

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 Monday 16 December 2019 at 10.00 am

Present: Cllr J Hassall, Cllr M Dunk, Cllr L Leyshon, Cllr B Hamilton, Cllr T Munt,

Other Members Present: None

Apologies for Absence: Cllr A Trollope-Bellow, Cllr G Kennedy

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

63 **Minutes from the Previous Meeting on 25 September 2019**–Agenda Item 3

The Panel has agreed the minutes subject to amendments to paragraphs 5.1, 5.5 and 5.7 to be made.

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

There were no public questions.

The Panel received a presentation about the purpose of the campaign and were advised it is to raise awareness of food waste recycling, encourage participation and increase capture.

Specific objectives are to:

- Increase the tonnage of food waste collected by 16% in 2020/21 through targeted communications.
- Prevent 5,000 tonnes of food waste from going to waste.
- Save £105,000 in disposal costs in 2020/21 (£213k in total).
- Increase participation in the food waste service from 62% to 72% in 2020/21.
- Engage with a minimum of 20 primary schools to raise awareness of the SMW campaign and encourage participation.
- Involve 12 Co-op stores around the County as pick-up points for food waste bins/caddies.

The Panel congratulated the board and board members on embedding this process into place before the Recycle More project in 2020 and even more delighted that Somerset County Council prevention Fund has supported the development

The Joint Scrutiny Panel of Somerset Waste Board welcomed the report and agreed that the Board endorses the proposed approach to driving higher levels of food waste recycling through the 'Slim my Waste, feed my

Face’ behavioural change campaign being implemented across Somerset in early 2020.

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The mobilisation programme is currently on schedule with no major areas of concern other than delays to the construction programme at Evercreech. Planning permission has been secured for the construction of a new area at Evercreech, but several issues (in particular related to water mains, electrical connections, drainage and ground conditions) mean that it is not now expected that the construction programme will not be completed until September 2019. SWP have worked closely with SUEZ and are confident that this construction delay will not impact upon the day to day service or the roll-out of Recycle More.

Every time SWP has rolled out a major service change it has phased the changes as it is not practical or desirable to make a change to 250,000 households recycling and waste collection services at one time. As the Board are aware and has been reflected in our communications, it has always been planned to roll Recycle More out in phases.

SWP provide recycling and rubbish collection services to 273 Somerset schools – 213 primary schools, 36 secondary schools and 24 specialist education centres. Schools’ overall recycling rates languish at 20% despite being able to recycle food, paper, cardboard, plastic bottles and cans. Support Services for Education (SSE – a trading arm of SCC) currently manage the schools service with minimal role for SWP.

SSE, SWP, SUEZ and schools are all committed to improving this recycling rate, and this has driven a major rethink about how this service is provided and how we support schools to Recycle More.

A panel member raised a query regarding how many schools that receive a collection have got the appropriate facilities to do so. The panel were reassured there is separate funding available to make it viable for all schools to increase recycling rates. A panel member suggested as part of their Neighbourhood Watch, the information is shared to ensure as many people of the community knows about the campaigns. Also raised was a suggestion to communicate with the different schools within the area through the chair Governors to enable them to understand and drive the programme forward.

The Joint Scrutiny Panel were also informed about the phase of the roll-out that is followed by a lesson learnt exercise to ensure continuous improvement.

The Joint Scrutiny Panel of Somerset Waste Board agree that the board

1. Notes the progress made in mobilising a new collection contract.

2. Agrees the case for applying the exempt information provision as set out in the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A and therefore to treat the attached confidential report and its appendices in confidence, as they contain commercially sensitive information, and as the case for the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing that information.

3. Subject to the approval of recommendation (2) above, agrees to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the consideration of the attached confidential report and its appendices where there is any discussion at the meeting regarding exempt or confidential information.

4. Notes the progress set out in the confidential report.

67 Performance Monitoring Report Q1 2019-20- Agenda item 7

The Board heard the presentation on the performance report as part of SWP's drive for continuous improvement, and as agreed at the September 2018 Board, have now moved to a new format of performance report. This ensures that each quarter, Board Members receive an update on progress in delivering the business plan, key risks, health and safety, recycling metrics (including tonnage, percentage and national indicator suite), end use, missed collections, fly-tipping, financial performance (noting that a separate finance report is still provided) and communications/customers. Subject to the views of the board, SWP will continue to improve how we report performance in the future to the board.

