

SOMERSET WASTE BOARD

Minutes of the Meeting of the Somerset Waste Board held in the Luttrell Room, County Hall, Taunton, on Friday 28 September 2018 at 10.00am.

PRESENT

Cllr P Berry	Cllr J Roundell-Greene
Cllr D Hall	Cllr G Slocombe
Cllr B Maitland-Walker	Cllr N Woolcombe-Adams (Vice Chair)
Cllr H Prior-Sankey	Cllr D Yeomans (Chair)
Cllr M Pullin	

Other Members Present: Cllrs M Keating and T Munt

Apologies for Absence: Cllrs D Hill, M Dewdney, N Taylor

492 **Declarations of Interest** – agenda item 2

Members of the Waste Board declared the following personal interests:

Cllr H Prior-Sankey	Somerset County Council
Cllr D Yeomans	Member of Curry Rivel Parish Council
Cllr M Pullin	Member of Mendip District Council

493 **Minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2018** – agenda item 3

The Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 29 June 2018 were taken as read and following endorsement by the Board they were signed as correct by the Chair.

494 **Public Question Time** – agenda item 4

There were no public questions.

495 **Financial Performance Update 2018/2019 and Development of the Annual Budget 2019/2020** – agenda item 5

The Chair invited the Managing Director Mickey Green to introduce the report which set out the financial performance against the approved Annual Budget for the first 3 months of the current financial year (April to the end of June), and a forecast outturn position. This was also the formal commencement of the budget setting process leading to the Annual Budget for 2019/20 and included a recommendation regarding the changes to the cost sharing agreement for the new council which replaces Taunton Deane and West Somerset from April 2019 onwards.

There was also a request from the County Council for in-year savings and proposals from the Managing Director and the Finance Officer as to how these could be met.

There were further points and discussion regarding waste disposal and it was

noted there was a huge drop in March due to the heavy snow and that the hot dry weather in July and August had led to a low green waste tonnage. The indicative budget requirements for 2019/20 for collection were highlighted showing an equitable cost sharing agreement for this period onwards.

The Chair moved the recommendations.

Somerset Waste Board **RESOLVED** to:

- i. Note the summary financial performance for 2018/2019 year to date and the potential outturn position for each partner authority.
- ii. Consider the draft budget for 2019/2020 and the key factors that will influence the budget setting process.
- iii. Approve the changes to formulae in the Cost Sharing Agreement that relate to the new Council to replace Taunton Deane and West Somerset from April 2019 onwards as set out in Appendix 1.
- iv. Approve the approach set out in section 3 below in order to deliver the in-year savings requested from the County Council, and delegates to the Managing Director (in consultation with the Chair) the authority to conclude the necessary actions to deliver these savings, other than the potential contract extension with Viridor, which will be subject to a Board decision on 2 November.

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

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.

496 **Performance Report - April 2018 to June 2018** - agenda item 6

Members were given a summary of the key performance indicators for the period from April 2018 to June 2018 and compared these to the same period in 2017. The Board was also updated on the current kerbside collection service performance issues and the actions being taken to address these issues. A new format for the performance report was shown at Appendix C.

Headline figures to note for this period included a 4% rise in the total reused, recycled and composted, and also in garden waste shown in the table at 2.1. An increase in non-household waste being sent to landfill and being reused, recycled and composted was also highlighted and it was felt this indicated the continued effectiveness of the permit scheme and endorsed the efforts of Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) officers operating in the towns and villages to drive commercial waste out of the domestic stream.

Other points discussed included:

- A general increase in the amount of material being sent for recycling, including cans, cardboard, green, glass, plastic and wood
- The continuing challenges facing the collection service in dealing with an aging fleet of vehicles
- Staff shortages, particularly drivers, especially at the Taunton depot
- Ongoing work with Kier to address performance in specific areas such as assisted collections, repeat missed collections, and garden waste

collections.

- Initiatives to address this were starting to have effect and more drivers were being recruited
- Although the overall variation in the number of incidents of fly tipping were insignificant, there were some anomalies including a significant rise in the Taunton Deane area. This was being investigated further.
- Informing local members about missed collections and how they were being dealt with.
- Continual thefts at depots of fuel and batteries and also damaged caused to the fleet in Bridgwater which had led to missed collections
- Other issues which had caused missed collections included extremely hot weather and a resulting decline in productivity as well as accidents on the M5.
- Performance penalties imposed on the contractor were having an effect and had lead to a 50 per cent decrease in missed collections
- Problems of roadworks particularly in Sedgemoor which made it difficult for collections
- Clarity was sought about what was classed as fly tipping and what was household waste on sites where people had been living

The Chair moved the recommendation.

The Somerset Waste Board **RESOLVED** to note the tonnage and performance results within appendices A & B, and welcomed the draft future performance report format in appendix C.

