

## **THE SOMERSET WASTE BOARD**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Somerset Waste Board held in the Luttrell Room County Hall on 10<sup>th</sup> February at 10.00am

**Present:** Cllr Sarah Dyke, Cllr Peter Goater, Cllr Tom Ronan, Cllr Tin Kerley, Cllr Janet Keen, Cllr Dixie Darch (Substitute), Cllr Sarah Wakefield (Substitute) and Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts

**Other Members Present:** Cllr Andy Kendall and Cllr Marcus Kravis

**Officers:** Mickey Green, Christian Evans, David Oaten, Jo Currie, Michael Cowdell, Mark Ford and Paula Hewitt

### **1. Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies received were as follows:

Cllr Dave Mansell-Cllr Sarah Wakefield Substituting  
Cllr Andy Sully- Cllr Dixie Darch Substituting  
Cllr Andrew Gilling

### **2. Declarations of Interest-** Agenda Item 2

No declarations to declare.

### **3. Minutes from the previous meeting-** Agenda Item 3

The Board agreed the minutes and Confidential minutes from 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022 as an accurate record.

### **4. Public Question Time-** Agenda Item 4

There were no public questions.

## **Feedback from the Joint Scrutiny Panel of Somerset Waste Board**

The Chair Highlighted the feedback that was discussed at the Joint Panel of Somerset Waste Board on Wednesday.

- The Panel welcomed the report for Recycle More Lessons learnt and commented on the life expectancy of the blue bags and discussion about the textile that goes into residual waste.
- The Panel welcomed the pilot trial of Soft Plastics highlighting if there were contamination issues that may arise.
- The Panel welcomed the reuse and Community action groups and discussed the community groups that were available for bike projects.
- The Panel welcomed the Business Plan.
- The Panel welcomed and commented on the fly tipping highlighted in the Performance report and to see figures on the Carbon capture in the future.
- The Panel welcomed the Finance performance update.

## **5. Recycle More Update- Agenda Item 8**

The Chair invited Somerset Waste Partnership Head of Communications and Engagement Mark Ford to provide an update on Recycle More

The following was highlighted:

- The phased nature of the roll-out adds another layer of complexity. The longer the service was in place, the clearer the long-term trends would be. Recycle More has reduced refuse/rubbish by around 20%.
- It has helped Somerset's recycling rate climb to 57.3% - its highest rate on record.
- Ensure that direct mailing is considered as part of the communications approach for future changes of this kind, subject to costs.
- SWP are in the process of distributing Service Guides to all residents and these will contain a collection day calendar.
- The Communication around the phased service changes were helpful for residents.
- The investment in good quality digital content, and time spent engaging/responding to comments helped deliver information and address concerns and this will remain a separate site on Facebook post vesting day.
- Make sure contingency planning and flexibility is in place before undertaking change of scale. Continued to recognise the value of appropriate level of communications and customer/data capability and resource.

- The improvements needed in the data held on communal collections.
- The Recycle More chatbot had limited success and SWP do not replicate in future change work - unless better iterations of the technology are available.
- SWP and SUEZ met regularly throughout. Meeting frequency varied with proximity to service changes and key milestones. This helped successfully manage the complex array of tasks and risks, allowed stakeholders to be updated milestones achieved. The only slippage was the communal phase that was supposed to be incorporated into Phase 4 (SDC) and the Schools Phase that was moved out of a Covid window.

The Board members asked the following questions: the lessons learnt around the behaviour changes. The relationships with other authorities and how these relationships can be built on to help and teach others; through the lessons learnt has data been provided with the residents that are not participating in the Recycle More; The Calendars through feedback were useful and it was a good approach to re-introduce these in the future. The communal properties had been an ongoing problem and SWP need to have an approach to how this can be resolved. Debris on the roads and pavements left by SWP. The Social media engagement and the Facebook question and answer forums understanding why the Q&A will not be continued.

The 20% of reduction in reuse rubbish with the rollout of Recycle More.

Somerset Waste Partnerships Head of Communication and Engagement Mark Ford informed the board that the lessons learnt through Recycle More was the big change to residents' daily routine however the prior communication helped and the clear messaging about concerns and the encouragement from the communication team about trailing the Recycle More and those concerns did not continue once residents started the roll out. The Social Media communication worked well and a lot of engagement through social media now the roll out has been successful the Q&A has become more of a quieter platform to use for communications.

