of PPS10. (Different arrangements apply in London. This note therefore focuses on the 8 regions outside London but it is expected that London will seek to act consistently with the other regions where appropriate.)
- 1.2 Each Region has an effectively operating RTAB with representatives of local government, the private sector and regional bodies working together on how to manage waste arising from both municipal and private sectors.
- 1.3 The Government has made it clear that each Regional Waste Strategy should be contained within the Regional Spatial Strategy. The waste elements of a regional plan that will need to be included in the SRS are identified in PPS10.
- 1.4 County and unitary authorities are then required to produce plans that identify sites to manage the amounts and types of waste specified in the RSS.
- 1.5 There is therefore concern amongst members of RTABs and waste planners that the waste element of the proposed Single Regional Strategies is not forgotten in current discussions on the form and content of the SRS.
- 1.6 Regional Planning Bodies will be statutory consultees on planning applications for waste facilities of strategic importance and on waste development documents. The RTABs are also in a good position to support the delivery of this role.
- 1.7 The Chairs of the nine RTABs in England meet regularly and have discussed a possible way forward in the context of the Sub-National Review.

#### **2.0 The Need for Guidance on Waste within the SRS**

- 2.1 In March 2008 waste to landfill cost circa £50 per tonne; by 2012 (through tax increases alone) cost will increase by £24 per tonne to around £75, an increase of 50%. Therefore the potential cost of waste on businesses turnover could increase to 6%, thus a significant impact on the regions GVA over the next three to five years whilst the infrastructure development is accelerated.
- 2.2 For example, the GVA of the West Midlands in 2006 was £89bn. Therefore a 2% cost increase of waste could have a negative impact of £1.8bn each year.
- 2.3 Providing support to business on the efficient management of resources and how to manage the costs of waste management is therefore an important element of the economic development agenda.

- 2.4 PPS10 provides that Regional Planning Bodies should identify the quantities and types of waste to be managed in their Region, together with broad locations for the facilities to do this. The regional strategy for waste management should identify the regional intervention that is necessary. Examples of issues that require a regional approach are the overall apportionment of waste to be planned for by each waste planning authority area and the delivery of facilities of regional and sub-regional significance such as hazardous waste facilities.
- 2.5 The European Waste Framework Directive provides that each Member State should identify sites for waste disposal. This requirement is delivered through Regional spatial strategies which form part of the waste development framework for each waste planning authority area.
- 2.6 One of the RTAB's key functions is to collect and manage the data that is needed to understand the quantities and types of waste to be managed within each region. The gathering of this data is a complex process and the data requires significant interpretation to generate policies that are useful for the production of Regional Spatial Strategies and local waste development documents. The acquisition of better data on the waste generated by businesses is a high priority and the RTABs have developed a strategy to address this together with the Environment Agency and Defra.
- 2.7 Advising the Regional Planning Bodies on these issues is a function that is currently carried out by the RTABs in each Region. The RTABs are made up of representatives of the Waste Planning Authorities, industry, community sector, government and RDAs.
- 2.8 Local government is delivering a range of important functions in planning for waste management, collecting and disposing of municipal waste and delivering facilities and is increasingly involved in supporting local businesses through offering recycling services, waste reduction support and planning for private sector waste disposal, recycling and reprocessing facilities. These functions should continue to be delivered at the local scale unless there is a need for additional guidance at the regional level.
- 2.9 Without strategic support for dealing with applications, local planning authorities will find it difficult to plan positively for the management of waste and delays could result in uncontrolled costs for UK plc.

### **3.0 Proposal**

- 3.1 The RTABs are therefore proposing that work be undertaken within each region between members of the RTABs and RDAs to develop the materials and waste element of each Single Regional Strategy
- 3.2 The waste section of the Single Regional Strategy should contain the following elements:
  - The nature and quantity of the waste arising in each region and the quantities and types of waste to be managed in the region and at sub-regional level
  - Estimates of recovery, treatment and landfill capacity and forecasted shortfalls.
  - The impact on business of the costs of managing their waste, including guidance on how business can respond to the changing legislative framework and improve competitiveness.

- A strategy for efficient resource management for both private and public sectors including policies to enable genuine regional intervention when required
- A regional response to the requirements of Waste Strategy 2007
- An analysis of inter-regional issues and cross-boundary movements of waste

**John Wood**  
**Director of Environment**  
**Hertfordshire County Council**  
**Chair of National Group of RTABs**  
**July 2008**