

SOMERSET WASTE BOARD

Minutes of the Meeting of the Somerset Waste Board held in the Luttrell Room, County Hall, Taunton, on Friday 23 February 2018 at 10.00am.

PRESENT

Cllr C Aparicio Paul	
Cllr P Berry	Cllr J Parham (sub for Cllr Taylor)
Cllr M Dewdney	Cllr N Woolcombe-Adams
Cllr D Hall	Cllr D Yeomans (Chair)
Cllr A Gilling (sub for Cllr Hill)	

Other Members Present: Cllr J Dyke

Apologies for Absence: Cllr D Hill, Cllr J Roundell-Greene, Cllr B Maitland-Walker, Cllr G Slocombe, Cllr N Taylor and Cllr G Wren

Declarations of Interest – agenda item 2

Members of the Waste Board declared the following personal interests:

Cllr C Aparicio-Paul	Member of South Somerset District Council
Cllr D Yeomans	Member of Curry Rivel Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 15th December 2017 – agenda item 3

The Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 15th December 2017 were taken as read and following endorsement by the Board they were signed as correct by the Chair.

Public Question Time – agenda item 4

There were no public questions.

469 Performance Monitoring Report Q3 April – December 2017 – agenda item 5

The Chairman invited David Oaten to introduce the report:

The report summarised the key performance indicators for the period from April 2017 to December 2017 compared to the same period in the last two years. Key headlines were:

- Less waste (both residual and recycling) has been produced which has resulted in a slightly higher recycling performance.
- A continued trend of lower tonnages through the recycling sites, particularly for residual waste.
- The results of the in depth performance review of missed collections at Appendix C1.

Mr Oaten highlighted the following points:

- Not much change from the Quarter 2 report
- Garden waste has increased to 6kg per household

Mr Green, Somerset Waste Partnership Managing Director and Fran Drew from Kier, reported on the Missed Collections: Deep Dive and highlighted the following points with the aid of a powerpoint presentation:

- Overall positive statistics regarding missed collections with 99.1% collected.
- The main focus will be on Assisted Collections and Garden Waste.
- Customers pay for garden waste so their expectations are higher.
- Kier have agreed actions today and going forward and are undertaking a recruitment drive.

During discussion the following points were raised:

- if it was envisaged that there would be a difficulty recruiting drivers and collection staff? It was clarified that some of the challenges relate to uncertainty with the forthcoming Brexit
- whether it was clear for the public to understand where to report missed collections and if more communications are required.
- That further work required on internal reporting systems.

The Board welcomed the report and the proposals. The Chairman moved the recommendations.

The Board **RESOLVED** to note the performance results within Appendices A and B, and the findings of the missed collections deep dive (Appendix C).

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

As set out in the officer report.

REASON FOR DECISION:

As set out in the officer report.

470 **Financial Performance Update 2017/2018 and Final Budget 2018/2019-**
agenda item 6

The Chairman invited Martin Gerrish, Finance Officer to introduce the report. The report set out the financial performance against the approved Annual Budget for the first 9 months of the current financial year from April to the end December (with January updates where available) and how this has impacted on the forward budget for 2018/19.

The Board were asked to approve the Annual Budget for 2018/19 in accordance with its Constitution and Inter Authority Agreement.(Both documents are available on the SCC internet and from the author)

The Board was asked to approve an improved approach to the use of our internal

audit support from 2018/2019.

Mr Gerrish began by saying that the collection position is better this year – this is due to garden waste going up dramatically, therefore making us financially better off. Collection containers - there was a concern with both Mendip and South Somerset but this has been better than expected. So although the figures are the same the reasons behind it have seen an overall improvement. The only disappointing area is recycling credits – we are 2.5% below the budget.

Cllr Slocombe (who was absent from the meeting) asked the following questions in relation to the disposal budget.

Cllr Slocombe noted the large underspend on the collect disposal side – 860 thousand overall and noted that this seems to consistently happen every year, she asked whether we are aiming the estimate too high and should we have a lower estimate going forward?

Cllr Slocombe also asked whether there is any potential for district partners to be getting more benefit through the recycling credit agreement?

Mr Gerrish answered by saying that in the last 5 years there had been an underspend in the disposal side in 4 of the last 5 years – where this seems like a lot of money its only 3% so we have always spent 96.5% of our budget. The reasoning why there has been an underspend on disposal are very positive – it has been interventions that we have done – most recently with permits this has given us a really positive financial effect, going back to previous years we got a budget from WRAP which enabled us to put food stickers on the food waste which in turn meant that the change from landfill to food disposal meant we were £30/£40 pounds per tonne better off. We have had good years but that's because we have done something about it.

In terms of recycling credits districts automatically get an 3% increase on price. There is an increase year on year to the amount that we transfer to districts. I have answered the questions on recycling credits and will send the full answers to the questions to her in writing.