Somerset Waste Partnership Managing Director Mickey Green informed the board about the behaviour change with the Recycle More project and the planning and operations, resources with also learning from the other authorities. Supervision and monitoring continue on the debris left from the recycling lorries on the road or pavement. With new building contractors and developing of the communal areas hoping that they would be developed for collections in the future. Improvements do continue and areas to focus on in the future.

The Chair thanked Mark for sharing the lessons learnt and reflecting on the service quality.

**That the Somerset Waste Board:**

- **Note the lessons learnt.**

**6. Flex Collect-** Agenda Item 8

The Chair invited Somerset Waste Partnership Managing Director Mickey Green to provide an update on Flex Collect

The following was highlighted:

- Flexible plastics are a particularly difficult material to recycle, being low quality and made of many different plastic types. The national FlexCollect plastic recycling pilots is a great opportunity to take part in, learn from and help us achieve our aim of adding these materials to the kerbside collections in the future.
- SWP with WRAP conducted a small trial of collecting flexible plastics in 2015, covering 1400 households. The trial itself was successful, though participation levels were low.
- SWP are in the 'industrialisation' phase, and joining the pilot from April 2023, for 2 years. Five other local authorities are expected to join in this phase. 300-3500.
- Somerset has been chosen to represent a rural area with some levels of deprivation. The pilot area to be chosen needs to take this into account. Due to space constraints and capacity issues at the depots the pilot will need to be run from Evercreech Depot.
- Stage 2 areas will be determined at a later point and is not contingent on the stage 1 area chosen.
- Stage 1: Small pilot of 3,500 properties to run for 1 year.
- This will allow SWP to trial the collection system and learn lessons. Stage 2 the pilot will be extended to around 15,000 -20,000 households enough to take it to a wider range of properties.
- Residents will receive clear guidance developed by WRAP on what was acceptable to be collected. Households involved in the pilot will receive a teaser leaflet 4 weeks ahead of the start, a reminder leaflet 2 weeks ahead of the start and a 'nudge' leaflet around 6 weeks post-start date. SWP will seek to apply the lessons learnt from the Recycle More roll-out test-driving bags with community champions.

- An information sheet will be circulated about the phased approach to members.

Somerset Waste Board Managing Director of Somerset Waste Board Mickey Green invited the Project Delivery Manager of Flex Collect Oliver Morrell.

**Project Delivery Manger of Flex Collect Oliver Morrell highlighted the following:**

- The project has been going for three years with £2.9m innovative project funding to provide evidence to support kerbside collection of flexible plastic packaging.
- Piloting kerbside collections and recycling for flexible plastic packaging
- Nine individual local authority pilots covering a range of rurality's, social-economics, collection methods, and service offerings.
- Most extensive flexible plastic packaging kerbside collection trial ever undertaken in UK.
- Stakeholder Panel and the cycling of the project placed on the market collections, the treatment and sorting.

**The aim of the FlexCollect for the future highlighted as follows:**

- Help industry and government prepare for the rollout of flexible plastic packaging municipal kerbside collection by 2027
- How to incorporate into existing collection services, likely volumes, participation and end markets
- Understand operational issues, communication approaches, and cost throughout the system and consider single use bags.
- Share learnings and create best practice guidance for local authorities to inform the value chain and any other leanings necessary.
- Highlighted how the project would work for example expending the trail model and experiment during the early stages and build on the finding through the project.
- Pioneers and the 5% of households in the first year and 25% in year two and up to 100% in three years
- The process and the involvement highlighting in the presentation onboarding of the recruitment, 5% Experiment, 25% Refine and the 100% delivery phase of the Flex collect.
- Three projects have already started covering 2,000 properties in Cheltenham Borough Council, South Gloucester Council and 7,000 properties in Maldon District Council twin stream authority highlight the collection methods, rurality and deprivation.

- Somerset to be rolled out in the rural areas, material collections and material PE/PP makes up the majority of flexible plastic covers and did not include "Wet" packaging for example pet food and baby pouches. Materials that would be collected included bread bags, frozen food bags, salad bags, cheese wrappers, crisp packets and confectionary wrappers. A graph showed the percentages currently been collected and low level of contamination.

