

## Somerset Waste Partnership Business Plan 2021 - 2026

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<b>Forward Plan Reference:</b>	<i>26.01.2021</i>
<b>Summary:</b>	The draft Business Plan for partner consultation was approved by the Somerset Waste Board (SWB) on 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2020. This report updates the board on the partner consultation and seeks approval to the final Business Plan 2021-26.
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<p><b>That the Somerset Waste Board:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. The board notes and considers feedback from the partner consultation process as set out in paragraph 3.1</b></li> <li><b>2. The board approves the Business Plan 2021-2026, noting the significant ongoing risk of Covid-19 to implementation of the Business Plan.</b></li> </ol>
<b>Reasons for recommendations:</b>	Approval is required to set a clear mandate for SWP activities for the period and is a constitutional requirement.
<b>Links to Priorities and Impact on Annual Business Plan:</b>	The annual Business Plan sets key aims and priorities for Somerset Waste Partnership for the next 5 years, with a particular focus on the coming year.
<b>Financial, Legal and HR Implications:</b>	Many actions within the business plan will require specialist input, including financial, legal, HR and procurement advice. Where actions (e.g. related to climate change) are not currently funded they are clearly identified in the business plan.
<b>Equalities Implications:</b>	Some actions in the business plan relate to the implementation of decisions already taken by the board, and Equalities Impact Assessments (EIAs) were undertaken at the time, others relate to future actions, and EIAs will be carried out as appropriate at the time. In most cases the decision to proceed based on the outcome of the impact assessment will be delegated to SWP's Managing Director, unless the implications identified mean that

	the decision to proceed should return to the Board.
<b>Risk Assessment:</b>	Failure to approve a Business Plan (a constitutional requirement) will impact on the ability of the SWP to effectively deliver the board's vision.

## 1. Background

- 1.1.** The constitution requires an annual Business Plan to be formally adopted by the Board to provide a framework within which the Board can make decisions and steer the delivery of Waste Partnership services. The process of review is continuous but it contains a snapshot of where we are now, the things that have a major impact on us, resources/budget, and our priorities.
- 1.2.** The Board is almost exclusively funded from contributions from partners. It is therefore dependent on agreement between partners on the level of funding provided by each of them in line with the cost sharing formula. Business Planning and Budget setting are therefore part of the same process. Under the terms of the Inter Authority Agreement, the Board cannot make a decision that has an adverse financial implication on any partner without that partner's agreement. The Board has delegated authority for decision making across all services and therefore must take into account any requirements to make savings and make proposals on how these can be achieved.

## 2. Options Considered and reasons for rejecting them

- 2.1.** The SWP Business Plan is a constitutional requirement and no other option is available. The Plan notes the risks that the ongoing pandemic places on delivery, given the priority attached by SWP and all partners attached to supporting communities through these unprecedented challenges.

## 3. Consultations

- 3.1.** Consultation was undertaken as follows:

<b>When</b>	<b>Body consulted</b>
7 <sup>th</sup> January	South Somerset District Council Executive
20 <sup>th</sup> January	Somerset County Council Cabinet
20 <sup>th</sup> January	Somerset West and Taunton Executive
27 <sup>th</sup> January	Sedgemoor District Council Executive
1 <sup>st</sup> February	Mendip District Council Cabinet

At the time of writing this paper, feedback from partner consultation has not led to any changes to the Business Plan 2020-2025. The board will be provided with a verbal update on any feedback received after the paper deadline.

#### **4. Implications**

- 4.1.** The SWP Business Plan is a constitutional requirement. Failure to approve the plan will result in difficulties as outlined above.

#### **5. Background papers**

- 5.1.** SWP Business Plan 2021 - 2026 (Appendix A)
- 5.2.** Waste Board Constitution:  
<http://www1.somerset.gov.uk/council/boards.asp?boardnum=32>