

## **JOINT SCRUTINY PANEL OF SOMERSET WASTE BOARD**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Joint Scrutiny Panel of the Somerset Waste Board held at Broughton House, Blackbrook Park Avenue on Thursday 13 February 2019 at 2.00pm

**Present:** Cllr Aldridge, Cllr P Bradshaw, Cllr M Lewis, Cllr D Loveridge, Cllr Mansell, Cllr T Munt (Substitute for Cllr Leyshon) and Cllr Parbrook

**Other Members Present:** None

**Apologies for Absence:** Cllr L Leyshon and Cllr L Perry

### **36 Election of Chairman**

In the absence of Cllr Lewis, and on the motion of Cllr Aldridge, seconded by Cllr Loveridge, Cllr Parbrook was elected Chairman for the meeting.

(Cllr Parbrook in the Chair)

### **37 Declarations of Interest - Agenda Item 2**

Cllr Loveridge declared a pecuniary interest as a Director of Homes in Sedgemoor.

### **38 Minutes from the Previous Meeting held on 6 December 2018 - Agenda Item 3**

#### **(a) Confirmation**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2018 were accepted as being accurate by the Panel and signed by the Chair.

#### **(b) Matters Arising**

Further to Minute 31 (SWP Business Plan 2019 - 24), it was agreed that:

- where collectively supported views are expressed by Panel Members on any matter before the Panel, these should be conveyed to the Somerset Waste Board
- a copy of the paper on the structural review of the Somerset Waste Partnership would be circulated to the Panel.

### **39 Public Question Time - Agenda Item 4**

There were no public questions.

The Panel considered the report of the Manager Director and the Finance Officer, Somerset Waste Partnership on the financial performance of the Somerset Waste Board against its approved annual budget for the first nine months of the current financial year (2018/19) and how this had impacted on the forward budget for 2019/20.

The Somerset Waste Board, at its meeting on Friday 15 February 2019, would be recommended to approve: adding any remaining vehicle lease budgets to the Recycle More earmarked reserve towards the costs of delivering the project as set out in Paragraph 2.2 of the report; the waste disposal savings set out in Paragraph 3.2 of the report; the final annual budget for 2019/20 totalling £46,243,485 set out in Appendix 1 to the report; and the Managing Director negotiating any final requirements with relevant contractors.

The officers undertook to give a written response to a question about the possible implications for the calculation of the sparsity and other elements of budgetary contributions of the amalgamation of Taunton Deane and West Somerset to form the new Somerset West and Taunton Council. In response to another question, the Managing Director confirmed the basis on which the further savings of £225,000 requested from the Waste Board by the County Council and shown in Paragraph 3.2 of the report had been identified.

## 41

The Panel considered the report of the Managing Director on progress towards procuring a new collection contract with the aim of delivering significant savings to all partners as well as the environmental benefits of Recycle More, together with a supporting Powerpoint presentation,

The report and presentation - which were due to be considered by the Somerset Waste Board on 15 February 2019 - outlined progress on the dialogue with bidders and the drafting of contractual documents, pointing out that additional work on the works contract element and further dialogue with bidders was needed before final tender documents could be issued. In the circumstances:

- it would no longer be possible to have completed the dialogue process and the evaluation and moderation of bids ahead of the Somerset Waste Board meeting originally planned for 15 March 2019
- it was now proposed to reschedule the Board meeting to 29 March 2019 when it was expected that the Board would be in a position to appoint a preferred bidder, though the public announcement of the successful bidder would be delayed until after the District Council Elections in May 2019
- in the event of further delays or unforeseen circumstances, meaning that the Board would not be in a position to appoint a preferred contractor on 29 March 2019, it was proposed that there should be a fall-back option of updating the Board on the evaluation process and seeking delegated authority for the selection of a preferred bidder, to avoid further unacceptable delay in the procurement process.

The presentation also covered: affordability and the robust financial model for the contract evaluation which considered all elements (capital and revenue, current service, and Recycle More); the full procurement timetable, from the deadline for the submission of tenders to complete roll-out of Recycle More; and key issues for successful service commencement relating to depots and vehicles.

During discussion, the Managing Director responded to queries and comments from Members on matters including the involvement of the new Somerset West and Taunton Council and its Shadow Authority in the procurement process.

The Board noted the position.

(Cllr Lewis in the Chair)

## **42 Resources and Waste Strategy Update - Agenda item 6**

The Panel considered the report of the Managing Director on the Government's Resources and Waste Strategy which - in line with its 25 Year Environment Plan - sought to preserve resources by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy (reuse, remanufacture, repair, recycle), together with a supporting Powerpoint presentation.

The report and presentation - which were due to be considered by the Somerset Waste Board on 15 February 2019 - covered the following key proposals:

- extended producer responsibility, under which producers would pay the full cost of recycling and disposing of their packaging
- reducing reliance on single-use plastics and increasing the carrier bag charge
- deposit return scheme for beverage containers
- separate food waste collections and possibly free garden collections for all
- consistency in recycling and improving quality
- developing reuse
- reviewing charging arrangements at recycling centres
- reviewing recycling credits
- aligning national planning policy with the waste strategy
- moving away from weight-based targets with a change in focus from waste to resources
- focus on waste crime and development of a national fly-tipping toolkit
- potential for a tax on energy from waste if other measures are not successful

and the implications for the Somerset Waste Partnership and its partners, and the next steps.

Overall SWP was well placed to deal with many areas of the Strategy, which was broadly welcomed, as it already offered food waste collections to a majority of households and a high quality kerbside sort recycling collection. The Government had recognised SWP's commitment to quality. However, there were major potential financial and other implications arising from key policies such as extended producer responsibility, the deposit return scheme and the possible introduction of free garden waste collections and revised charging arrangements at recycling centres. The overall impact for Somerset and the SWP was hard to assess pending further, expected consultations and the finalisation of the Strategy which was unlikely to be introduced until 2023.

The SWP would respond to the consultation on the Strategy working with others, and seeking to influence key proposals.

During discussion, the Managing Director responded to queries and comments from Members on matters including: the financial and other impacts of free garden waste collections; the high level of carbon emissions from waste incineration, better recovery/use of the heat generated from energy to waste schemes, and incentives; the manageability of the changes flowing from the Resources and Waste Strategy, taking into account the current waste and recycling collection contract procurement exercise; encouraging the organisers of large public events eg. music festivals to use recyclable food and drink containers and the return by consumers to manufacturers of food packaging eg. crisp packets.

**43 Date of Next Meeting**

Noted as Wednesday 27 March 2019 (2.00pm).

**44 Any Other Urgent Items of Business - Agenda item 9**

Joint Panel members commended the hard work undertaken by SWP staff during the recent severe weather.

(The meeting ended at 15.57pm)

**CHAIRMAN**