The Board members asked the following questions: the weight of 300grams per bag and how many bags per household collection. Explanation of where cling film may go as this is both stretchy and tears; the £2.9 million for the project how much would the Somerset project have out of this; beyond the three-year trial what will be the expectation and to have tonnage figures available from this trial; The process of the plastic collections and is the expectation that residents have to wash and clean the plastic prior to kerbside and is the bag provided as part of the project a single use bag and could it be reused; understanding of the end uses from the plastics; was there an affect on the incineration contract as the waste collection will be diverted to different avenues; Companies thinking about the change of packaging and the dry pet food bags.

Project Delivery Manager of Flex Collect Oliver Morrell informed the Board that one bag is supplied per household and the currently the project is around 40%-60%. The littering from the bags or bad weather conditions is not something that has been reported on as of yet or from the local authorities that are in the trial. The Project for Somerset will be fully funded and each individual authorities have different requirements therefore have different amounts of funding that may cover part of the delivery of the project, operations and driver services and the project will be running to 2025 with the view it will then be taken on.

The residents will have to rinse and dry the plastic packaging this will be part of the communications prior to the trial. There will be a delivery on the first delivery and then will not be replenished unless the residents have made a request. The primary treatment solution will be recycling, where options include both mechanical and chemical recycling and seeking to avoid down-cycling (using the material to make benches). Secondary options would send materials to be used as Solid Recovered Fuel, which would be used only as a last resort. Reprocessing within the UK will be prioritised; however, it may be necessary to process some material in EU facilities, particularly where technology is not yet commercially available in the UK. Materials arising from the trials will not be sent outside the UK or EU for sorting/reprocessing. The wet food pouches are not able to be recycled currently however they did provide less carbon footprint than food tins.

Somerset Waste Partnership Managing Director Mickey Green informed the board that for the flex collection planned comparison analysis is due to take place and therefore will have a understanding of tonnages. In regard to the incineration diversion there would be no change to the contract.

Somerset Waste Partnership Contracts Manager David Oaten informed the panel about the ongoing negotiation with Viridor and with the Flex Collection project being trailed in Somerset and it was noted that it would not affect less waste going into the incinerator and was unlikely to affect the contract in place.

The Chair thanked the Contracts Manager for the presentation and the engagement of the Flex Collect and the exciting times ahead in Somerset for the project trail to start and the process.

#### **That the Somerset Waste Board:**

- **Endorse the proposed approach to the flexible plastic pilot.**

#### **7. Reuse and Community Action Group- Agenda Item 8**

The Chair invited Somerset Waste Partnership Head of Communications and Engagement Mark Ford to provide an update on the Reuse and Community Action Group (CAG).

The following was highlighted:

- Delivered in partnership with Resource Futures, Fixy is supporting and promoting the repair and reuse of electricals and electronics throughout the county. It has been taken forward with grant funding from the Ecosurety Exploration Fund, the availability of which made this the priority reuse action.
- A popular strand of its work has been Fixy 'tech amnesties' – collecting unwanted tech items for refurbishment, data-cleansing, and redistribution to good causes by project partner Donate IT. Anything that cannot be fixed is recycled.
- SWP have recently sent a follow up survey to members of the public who had completed a general Fixy survey and agreed to be contacted again about the project. From this we can track attitudes on reuse and repair.
- The initial responses are showing very positive results: More than 90% saying they are very or quite likely to get something repaired for reuse. 60% plus saying they felt better informed about how and where to get things fixed,

more than 50% saying they now think more about buying refurbished or second-hand items.

- Funding for Fixy formally runs out at the end of December. However, SWP have reached agreement to 'stretch' remaining funding to keep the service going until the end of February 2023.
- The aim is to develop a community group network with designated coordinators to help groups develop and expand, work more efficiently, collaborate better, strengthen community cohesion, facilitate skills share and maximise existing assets in the region.
- Resource Futures have successfully set up and managed CAGs in Oxfordshire and Devon. They also conducted research in Somerset whilst developing the proposal and found that there is a clear need and support from groups for the project. Developing a Community Action Group network will support community projects to reduce, reuse, recycle, share, swap, mend and compost.
- This will involve the recruitment of two community development managers to cover the whole county, and a CAG network officer to provide administrative support. Resource Futures will manage the project with support from Suez and SWP. There will also be a small grant fund to support groups with projects.
- The SWEEP fund is a joint fund developed by SWP and Suez, which is a behavioural change fund ringfenced from income from sales of materials for recycling.

