

Somerset Waste Board meeting
29 September 2017
Report for decision

Somerset Waste Partnership – Outline Business Plan 2018 - 2023

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<p>Forward Plan Reference:</p>	<p>SWB/17/06/02</p>
<p>Summary:</p>	<p>The Somerset Waste Partnership Draft Business Plan for the period 2018 to 2023 will be brought to the November 3rd meeting of the Somerset Waste Board for approval.</p> <p>The suggested revised Business Plan approval timetable is intended to align with consultation around changes to the Recycle More programme, which will allow partner authority council members to deal with waste issues in hand more efficiently.</p>
<p>Recommendations:</p>	<p>(i) Comments on and approves the broad approach and proposed priority areas for inclusion in the Business Plan 2018-23 as set out in Sections 2 and 3 of the report.</p> <p>(ii) Discuss and provide further ideas for any particular service changes, projects or programmes for potential inclusion in the Draft Plan to be approved for consultation at the November 2017 meeting.</p> <p>(iii) Approves the revised timetable for Business Plan approval for this year: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 3rd 2017- Draft Plan to be submitted for Board approval; • November/December - Partner authority consultation and approval • December 15th 2017 - final Board approval.
<p>Reasons for recommendations:</p>	<p>The Board is required to approve a draft business plan annually for consultation with, and approval by, the partners. Producing an outline at this stage helps the Board to identify key areas for inclusion and to direct officers to prepare more information on any area it highlights. This also gives the Board an opportunity to identify any potential service changes so that these can be</p>

	further assessed at an informal, non-decision making workshop and set out for approval in the Draft Plan.
Links to Priorities and Impact on Annual Business Plan:	The Constitution requires the Board to produce a business plan on an annual basis.
Financial, Legal and HR Implications:	The financial framework and default budget position is outlined in the following report on the agenda. The detailed financial implications of any new areas of work, or any changes to existing services, as requested by the Board, will be provided when the Board is recommended to approve the draft plan in December.
Equalities Implications:	The Board is required to have “due regard” to our equalities duties when taking any formal decision. Equalities implications will be considered and reported for any service changes or relevant projects proposed by the Board.
Risk Assessment:	<p>There is a risk that by adjusting the Business Plan approval timeframe the associated financial information may not be complete and finalised, though we understand the margin of error will be minor.</p> <p>Risk assessments will be undertaken for any service changes or new programmes as they are developed and the SWP risk register will be updated accordingly as part of the business planning process.</p>

1. Background

- 1.1. The Board is required to approve a draft business plan annually. The plan is rolling five year plan and therefore the 2018-23 version will include some items already highlighted within the current plan, updated as necessary.
- 1.2. The Draft Plan will be submitted to the Board in November along with the Draft Budget 2018-19.
- 1.3. Producing an outline at this stage, along with outlining the default budget position, helps the Board to identify potential service changes or programmes for inclusion and to direct officers to further develop ideas and/or prepare more information on any area it highlights.

2. Proposed Approach

2.1. The matters of concern outlined in the Outline Business Plan report in September 2016 still apply:

- (i) The potential for waste volumes to fluctuate resulting in difficulty in predicting volume and controlling costs.
- (ii) The continuing apparent difficulties, in Somerset and elsewhere in the UK, in improving recycling rates beyond a level which was locally reached several years ago.
- (iii) Lack of respite on cumulative year on year financial pressures facing the partner authorities.
- (iv) Stability of future services as we approach changes in contractual arrangements and changes in legislation.

2.2. Responses to these issues have included the following developments in 2017.

- (i) Agreement and strategy to move away from landfill as disposal route for residual waste by 2020
- (ii) Development of the Recycle More service model, including proposals for enhanced recycling and three weekly residual waste collections

2.3. The 2018 – 2023 Business plan will focus resource on: -

- (i) Monitoring implementation of the infrastructure required to deliver the new residual waste treatment.
- (ii) Developing, refining and planning proposals to deliver Recycle More
- (iii) Bolster actions and ambitions relating to waste minimisation and prevention activities. This will place greater emphasis on developing a programme that recognises the potential contribution of all SWP staff and stakeholders and that works to the full five year horizon of the Business Plan. SWP proposes to include, in 2018 – 2019, a trial reintroduction of a schools education service based on providing 100 half day activity sessions through the year (e.g. one assembly plus activities with two classes per half day) fully funded in the first year through the Viridor Community Sector Integration Plan.

2.4. Legislative Environment: -

- (i) SWP will need to consider the impact of changes to the Local Government Act 2003 which have removed our ability to charge for entry at Crewkerne and Dulverton Community Recycling Sites beyond 2020. The changes to the legislation have also removed the option to charge for entry at other recycling centres through designating them as discretionary.
- (ii) The DCLG, as noted in the 2017-2022 Business Plan, have indicated their intention to review Local Authority powers to charge for disposal of certain items identified by SWP as non-household waste, such as rubble, asbestos and plasterboard. SWP will continue to monitor progress and consider options to respond.

2.5. SWP will review the Viridor Core Services contract and associated services.

- 2.6.** The approval timetable will change on a one off basis, with Draft Business Plan presented to the November Board meeting for approval for consultation, followed by partner authority consultation and final approval of the plan at the December Board meeting. This is to align with consideration of changes to the Recycle More roll out programme. (See Appendix A - Business Plan Approval Timetable).

The advanced timetable for the approval of the Business Plan will take it slightly out of alignment with the Annual Budget setting process. A draft Annual Budget for the forthcoming year is brought to the December meeting. Whilst this is not finalised at this stage, historically these figures have been very close to the final budget in February, particularly for collection partners, with only minor variations for final customer numbers. It is therefore considered a very low risk to approve the Business Plan ahead of the final Annual Budget for 2018/2019, particularly as the key actions in the Business Plan such as Recycle More will have no direct budgetary impact on 2018/2019.

3. Commentary on Key Areas

3.1. Recycle More

See separate update

3.2. Energy from Waste

SWP will monitor implementation of the contracted solution by Viridor

3.3. Addressing the Impact of Waste

SWP will seek opportunities to reduce and prevent waste and drive waste up the waste hierarchy.

4. Consultation Undertaken

- 4.1.** See separate Recycle More update

5. Background papers

- 5.1.** SWB Business Plan 2017 - 22

Appendix A – Business Plan Approval Timetable

29 September 2017	Board agree Outline Business Plan
3 November 2017	Board approves Draft Business Plan for consultation
Partner Authority Consultation	The following meetings have been proposed: - <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 14 November - TDBC Scrutiny• 15 November - SCC Cabinet• 22 November - SDC Executive• 23 November - WSC Scrutiny• 29 November - TDBC Cabinet• 30 November - WSC Cabinet• 4 December - Mendip Cabinet• 7 December - SSDC Executive• 13 December - SDC Full Council
15 December 2017	Board approves Business Plan Board notes Draft Budget 2018/19
23 February 2018	Board approves Budget 2018/19