

JOINT SCRUTINY PANEL OF THE 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 12 February 2020 at 2.00 pm.

Present: Cllr M Dunk, Cllr L Leyshon, Cllr B Hamilton, Cllr T Munt, Cllr A Trollope-Bellew.

Other Members Present: Mickey Green, Sarah Rose, Michael Bryant.

Apologies for Absence: Cllr J Hassall, Cllr. C. Hull, Mark Ford, Cllr G. Kennedy, Cllr I. Dyer, Cllr L. Gibson.

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

None were raised.

74 **Minutes from the Previous Meeting on 16 December 2019**–Agenda Item 3

The Panel agreed the minutes as an accurate record.

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

There were no public questions.

The Panel heard the presentation on the Performance Report as agreed in the new format. Missed collections still remains a concern but SWP are working closely with Kier and there has been a significant decrease, with 98.9% of waste being collected.

There are slight delays on the two projects, moving away from landfill and Recycle More due to Avonmouth Civil Contractor Clugston going into receivership. Hopefully Avonmouth will start burning waste on 16 March and be fully operational in the Spring.

There is a delay with the new online customer relationship management system (My Waste Services). This is near to being finalised and is one of the most challenging tasks for SWP.

There is a slight delay in one of the recycling vehicles due to a thirdparty component problem and will be delivered a couple of weeks after the contract start. Overall household waste minimisation rose by around 0.8% compared to the same quarter last year. The key driver for this was an increase in the level of garden waste collected due to the better weather leading to an improved growing season.

The recommendation was to review and comment.

77 The Panel received the Business Plan. All 4 local authorities have been visited and agree with the plan and a lot of lobbying is going on with Central

Government around the Emergency Climate issue and the way waste and recycling is managed.

The Core Services Contract Deed of Variation has been fully implemented with the change in opening hours and no charge at Recycling Sites. The Board was made aware that the 1% pay award has been update to 2.75% and this was not fed back to be amended.

With the additional recycling of plastic pots, tubs and trays SWP has seen an increase to 90% of 30 tons in December. SWP are monitoring the change in people's recycling and it's too early to say what the tonnage is likely to be. There was a 20% green waste increase and 30% increase on wet waste.

The Panel were informed that the Frome site performs poorly and need either relocating or expanding. SWP Facebook site needs certain maintainance as some cannot see everything.

There is a national problem with textile kerbside collections as these cannot be passed on economically. SWP are currently accepting them and is considering ceasing them because of this. The Panel suggested that textiles could be considered for recycling in bags of stripes by weight. This will be feedback to The Somerset Waste Board meeting on Friday.

The Panel mentioned that what is sent for recycling is recycled and not sent to landfill as many of the public think. This message needs to be reiterated. The Panel were informed that with more plastic recycling in the pipeline and the new plant at Avonmouth, new sacks are being introduced but will not be sorted kerbside, this will be monitored.

The Panel suggested that if free rubble skips are at recycling sites, this would help with fly tipping, as much of fly tipping is rubble. SWP will think about this and maybe run a pilot. Fly tipping has been decreasing since 2011, with a cost of £100,000 rather than £2,000,000 to the LA. This is continually being monitored as there are a number of regular spots used for fly tipping.

The Panel mentioned that most farmers are not always members of the NFU and will be missed from rounds. The Board were informed that Trading Standards are involved to address this.

The Recommendation was to review and comment.

- 78 **Finance Update Q3 2019/20 and Annual Budget 2020/21** - Agenda item 7
A £1,299,000 underspend is reported, equating to 2.82% of the budget and is due to the increase in the garden waste budget. The collection position is £80,000 underspent which is more than was reported at the December Board.

The Recycle More project stands at £1,101,040 following the transfers approved at the June Board. The waste disposal shows an underspend of £1,218,000, which is slightly less than was reported at the December Board.

The budget of £1,101,040, with £121,363 already being spent, will be fully spent by end of the financial year. An update will be brought to these meetings, along with a tracking mechanism in place to update each meeting.

The Recommendation was to review and comment.

79 **Revisions to the Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) – Agenda Item 8**

The Panel agreed that the Agreement had already been discussed at length. However minor changes to the IAA may be required to ensure the finding of the GDPR Internal Audit reflect the different approach required by the new customer relationship management system and SUEZs system. During 2020/21 the MD of SWP will write to partner CEOs setting out the proposed GDPR wording for the IAA.

The Recommendation was to review and comment.

80 **New Collection Contract Mobilisation Update – Agenda Item 9**

The Board were informed the total cost of the new Avonmouth site will be around £250,000,000 and SWP have a 25-year contract. The new vehicles are being delivered and blue bags will be distributed, marking the start of the new process of recycling.

The new larger vehicles will be wrapped with “We recycle to protect our environmental” on a picture of either Glastonbury Tor or Cheddar Gorge. The other vehicles will be wrapped with “Most people in Somerset are recycling, are you?” on a picture of Porlock, Starlings or Ham Hill. The vehicles are white and will be washed regularly. Phase 1 roll out will start in late March/April in Mendip, including the 51 primary schools, and already a sharp increase in the order of food waste container has been noted in readiness. The first week of “slim my waste” happened with a lot of positive outcomes.

SWP are still offering compost bins at a discount, with leaflets and stickers on the bins, having an impact on changing people’s behaviour. The ‘My Waste’ Services web site goes live tomorrow, with the App available in a couple of weeks.

School recycling is currently at 25% for the large bins, with food waste recycling levels at 11.6% with contaminated bins not being collected. There is a 5% price reduction for all schools along with bins outside and inside. SWP will have a dedicated officer visiting schools to ensure there are no problems, as well as promoting the funding of 50 schools to become an Eco school programme with a £500 donation.

- 81 **Any Other Urgent Items of Business - Agenda Item 10**
SWP asked for a table of attendance so non attendees can be chased.

(The meeting ended at 4.10pm)

CHAIR