The Board members asked the following questions: How would the CAG's work with the Local Community Network in the New Unitary Council. Pleased with the IT and the success with the Fixy Bus. The reusable items are SWP engaging with the recycle sites. Feedback from the community they are happy with seeing the Fixy bus and how it helped with Mental Health. The repair Cafes available in Somerset and the process for culture change with opportunities to reuse or recycle.

Somerset Waste Partnerships Head of Communications and Engagement Manager Mark Ford SWP have an event in March with Fixy and an opportunity to take electrical items for repair will be available. Hoping the Community Action Groups will link to the LCN's. SWP are promoting on Facebook about reuse of larger items such as sofas, chair and tables. Great news about the Fixy bus as SWP are part of a partnership of in-house designers who made the design and made it welcome for publicity.

**That the Somerset Waste Board:**



- **Notes the progress made in the reuse and Community Action Groups**

## **8. Somerset Waste Board Business Plan 2023-2028 - Agenda Item 9**

The Chair invited Somerset Waste Partnership Managing Director Mickey Green to provide an update on the Somerset Waste business plan 2023-2028.

The following was highlighted:

- 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. It may be revised if this is necessary to align with the Somerset Council County Plan.
- The Government published their response on Deposit Return Schemes (DRS) setting out how they intend it to work. Key points of the proposals are: Timetable, What's included, deposit, expected impact, Return points, enforcement, impact on kerbside collection.
- DRS will be an 'all in' type scheme covering plastic (PET) and Steel and Aluminium beverage cans up to 3 litres in volume. Glass will not be included in England or Northern Ireland but will be included in Wales and Scotland. Multi-packs are included. Things drunk inside pubs, cafes and restaurants don't need the deposit. Not taking glass as Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs feel this will add increased handling costs and equipment complexity (and concerns that what they collect will be worse quality than how we collect it at the kerbside).
- Government expect DRS to increase capture in scope packaging from 70% to 90% within 3 years of scheme launch. The Government anticipate that littering of in-scope packaging will decrease by 85% after scheme launch. Penalties on the DMO if they don't reach this level.
- This should help tackle littering (though we'll need to collectively think about what it means for growing on-street recycling), but it will cost us – we will lose the revenue from this high value material and there is no corresponding efficiency in collection. Welsh authority research suggests each Local Authority could lose almost £100k.
- The composition and participation analysis that is being undertaken in the next few months should help SWP understand the picture better.
- Action 4.2 in the Business Plan sets out SWP plan to review alternative fuels. Following the trials that took place in 2022/23 on using Hydrogenated 6 Vegetable Oil in the fleet, it has been decided not to move to develop a business case for using these fuels at this stage.

- Joint work SWP is participating in to support the development of a food strategy, finalisation of our contract with Biffa meaning SWP can finally work with them on reuse at Household Waste Recycling Centres. Agreed funding for the Community Action Groups to support a growth in reuse and success in securing a place on the national flexible plastics trial.
- The need to review the business case on solar panels at two depots given price changes whilst there had been delays in finalising this work.
- SWP joint success (working with economic development colleagues) in securing funding for a Green Business Support pilot.
- The need to review if and how SWP charge developers for costs associated with the bins and boxes for new housing, as many other authorities do - Noting the work needed to be undertaken in relation to branding as SWP became part of Somerset Council and hence remove the separate identity of SWP in order to improve transparency and accountability.

The Board members asked the following questions: The Deposit Return Scheme cost and enforcement and how it will impact the Council and would the Government welcome feedback on if it is working correctly; what SWP will be called in the Future.

Somerset Waste Board Managing Director Mickey Green informed the board that the engagement had been good and the responses on the consultation. SWP have an ongoing littering problem and will not have funding for the DRS. SWP will keep their Facebook page separate due to the number of followers attached and most likely just be the waste function to Somerset Council.

#### **That the Somerset Waste Board:**

- **Approves the draft Somerset Waste Partnership Business Plan 2023-28, noting that the format and approach to business planning may change in Somerset Council.**

#### **9. Performance Monitoring Report Q3 October 2022- December 2022- Agenda Item 6**

The Chair invited Somerset Waste Partnership Managing Director, Mickey Green, to provide an update on the performance report for performance monitoring report Q3 October 2022- December 2022 and compared these to the same period last year.