A panel member raised concern about 91% of recycling being completed in the UK, with only 9% sent overseas for recycling. A Discussion about the 9% that got sent overseas and the report will be in Your Somerset that will be sent out in the next 5 days showing an in-depth breakdown. For example, to meet demand in Africa and elsewhere in the developing world, just over half of Somerset's recycled textiles, clothes and shoes went overseas for sale and reuse. A query was also raised about whether Somerset Waste Partnership pays Somerset County Council for the article in Your Somerset and the cost. The Panel had a discussion on how to share the great work that is being carried out through Social media.

The Joint Scrutiny Panel of Somerset Waste Board agreed to note the performance results in the Second Quarter Performance Management Report.

68 Draft Business Plan 2020-2025 – Agenda Item 8

The Somerset Waste Board is required to annually approve a rolling five-year business plan. Our Business Plan explains how we will work towards our Vision over the next five years, with a focus on current year actions. The Business Plan contains three areas of focus, beneath which sit a range of activities. The three areas of focus are:

1. Delivering excellent services
2. Changing behaviours
3. Building our capability

Somerset Waste Partnership are undergoing the most significant transformation of services since it was formed – recycling more, moving away from landfill, transforming our technology to deliver better customer service, responding to the climate emergency and the changing national policy agenda.

The Joint Scrutiny Panel of Somerset Waste Board agreed:

- 1. That the Somerset Waste Board approves the Draft Business Plan for partner authority consultation.**

A Joint Scrutiny panel member discussed communications and marketing to drive increased take-up of recycling of small electrical items at the kerbside, and to ensure that reuse opportunities are maximised at recycling centres (subject to securing additional funding, potentially from WEEE compliance schemes). It was raised about supervisors using vans and what they are collecting on their route a discussion about them collecting cardboard, containers or delivering rubbish bins.

69 Financial Performance Draft Annual Budget 2020-2021– Agenda Item 9

Overall, the end of October position shows that the Somerset Waste Partnership budget is forecast to be underspent by £1,302,000 (2.8% of the current budget). This is an improvement on to the previous position reported to the September Board, which were July figures and showed an underspend of £804,000. This does not include the Recycle More project work, which is funded from a separate project fund.

The Joint Scrutiny panel member recognised the hard work and appreciation of the reports and acknowledging the extreme workloads that have gone into producing the products that is being offered.

The Joint Scrutiny Panel of Somerset Waste Board agree that the board

- 1. That the Somerset Waste Board notes the summary financial performance for 2019/2020 to date as contained in this report, and how this will impact on the budgetary requirements for 2020/2021.**

- 2. That the Somerset Waste Board approves a Draft Budget of £47,896,600 for 2020/2021 for partner authority consultation, as set out in section 3.0 below, taking into account the potential savings requests from the County Council as set out in paragraph 3.2.**

70 Proposed revisions to the Inter-Authority Agreement- Agenda Item 10

The following principles were agreed by SWB in September 2019, following agreement to these principles by the Strategic Management Group (SMG) and all partner Section 151 Officers. All revenue costs will be funded from the Recycle More Project Fund. These principles have informed the revisions required to the IA.

As the Board are aware, SWP and SUEZ will share recycling revenue risk. Recyclate revenue can fluctuate according to the tonnages of each materials collected and due to market prices. Once roll-out of Recycle More has been completed all partner section 151 Officers (endorsed by SMG) agreed that an equalisation reserve should be put in place in order to smooth out the risk of fluctuations in the level of recyclate income received by District Council partners.

The Joint Scrutiny Panel discussed what change of the Public Works Loan Board borrow rate and if it has had an impact the panel were informed that there was no impact as there is a complete separate budget. The Panel recognised the good planning process throughout.

The Joint Scrutiny Panel of Somerset Waste Board agree that the board

- 1. Agree the draft amended Inter-Authority Agreement (IAA) for partner consultation.**

71 Somerset Waste Board Forward Plan – Agenda Item 11

72 Any other items of urgent business – Agenda Item 12

The Joint Scrutiny panel discussed about implementing substitutes to stand in where members are unable to attend the meeting, members ensuring they inform the panel of their absence. The Panel were informed Cllr Wedderkopp had stood down as Board Member and had been replaced by Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts.

(The meeting ended at 12.05pm)

CHAIR