There has been more household growth than predicted by district partners. The cost to every person in Somerset is £3.40 per household per week to the partnership – this excluded garden waste.

Page 43 of the report talks about internal audit – changes that have been made are positive around governance and overall there is a better information flow between Kier, Viridor and Somerset Waste Partnership.

During discussion the following points were raised:

- Cllr Munt asked why the tax line on page 38 was not on all 3 graphs.
- Mr Gerrish responded by saying that this is because we only pay landfill tax on disposal costs.
- Cllr Hall asked if there would be any fluff update.
- Mr Gerrish replied by saying that this is progressing but no update at the moment.

The Chairman moved the recommendations.

The Somerset Waste Board **RESOLVED** to:

1. note the summary financial performance to date as contained in this report, and how this will impact on the budgetary requirements for 2018/2019.
2. approve the attached Final Annual Budget for 2018/19 (totalling £45,145,256) as set out in Appendix 1.
3. approve that the Managing Director negotiates any final requirements with the relevant contractors in accordance with this Annual Budget Report.
4. approve the proposed approach to using our internal audit support as set out in Appendix 2.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.

REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report and as debated at the meeting.

471 **Risk Update** - agenda item 7

The Chairman invited Mark Blacker, Business and Governance Manager to introduce the report.

The report updated the Board on the changes to Somerset Waste Partnership's risk profile.

Mr Green began by addressing that the only risk which was currently rated red was risk 21 – this related to the risk for depot network.

The following points were raised during discussion:

- that there is a shortage of drivers and that this had been an issue for several years and what work was being done for a training programme for young people to mitigate this risk.
- that the county council and district councils have signed up to eliminating single use plastics and the partnership need to help drive that.
- Clarification on item 2.6 was provided as SWP is looking at replacing a system.
- the risks of not sufficiently diverting food waste away from landfill into recycling as there is still 40% of food waste in the waste bin.
- SWP intention that education programmes targeting schools with the intention that the children will educate the whole family in the importance of food waste recycling.

The Chairman moved the recommendations.

The Somerset Waste Board noted the update and that the Strategic Management Group continues to work closely to ensure a joined-up approach across the public sector in Somerset.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.

REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report and as debated at the meeting.

472 **Plastics Update** – agenda item 8

The Chairman invited Mickey Green, Managing Director, Somerset Waste Partnership to introduce the report.

The report addressed the issue of plastic waste reaching the natural environment and that this is of significant public concern, stimulated by the recent coverage of the ocean pollution on the BBC's Blue Planet tv series.

The report provided an update on steps being taken by Somerset Waste Partnership to inform, participate in and respond to the public debate, and to support joined up leadership across the public sector in Somerset.

During discussion it was highlighted that the biggest issue is black plastic – this cannot be very easily disposed of – the most effective way is turning it back to oil but this is not cost effective.

The Chairman moved the recommendations.

The Board **RESOLVED** to :

The Somerset Waste Board noted the update and that the Strategic Management Group continues to work closely to ensure a joined-up approach across the public sector in Somerset.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.

REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report and as debated at the meeting.

473 **Recycle More and Collection Contract Procurement: Update** – agenda item 9

The Chairman invited Bruce Carpenter, Somerset Waste Board to introduce the report.

The report summarised the progress in procuring a new collection contractor (and hence delivery of Recycle More) since the Somerset Waste Board agreed to end its kerbside waste and recycling collections contract with Kier 18 months early (now ending in March 2020).

Mr Carpenter highlighted the background to the proposals and the previous reports and briefings to the Board. The procurement timetable is at the document preparation stage at the moment and the Contract Notice is the next step and then the pre-qualification.

The following points were raised during discussion:

- if it is possible for potential partners to offer alternative approaches to deliver the Recycle More outcomes – therefore offering more flexibility. It

was confirmed that bidders have the opportunity to incorporate innovation but still need to deliver the key outcomes.

- The potential risk sharing between the partnership and the contractors
- The evaluation method.

The Board noted the progress made in developing the procurement strategy for a new collection contract – informed by soft market engagement and input from our commercial and technical, legal and procurement advisors.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report.

REASONS FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report and as debated at the meeting.

475 Somerset Waste Board Forward Plan – agenda item 10

The Board were updated by the Governance Manager on the latest position of the forward plan and that there was no scheduled business for the next meeting. It was agreed by that the next meeting due to be held on 23rd March 2018 should be cancelled. The next Board meeting would be held on 29th June 2018.

476 Information Sheet Issues Since the Last Meeting – agenda item 12

There were none.

477 Any Other Business of Urgency – agenda item 13

There was no items raised.

(The meeting ended at 11.45am)

**COUNCILLOR DEREK YEOMANS
CHAIR OF THE SOMERSET WASTE BOARD**