The following was highlighted:

- SWP overall recycling rate continues to improve compared to last year (up 0.73% to 57.31% from 56.58%).
- For Q3 2022-23, almost 96.2% of materials stayed in the UK, with the amount that was reprocessed in Somerset decreasing to 50.0%, mainly due to reductions in garden waste tonnages at this time of the year, all of which is composted within the County.
- In addition to SWP corporate risk register we maintain a detailed risk register for Covid-19. The separate Recycle More risk register is now closed, and any remaining open risks incorporated into the main register.
- The expanded collections were introduced to the 273 schools in the county who have their waste services provided by SWP.
- Viridor/Biffa: As updated to the Board in December, the services provided through the Core Services Contract (Recycling Sites, Compost Sites, Walpole Anaerobic Digester & closed landfill management) was expected to transfer to Biffa shortly. It can now be confirmed that the contract novation has been completed. This allows greater control over future operational standards and presents the opportunity to formally discuss service enhancements & developments with Biffa. Now Biffa
- Suez/Veolia: As expected SUEZ Recycling & Recovery UK Limited re-joined the SUEZ Group after an offer of £2bn was matched to buy the business in the UK, with the sale finalised in December. Whilst the new group remains called SUEZ it is no longer a French stock market listed entity, but instead majority owned by a number of corporate investors (Meridiam and GIP)

Somerset Waste Partnership Strategic Manager Michael Cowdell highlighted:

- SUEZ commenced the waste collection contract in 2020. At contract commencement this required all waste collection staff to transition from Kier to SUEZ, a new organisation with different culture, values and working processes.
- Contract commencement coincided with the first national Covid -19 restrictions, the implication was that the hands-on induction of new starters as well as the scheduled culture change activities were delayed or only partially implemented.
- This change programme resulted in the redesign of over 600 collection rounds, from 5 (redesigned/rebuilt operating centres and represented a considerable challenge both in planning, communication, deployment and operation of the new service.
- There was an accident outside the Evercreech Depot on the 4 January involving a member of the public. The accident resulted in a road closure that affected the recycling operation at the depot. Incomplete services effected

just under 3,000 properties for that day were suspended and recollected on their next collection day.

- Improvements with software systems and processes have now been specified to allow the timely identification and escalation of repeatedly missed collections. Our software developers are incorporating these improvements in both SWPs and SUEZ's systems and we expect to go live with this during April/May 2023.

#### **That the Somerset Waste Board:**

- **Note the performance results in the Third Quarter 2022-23 Performance Report.**
- **To note the additional report- Key performance Indicators Review (Appendix 2)- updates for Q3**

#### **10. Financial Performance Update 2022/2023 and Draft Annual Budget 2023/2024**

The Chair invited Strategic Finance Manager, Christian Evans to provide a presentation and update the panel on the Performance Update 2022/2023 and Draft Annual Budget 2023/2024

The following was highlighted:

- Districts reporting updated forecast underspends figures for full year.
- Based on actual tonnages to November and forecasts for a fully rolled out service.
- Overall District predicted saving £1,635k District Recycle More savings are £1,149k, other variances for Districts is mainly £438k saving on Covid costs. Materials income has reduced significantly due to price reductions and is expected to remain at this level for the next quarter, this has reduced the saving to Districts compared to the last report by £300k.
- Overall County predicted saving £973k - £935k Recycle More saving.
- Equalisation fund estimated at £582K surplus for 22/23.
- The waste Budget for 23/24 now finalised subject to approval by Full Council, AFRs totalling £5.9m.
- £3.5m Inflation on the disposal contract - Baxter amended to 13%, RPI 12%, CPI 10% (1% lower than previous budget).
- £2.1m Inflation and housing growth on the collection contract inflation.
- £0.3m for increase in waste volumes for housing growth on the disposal contract.
- £3.1m Recycle More savings, £1.1m Capitalise bin/box delivery (like most districts already do), £0.6m Removal of Covid-19 measures.

- £0.4m Recycling revenue 100% - No equalisation reserve and £0.3m Increased fees & charges in line with inflation.
- Highlighted the draft budget figures in the report.
- The outstanding remain to be signed off of as part of the Medium-Term Financial Plan process from Executive and Full Council in February.
- The pay awards and utilities increases were not yet included.
- Disposal contract inflation not confirmed until March (as usual, estimate made)
- Potential legislative change: HWRC charging: £300k+ and POPs to be confirmed.
- Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility and consistency (food) appear more likely and therefore could be £millions extra income, though not until 2024/25 at the earliest.