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

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.

497 **Recycle More Project update** - agenda item 7

Members were updated on the progress of the procurement of a new waste and recycling collection contractor since the last report in June. Since then there had been a selection of potential suppliers, and a pre-invitation to submit detailed solutions, covering three periods of dialogue with the selected companies. This had been a positive process, and all were very supportive of the Somerset Waste Partnership's aims and were confident of contact capability.

A new approach to the contract provisions relating to changes in law had been introduced. Acquiring a new authority depot site remained work in progress but it had not been possible to make progress at the pace originally hoped. There was ongoing work to explore potential site options. It became clear through the dialogue sessions that it was most likely to be advantageous for SWP to fund capital assets by borrowing through the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) in exchange for contract discounts. The contract was therefore amended to extend the range of assets that can be funded through PWLB to include plant and machinery (including vehicles).

Further discussion included:

- Risk share mechanisms were a key focus

- It was difficult to predict material volumes
- The contract award announcement was due in March next year
- Submissions were due in early October and there would be a presentation to the Board in November
- If submissions varied significantly from original proposals, it may also be necessary to obtain partner approval for the changes
- It was expected there would be several strong bids for the contract but there was contingency plan in place should it be required.

The Chair moved the recommendation.

Somerset Waste Board **RESOLVED** to note the progress made in procuring a new collection contract.

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.

498 **Proposed fees and charges** – agenda item 8

The Chair invited Contract Manager Colin Mercer to introduce this report which sought member approval for fees and charges applied to waste services for which a charge may be made, for the financial year 2019/2020.

It was recommended the charge for a replacement bin and of garden and bulky waste collections was increased by 3.5% rounded to the nearest 10p to mitigate against inflationary pressures and to continue to cover the contractual cost of providing the service.

Local authorities currently charging their residents to use household waste recycling centres have until 1 April 2020 to make alternative arrangements for such sites. It was recommended that the entry charge for the two such sites in Somerset (Dulverton and Crewkerne Community Recycling Sites) remained at £2 until such time as the board makes a decision on the potential contract extension with Viridor and hence any changes to recycling Sites.

It was also recommended that charges for some materials received at the Recycling Centres for gas bottles, hardcore and tyres and for asbestos and plasterboard continue to be raised in line with inflation and rounded to the nearest 10p.

Further points raised included:

- The difference between the fees and charges of garden waste collections and members were reminded that South Somerset District Council had offered a 2-year option to its residents
- Promotion to residents of using the green waste bin
- Consideration of whether the charges should be rounded up to the nearest pound.

The Chairman moved the recommendation.

The Board **RESOLVED** to agree to recommend the proposed charges as set out in Table 1 for introduction in April 2019.

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

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.

Note – Table 1 is shown in the amended report in the supplementary agenda

499 **Outline Business Plan 2019-24** – agenda item 9

The Chair invited the Somerset Waste Partnership Managing Director Mickey Green to introduce the report. He explained that the Somerset Waste Partnership Draft Business Plan for the period 2019 to 2024 would be coming to a number of meetings, starting in September for a discussion on priority areas and approach.

A draft business plan was due to be presented by the Board on 2 November 2018, partner consultation in November and December and then approval from the Board on 14 December 2018. The approval timetable had been amended to align better with the new collection contract procurement timetable.

A number of issues outlined in the 2018 -2023 plan still applied but had moved on such as: the impact of the withdrawal from the EU, the potential for legislative change, community recycling centre changes, financial pressure and demographic changes.

Key areas in the plan included:

- Moving away from landfill as the disposal route for residual waste by 2020
- Procuring a new collection contractor by 2020 and rolling out the Recycle More service model from 2020
- Reviewing the core services contract with Viridor and consideration of a possible extension to the contract
- Restructuring SWP so that it had the right level of resources to realise its ambitions
- Developing a long-term strategy in line with the expected Central Government Resources and Waste Strategy
- Focussing on behavioural change (in particular, schools, plastic, food)
- Putting in place the technology that will underpin improved customer service
- Refreshing the approach to performance reporting so that it better reflects SWP's vision and demonstrates progress against the business plan.

Members were supportive of the proposals. The Chair moved the recommendations.

Somerset Waste Board **RESOLVED** to:

i. Approve the broad approach and proposed priority areas for inclusion in the Business Plan 2019-24 as set out in Sections 2 and 3 of the report.

ii. Approve the revised timetable for Business Plan approval for this year:

- November 2nd 2018 - Draft Plan to be submitted for Board approval;
- November/December - Partner authority consultation and approval
- December 14th 2018 - final Board approval

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report.

500 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.

501 Information Sheet Issues Since the Last Meeting – agenda item 11

There were none.

502 Any Other Business of Urgency – agenda item 12

There were no items raised.

(The meeting ended at 11.07pm)

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