

SOMERSET WASTE BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Somerset Waste Board held in the Luttrell Room - County Hall, Taunton, on Friday 15 December 2017 at 10.00 am

Present: Cllr C Aparicio Paul, Cllr P Berry, Cllr M Dewdney, Cllr D Hall, Cllr D Hill, Cllr J Roundell Greene, Cllr G Slocombe, Cllr N Woollcombe-Adams (Vice-Chair) and Cllr Yeomans (Chair)

Other Members present: Cllr T Munt

Apologies for absence: Cllr B Maitland-Walker, Cllr S Ross and Cllr N Taylor

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

Cllr C Aparicio Paul	Member of South Somerset District Council
Cllr D Hill	Member of Cheddar Parish Council
Cllr D Yeomans	Member of Curry Rivel Parish Council

37 **Minutes from the meeting held on 3 November 2017** - Agenda Item 3

The record of the meeting of the Somerset Waste Board held on 3 November 2017 was taken as read and signed as correct.

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

There were none.

39 **Finance Performance Update Quarter 2 2017/18 and Draft Budget 2018/19** - Agenda Item 5

Finance officer Martin Gerrish introduced the report which set out the financial performance against the approved annual budget for the first 7 months of the current financial year from April to October 2017.

The current financial position shown at 2.1 of the report was highlighted with a forecast underspend of £702,000. The collection position was £69,881 overspent due to a number of underlying reasons including increases in collection costs of garden waste, recycling credits continued to be below budget, and high head office costs. For waste disposal, the position had slightly improved from the report in November, collectively £35,000 better, with the most significant change being the district household growth numbers.

There was a landfill tax claim and a vehicle cartel claim that were being pursued by Somerset Waste Partnership much of which was still subject to legal confidentiality. It was hoped that interest on the money already paid could be backdated if the claims were approved.

Cllr Roundell Greene proposed the recommendations and Cllr Dewdney seconded them.

Somerset Waste Board RESOLVED to:

- 1. note the summary financial performance to date as contained in this report, and how this will impact on the budgetary requirements for 2018/2019.**
- 2. approve the Draft Budget of £ 45,147,200 for 2018/2019 as set out in Appendix 1.**
- 3. note the landfill tax and vehicle cartel claims that have been made on behalf of the partner authorities.**

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer's report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer's report

40 **Quarter 2 Performance Monitoring Report April 17 - September 17 -**
Agenda Item 6

Contracts Manager David Oaten introduced the report which summarised the key performance indicators for the period April 2017 to September 2017 and compared them to the same period in the last two years. There had been very little change and it was a largely positive picture. Less waste (both residual and recycling) had been produced which had resulted in a slightly enhanced recycling performance. Recycling sites had lower tonnages following the introduction of the permit scheme. Missed collections for recycling, food and garden waste were down around 5% although missed collections for refuse and repeat missed collections had increased and actions were being taken to address this. Flytipping was down overall but up in Mendip.

Further points raised in the discussion included:

- There had been a change in the report format to make it clearer to read and this was welcomed.
- The possibility of Government changing the rules regarding the disposal of hazardous waste.
- Problems of a particular site with regard to flytipping in Mendip which was subject to legal discussions.
- Ongoing shortage of waste vehicle drivers but activities were taking place to encourage more people such as training and promotion events.
- More information was requested about missed collections and making use of new technology in future to assist with this.

The Board RESOLVED to note the performance findings in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2, together with the tonnage and performance results within Appendices A & B.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer's report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer's report

41 **Somerset Waste Partnership Business Plan 2018-2023** - Agenda Item 7

Business and Governance Manager Mark Blaker introduced the report regarding the business plan for 2018-23. He explained that this had been through the consultation process around all the partner authorities and that it had been considered by the Joint Waste Scrutiny Committee also. Feedback from the process had led to a number of changes including further details of the budgets, more details regarding Recycle More, and updating the risk register. He also outlined the key aims and priorities for 2018/19 in the plan including developing systems such as an ICT strategy and new customer service systems. The summary draft annual budgets and risk register were also highlighted.

Further points discussed included:

- A small percentage of the recycling credits were paid to third parties such as scout groups
- The purple boxes on the risk register showed opportunities and where there were mitigation actions the opportunity was more likely.
- The effect of China not taking recycling should be added to the risk register although it was noted that 96% of recycling took place within the UK.

Councillor Dewdney proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Cllr Roundell Greene.

The Board RESOLVED to:

- 1. note and consider the feedback from the partner consultation process as set out in paragraph 3.2.**
- 2. approve the Business Plan 2018-2023 (attached at Appendix A).**

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer's report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer's report

42 **Health and Safety Update** - Agenda Item 8

Senior Officer Terry Richards introduced the report updating the Board on the health and safety in the first two quarters of the 2017/18 financial year of the two principal contractors Kier Environmental Services and Viridor (Somerset) Waste Management Ltd. Kier had seen accidents reduced further to 23 – the lowest level seen under the SWP contract. The number of near miss reports had reduced by 68% and there had been no notifications under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulation 2013 (RIDDOR). No incidents involving members of the public had been reported and only one environmental incident reported. Kier had also received a gold award from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) for its 2016 performance.

Viridor had experienced a rise in accidents by 4 to a total of 17, near miss reporting had reduced by 22%. One RIDDOR accident had been reported. There had been no dangerous occurrences reported. Nine incidents involving members of the public were reported and 5 environmental incidents.

There was some evidence that that near miss reporting was not always accurate and the contractors had been spoken to about this and were addressing the situation.

The Board RESOLVED to note the contents of this report and its appendices.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer's report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer's report.

43 **Somerset Waste Board Forward Plan** - Agenda Item 9

The Board were updated by the Governance Manager on the latest position of the forward plan and the planned business for the next meeting on 23 February 2018.

44 **Information Sheets Issued Since the Last Meeting** - Agenda Item 10

There had been two information sheets issued since the last meeting.

45 **Any other urgent items of business** - Agenda Item 11

Managing Director Mickey Green brought an urgent report to the Board relating to the recent developments on the proposed merger of Taunton Deane Borough Council and West Somerset Council. Somerset Waste Partnership had been asked by the two councils to write a letter to the Secretary of State reiterating points made during the consultation process and the deadline for a response was imminent. Points to be made in the letter were shown in Appendix B to the report. Members were content with this and supported the recommendations.

The Board RESOLVED to authorise:

- 1. The Managing Director to write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government**
- 2. That the content is drawn from sections 2,3, and 4.1 of the February report, extracted here as Appendix A.**

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer's report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer's report

(The meeting ended at 10.46 am)

CHAIR