The Board members asked the following questions: the material value has increase for the Plastics packaging, the budget savings and the saving for Recycle More. The predictions before the rollout.

Strategic Manager of Finance Christian Evans informed the board the recycle more schemes has considerable savings disposal contract £3.5 million inflation collection 1.9 million the COVID cost were a considerable factor as part of the rollout due to for the cleaning and staffing.

Somerset Waste Partnership Managing Director Mickey Green informed the Board £1.7 million, was the original prediction, with procurement and contract costs the budget was considerably higher than the original prediction.

**That the Somerset Waste Board: -**

- **Notes the summary financial performance for 2022/2023 to the end of month 9 (April – Dec) and the potential outturn position for each partner authority.**
- **Considers the budget for 2023/2024.**
- **To discuss the Confidential Presentation.**

**Exclusion of the Press and Public**

**To consider passing a resolution having been duly proposed and seconded under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting, on the basis that if they were present during the business to be transacted there would be a likelihood of disclosure of**

**exempt information, within the meaning of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972:**

**Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts proposed going offline and this was seconded by Councillor Tim Kerley.**

**11. Any other urgent items of Business**

The Chair thanked all Members for attending and thanked members for the participation on the board during this period and thanked the officers who had steered and supported the partnership through really challenging years and huge successes. The Chair expressed special thanks to the SWP Managing Director Mickey Green and congratulated him on his new role as Executive Director for Climate and Place.

Councillor Janet Keen thanked everyone for the last four years, and the fact that it's been a long learning experience which has been of great value in other aspects of life thanked the SWP Managing Director and all colleagues for the very helpful way and for being patient and answering questions and would personally carry away some very happy and constructive meetings and members of being as part of this committee, and wishes everyone who are moving to the New Unitary Council.

Councillor Tim Kerley thanked all members and Officer and a special thank you to Cllr Sarah Dyke who had been Chair of the Somerset Waste Board.

The Managing Director Mickey Green presented some highlights of the journey of the board.

- In 1981 there are about 8 million collections a year.
- 2022 about 6 million collections a year.
- 1.3 million bins, boxes or bags around the County
- Between 2007 and 2021-2022, the amount of material recycled or reused has saved 1.8 million tonnes of carbon the same as taking 70.000.00 cars of the road for a year.
- In 2007-2008 SWP sent 130,000,00 Tonnes to landfill and last year just over 12,000 equivalents to 115 million plastic bottles in terms of plastic.
- Kerbside recycling started in 2000's, in 2003 the first local authorise partnership, 2008, the first to publish that annually, exactly where SWP recycling goes.
- 2010 to 2012, the shift away from landfill.

- 2020 the Recycle More roll-out and the work with our contractors in the cruise with no matter what and staff at the recycling centres.

The SWP Managing Director introduced Steve Reed, who was the Managing Director before and Bruce Carpenter, who is the interim Managing Director of the SWP.

Bruce Carpenter highlighted:

- First recruited as services manager for Taunton Deane back in 1992 over 30 years ago. it's interesting to reflect back on that because there wasn't any Kerbside recycling. There was weekly refuse collections in black plastic sacks and it all went to landfill and things started to change fairly rapidly.
- The Government of the time had introduced the Environmental Protection Act that the District Councils to produce recycling plans and show their work to achieve a 25% Recycling target and now approaching 60% and shows the commitment.
- In the early days started working together with Members always fundamentally involved and the first group of Members that we brought together was called the Somerset Joint Council's Waste Management Group.
- The first jointly procured refuse and recycling combined Service contract and those developments that Mickey referred to, for example fortnightly refuse collections, introducing food waste, the commissioning of the AD plant by Viridor. All of these things starting to work together holistically, just as a virtual unitary waste authority should do.
- The procurement and delivery of recycle more and in terms of the six successes in performance and last years. Success in winning the local government Chronicle Environmental Services Award.
- Proud of what the organisations have achieved, and I think we should all be very proud of what the board the SWP is achieved over the year.
- It was the model of this virtual waste authority and now everybody's understood the benefits of that extended across all service areas to form the Somerset unitary authority.

(The meeting ended at 12.45pm)

**CHAIR**