

SOMERSET WASTE BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Somerset Waste Board held in the Library Meeting Room, Taunton Library, Paul Street, Taunton TA1 3XZ, on Friday 15 February 2019 at 10.00 am

Present: Cllr Yeomans (Chair), Cllr Wool (Vice-Chair), Cllr N Taylor, Cllr H Prior-Sankey, Cllr M Dewdney, Cllr B Maitland-Walker, Cllr G Slocombe, Cllr Hill, Cllr D Hall and Cllr M Pullin

Other Members present:

Apologies for absence: Cllr P Berry and Cllr J Roundell Greene

522 Declarations of Interest - Agenda Item 2

There were no declarations made.

523 Minutes from the meeting held on 14 December 2018 - Agenda Item 3

The minutes of the Board meeting, held on 14 December 2018, were taken as read and following endorsement by those present were signed as a correct record by the Chair.

524 Public Question Time - Agenda Item 4

There were no public questions.

525 Resource and Waste Strategy - Agenda Item 5

The Chair invited Mr Green, Somerset Waste Partnership Managing Director, to introduce the report and he also spoke to a presentation that provided a detailed overview. It was noted that the Resources and Waste Strategy had been released last December and was the first major piece of guidance for the waste industry since 2013 it would form the basis of policy for the next few years.

The report explained that most of the proposed policies would be subject to various periods of consultation and it was envisaged that consultations on Extended Producer Responsibility, Deposit Return Schemes and Consistency in Recycling would begin around the Spring this year. In answer to a question it was stated that any changes were not likely to be brought in until 2023 and until policy had been finalised the overall impact for Somerset and the SWP was difficult to assess.

Members heard that England continued to trail both Wales and Scotland with regards to waste policy and current recycling rates. In England it was noted that the current recycling rate stood at 44.8%, compared to 62.7% for Wales and 45.6% for Scotland. It was noted that the SWP's recycling rate for 2017/18 had been 52.3% and was a good achievement being above the national average.

The Board was pleased to note that the SWP had been recognised in the Strategy (under 'Better waste collection and recycling') for its commitment to collecting quality materials for recycling through its kerbside collection service, how much it recycles in the UK (over 90%), and its innovation in bringing in separate food waste collections. It was noted the SWP was the only Local Authority case study in the whole of the Government's strategy, recognising our commitment to quality.

The Chair moved the recommendation.

The Board **RESOLVED** to note the contents of this information report, having discussed the implications of the proposed policies.

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

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report and discussed during the meeting.

526 **Financial Performance Update 2018/2019 and Final Budget 2019/2020 - Agenda Item 6**

The Chair invited Sarah Rose, Finance Officer to introduce the report which provided details of 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 2019/20.

There was a brief discussion and it was noted that Budget for 2018/2019 had originally been set at £45,145,256 and the Board had subsequently agreed several in-year budget reductions and a drawdown from earmarked reserves on the disposal budget. In addition, subsequently the Board had agreed the extension to the Viridor contract which it was envisaged would bring savings from 2018/2019 onwards. Updates were noted on waste collection and waste disposal figures and the Recycle More project funding and it was confirmed that following those decisions, the 2018/2019 the Waste Board budget now stood at £44,445,260.

The Board then considered the Annual budget for 2019/2020 and it was explained that all partners had reviewed and agreed their budget requirements. Attention turned to Appendix 1 of the report that detailed line by line budget requirements for each partner and the report provided an overview of how the final figures for collection and disposal had been reached.

The Chair moved the recommendations.

The Board **RESOLVED** unanimously to:

1. note the summary financial performance to date as contained in this report, and how this will impact on the budgetary requirements for 2019/2020;

2. agree to add any remaining vehicle lease budgets to the Recycle More earmarked reserve, towards the costs of delivering the project (paragraph 2.2 below);
3. approved the waste disposal savings set out in paragraph 3.2 of this report;
4. approved the attached Final Annual Budget for 2019/20 (totalling £46,243,485) as set out in Appendix 1;
5. approved that the Managing Director negotiate any final requirements with the relevant contractors in accordance with this Annual Budget Report.

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

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report and as discussed at the meeting.

527 Recycle More Project Update - Agenda Item 7

The Chair invited Bruce Carpenter, Head of Operations of the Somerset Waste Partnership to introduce the report. The Board also had the benefit of a presentation to supplement the report that provided an overview and update on the main developments that had occurred since the last meeting.

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.

Mr Carpenter highlighted the background to the proposals and the previous reports and briefings to the Board. The presentation included the procurement timetable and it was envisaged that the decision would be made at the end of March. The specification required that 'Recycle More' must be rolled out in 5 phases within 2 years of commencement, including a bedding in period of 3 months and allowing for a period of learning and reflection in March and April 2021.

In response to a question it was stated that additional legal support had assisted the works contract element and all other elements of the contract had been finalised. Dialogue with bidders had closed and final tender documents had been issued and the evaluation of the contract had a robust financial model which considered all elements (capital and revenue, current service and Recycle More).

The Board noted that preparatory work had also been undertaken to consider the type of vehicles for successful service commencement and this would require increased engagement with suppliers. Members also heard that a key area also required work required at the various Depots and an update was provided on all the partner sites and private sites in Somerset.

The Chair moved the recommendations.

The Board **RESOLVED** to note the progress made in procuring a new collection contract, the reason for the change in date of the March Board meeting, and the proposed contingency plan should there be any further delay to the procurement programme.

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

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report and as discussed at the meeting.

528 **Somerset Waste Board Forward Plan** - Agenda Item 8

The Committee considered and discussed its Forward Work Plan of future agenda items and reports for the March and June meetings in 2019.

529 **Information Sheets Issued Since the Last Meeting** - Agenda Item 9

It was noted that, since the Board meeting last December, there had been a single information sheet about the national resources and waste strategy.

530 **Any other urgent items of business** - Agenda Item 10

The Chair, after ascertaining there were no other items of business, thanked all those present for attending and closed the meeting at 11:10.

(The meeting ended at 11.10 am)

CHAIRMAN