

## JOINT SCRUTINY PANEL OF SOMERSET WASTE BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Joint Scrutiny Panel of the Somerset Waste Board held at Broughton House, Blackbrook Park Avenue on Wednesday 25 September 2019 at 2.00 pm

**Present:** Cllr A Trollope-Bellew, Cllr J Hassall, Cllr M Dunk, Cllr L Leyshon, Cllr B Hamilton, Cllr G Kennedy, Cllr I Dyer, Cllr L Gibson, Mickey Green.

**Other Members Present:** None

**Apologies for Absence:** Cllr L Hull

**51 Declarations of Interest - Agenda Item 2**

Cllr Lyshon and Cllr Trollope-Bellew declared having a local authority pension.

**52 Minutes from the Previous Meeting held on 27 June 2019 – Agenda Item 3**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2019 were accepted as being accurate by the Panel and signed by the Chair.

**53 Public Question Time - Agenda Item 4**

There were no public questions.

**55**

The Panel were informed that the focus now is on comms and getting the engagement need right. SWP, SUEZ and Kier are working together to achieve this. The new fleet will have new in-cab technology and associated systems aiding the crew. The large fleet of vehicles have been ordered but a No deal Brexit remains a risk due to them being built in different Countries within the EU and are working closely to ensure this does not become a problem. The consideration will be in 2024-25 to have a number of electric vehicles. For the moment supervisor vehicles will be electric as a trial. Mickey will follow up on the stop start technology for vehicle as mentioned by Cllr Munt. Tetrapacks and PPT are still being explored and at the moment as there is no economical way to collect them at the kerb side. Cllr Dunk asked how many vehicles will be replaced in 2024-25 with electric ones, the Panel were informed between 25-34 vehicles, as some of the vehicles cannot be replaced like pods etc for schools which are not suitable for general use.

SWP are spending £17.8 million on vehicles, and Cllr Dunk asked where the money is coming from. The Panel were informed that SWP can obtain loans cheaper and will lend the money to the contractor who will be responsible for maintenance, but the vehicles will be owned by local authority. The new vehicles are stainless steel and will last 10 years which is longer than the current ones. The will generate an Income yearly to the local authority.

Cllr Hassell asked the question why glass cannot be recycled locally rather than going to Sunderland? The Panel were informed that it is better economically the current and out ways the carbon foot print cost. Avonmouth will run power off Somerset plastics collected and elephant grass does not cost much to fuel a bio plant which is another consideration. There will be a phased roll out of Recycle More with Mendip going first in June 2020, due to an extra piece of land next to the Evercreech depo for expansion. The route the vehicle will take from Evercreech to Avonmouth has been considered and has been looked at by Highway. Dimmer is the transfer centre where the waste goes from Evercreech before going to Avonmouth. Cllr Hamilton mentioned to the Panel that this has been successful in Bristol but local people are saying why spend all this money. The Panel were informed that the information will be out there in the New Year.

The Recommendations going to the Board, the Panel are happy with.

**56 Performance Monitoring Report Q1 2019-20- Agenda item 7**

The report summarises the key performance indicators for the period from April 2019 to June 2019 and many areas are on track. Safety is an area which is being monitored. There has been a small reduction in recycling, but still remains at 62% in Somerset compared to 92% in the rest of the UK. PPT centres are growing and missed collections is an area of consist focus. Mendip were having issues with maintenance and recruitment and a new maintainance has now been contracted. SWP is battling against the low number of HGV drivers and the low unemployment in Somerset. There will be in-cab technology to help with missed collections, enabling crews to go back and carry out assisted collections. An app used in East Devon will be similar in Somerset called my Waste Services.

The Recommendations going to the Board, the Panel are happy with.

**57 Finance Performance Update 2019-20 and Development of the Annual Budget 2020-21 – Agenda Item 8**

Currently the position is £46,243,485 with an £804,000 underspend in July being 1.74% of the budget. This does not include Recycle More at a cost of £919,700 with current recycling spend of £11,000 resulting in a £791,000 underspend. All savings are on target and fly tipping compensatory payment scheme will be phased out. The cost of landfill will rise to £94.15 per tonne from April 2020 and the standstill cost for the disposal budget is therefore £2,372,100 for 2019/20 showing on 8.4% increase on the original budget. When Recycle More is rolled out, no savings will be taken out, seen until 2022-23. Each district is borrowing £5,000,000 on behalf of SWP at a return of PWLB plus 1% with loan agreements set up between SCC and the Districts. Additional pressure for Avonmouth is being financed with saving after the contract was in place and is a payback benefit to SWP and is cheaper than landfill. The reserve will be 20% which is around 600k but will be reviewed annually.

Confidential Paper – there are 12 people left from Kier going back to 2007. There have been unsuccessful solutions and independent advice has been sort who found the solution was to dispute 50-50, which Kier have capped, however this is at the “In principle stage” and are seeking approval from the Board. Cllr Lyshon mentioned that at Audit pensions have seen a 7.2% increase since the Brexit referendum and would this affect this and has been factored in when it ends on 31 March 2020.

The Recommendations going to the Board, the Panel are happy with.

**58 Proposed Fees and Charges – Agenda Item 9**

Fees and charges are reviewed annually and recycling centres can no longer charge an entrance fee which will be recommended we remove. Materials not classified as residential will remain chargeable. Bulk and garden waste will remain 2 weekly, with the cost of garden waste decreasing from £56.90 to £55.50 next year, as well as the cost of £28.40 decreasing to 27.50 the sacks. Bulky waste collection will rise to £60 each item for up to 3 items and £55 for up to 5 items, as well as people being asked to use the Freecycle web page before requesting collection. If suitable for recycling in house collection is being considered as well as other centres looking at items disposing of them. Replacement bins will not be charged for next year, with lids and wheels being replaced on returned bins. There is no reduction in fees and charges for pensioners or disabled people and as SSDC are the only district to offer a 2 year renewal this will be stopped. The garden sack service will require people to phone for collection so that drivers are not driving around unnecessarily looking for unwanted collections.

The Recommendations going to the Board, the Panel are happy with.

**59 Outline Business Plan 2020-25 – Agenda Item 10**

The Business Plan will be circulated in December 2019 for sign off in February 2020, with the focus being on schools, Recycling More and centralising payments for green waste. The Panel were reminded of the climate emergency workshop being held on 3 October and encouraged to attend. Section 3 of the Plan is implementing the longer term future with only 8% being sent abroad for disposal.

The Recommendations going to the Board, the Panel are happy with.

**60 Somerset Waste Board Forward Plan – Agenda Item 11**

The Panel agreed that this had been cover in item 10.

**61 Any other items of urgent business – Agenda Item 12**

None raised.

(The meeting ended at 4.10pm)

**CHAIR**

DRAFT