

Somerset Waste Board
28 June 2019
Report for decision

Constitutional matters, Waste Board membership and meeting dates 2019/20

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<p>Forward Plan Reference:</p>	<p>SWB/18/12/05</p>
<p>Summary:</p>	<p>The report sets out proposed revisions to the Waste Board's constitution and a reduced Waste Board membership of 10 elected members (2 from each partner authority) for 2019/20, as a result of the amalgamation of the former Taunton Deane Borough Council and West Somerset Council to create the new Somerset West and Taunton local authority as of 1 April 2019.</p> <p>In addition, changes to board membership have occurred following the recent district council elections in May 2019. The revised membership from May 2019 until June 2020 from the four district councils and county council is set out in this report. The report also sets out the Board's meeting dates for 2019/20.</p>
<p>Recommendations:</p>	<p>That the Somerset Waste Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agrees the amended Constitution (set out in Appendix A) together with the establishment of the new Somerset Waste Board comprising the four district councils and Somerset County Council. 2. Notes that the Inter-Authority Agreement will be amended to reflect the revised partner membership of the Somerset Waste Partnership. 3. Notes the revised Board's membership for 2019/20 and Joint Scrutiny Panel of Somerset Waste Board set out in Section 3 and the need for induction training. 4. Agrees the Board meeting dates for 2019 and 2020 set out in section 3. 5. Notes the proposed visits and workshops set out in section 4.

1. Background

- 1.1. Since 1992 the Somerset Waste Partnership has improved working arrangements in waste management across the County. In 2007, the partner authorities (comprising Somerset County Council, Mendip district council, Sedgemoor district council, South Somerset district council, Taunton Deane borough council and West Somerset council) agreed to establish the Somerset Waste Board as a Joint Committee with an Administering Authority. The Partner Authorities delegated responsibilities for waste collection, waste recycling, and waste disposal to the Waste Board.
- 1.2. The legal powers to constitute a Joint Committee and discharge the Partner Authorities' statutory waste functions and responsibilities to it are in Sections 101 and 102 of the Local Government Act 1972, and the Local Authorities (Arrangement for the Discharge of Functions) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2001 made under Section 20 of the Local Government Act 2000.

A Joint Committee does not have a separate legal personality and as such is not able to hold contracts or employ staff. In this instance a well-established solution is that one of the authorities becomes the 'administering authority' for the purpose of holding contracts and employing staff.

- 1.3. The Board has a Constitution and there is also an Inter-Authority Agreement which sets out how the partners work together and how costs are shared amongst partners.
- 1.4. The Constitution sets out the membership of the Waste Board, its functions and voting arrangements. Following the amalgamation of the two former councils of West Somerset Council and Taunton Deane Borough Council to the new authority of Somerset West and Taunton Council the number of partner organisations has reduced from 6 to 5 and therefore the number of members has reduced from 12 members to 10. Each of the five Partner Authorities is represented on the Board by two Elected Members, one of whom is the Portfolio Holder for Waste and/or Environment functions. The 10 elected members on the Waste Board are supported by officers from Somerset Waste Partnership, the Administering Authority (Somerset County Council) and from partners.

Following the district council elections in May 2019, there have been significant changes to the membership of the Board with 80% of the Waste Board now comprising new members. There will be a requirement for officers to ensure these members benefit from an early induction and training regarding the Waste Partnership and Waste Board Business Plan priorities, services, meeting procedures and standing orders.

2. Revised Constitution for the Board

1.5. The revised Constitution to reflect the new partner authority membership of the Somerset Waste Partnership is set out in Appendix A. The key revisions are:

- A revised the membership of the Board to replace references to Taunton Deane and West Somerset councils with the new authority. The new authority is only entitled to two representatives.
- The Board membership reduces from 12 members to 10 members (still reflecting two members per partner authority)
- Revised quorum requirements from six members to five members, with the requirement for at least one member from each of three (currently four) different Partner Authorities
- The need to review the scrutiny arrangements and in particular the membership of the Joint Scrutiny Panel

2. Somerset Waste Board Membership 2019-20

2.1. The Board membership for 2019/20 therefore is as follows:

2.2. Mendip District Council

Adam Boyden
Tom Ronan

2.3. Sedgemoor District Council

Gill Slocombe
Janet Keen

2.4. Somerset County Council

David Hall
Clare Paul

2.5. South Somerset District Council

Tim Kerley
Sarah Dyke

2.6. Somerset West and Taunton Council

Alan Wedderkopp
David Mansell

2.7. The joint waste scrutiny membership for 2019/20 is as follows:

Mendip District Council

Garfield Kennedy
Michael Dunk

Sedgemoor District Council

Li Gibson
Ian Dyer

Somerset County Council

Liz Leyshon

Tessa Munt

South Somerset District Council

Brian Hamilton

Charlie Hull

Somerset West and Taunton Council

John Hassall

Anthony Trollope-Bellew

3. Board meeting dates for 2019 and 2020

3.1. The Board is requested to approve the following Board meeting dates for 2019 to 2020:

3.2.	2019	2020
	27 September (Council Chamber, South Somerset District Council)	14 February
	6 December (meeting room, Taunton Library)	26 June

3.3. All meetings to be held at 10am and will be held at either Taunton Library meeting room or other district council offices due to the ongoing refurbishment works at County Hall. Agendas and papers will be published five clear working days before the meeting. Details of any proposed key decisions for consideration by the Board are published in advance via the Waste Board's Forward Plan which can be viewed on the County Council's website.

4. Proposed visits and workshops

4.1. The Board is asked to note the proposed visits and workshops scheduled for 2019 to 2020:

Friday 19 July – Recycle More workshop, Broughton House

Monday 22 July – visit to Walpole Anaerobic Digester

Monday 9 September – visit to Avonmouth Resource Recovery Centre

Thursday 3 October – What happens to recycling and links to climate change workshop, Broughton House

5. Background papers

5.1 Waste Board Constitution (Appendix A)

5.2 Somerset Waste Partnership Inter Authority Agreement (Appendix B)

5.3 The Somerset West and Taunton (Local Government Changes) Order 2018