



South Tyneside Council



SOUTH TYNE AND WEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA

Friday, 17 March 2017 at 1.30 pm in the Whickham Room - Civic Centre

From the Chief Executive, Sheena Ramsey

Item Business

1. **Apologies**

2. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 14)

The Joint Executive Committee is asked to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 23 September and 9 December 2016

3. **Declarations of Interests**

4. **Waste Infrastructure Delivery Programme (WIDP)**

Presentation

5. **Contracts Update** (Pages 15 - 26)

Report attached

6. **Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy: Five-Year Review** (Pages 27 - 30)

Report attached

7. **Communications Update**

Presentation

8. **Date and Time of Future Meetings (to be agreed)**

- 23 June 2017 – 1.30pm
- 22 September 2017 – 1.30pm
- 8 December 2017 – 1.30pm
- 16 March 2018 – 1.30pm

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GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

SOUTH TYNE AND WEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, 23 September 2016

PRESENT: Councillor Linda Green in the Chair (Gateshead Council)

South Tyneside Council Councillor Alan West

Sunderland Council Councillor Michael Mordey

IN ATTENDANCE:

Gateshead Council Colin Huntington, Fiona Swinburne, Chris Wilson, Gary Smith,
Martin Harrison and Rosalyn Patterson

South Tyneside Council Andrew Whittaker

Sunderland Council Les Clark, Mark Speed and Colin Curtis

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor McElroy, Councillor Foreman, Councillor Miller and Tony Alder.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were submitted.

4 CONTRACTS UPDATE

The Committee received a report on the current position regarding the Residual Waste Treatment Contract and other contracts and activities managed by the Partnership.

Updated reconciliation proposals have been reviewed and feedback is being awaited from STWER. Performance figures were identified; recycling performance is at 4.2% against a target of 2.1%, recovery performance is 95.9% which is above the target of 95.5%. There is also 100% unprocessed landfill diversion rate.

It was reported that Sunderland City Council Planning Committee agreed to an

amendment to the Campground Waste Transfer Station planning application to allow bulk haulage vehicles to use the site's emergency road. A condition to the permission was attached that noise monitoring be undertaken within three months and that the number of vehicles using the route is recorded.

Construction work at the Visitor and Education Centre has been completed for the outdoor classroom. Infrastructure work is ongoing to construct a greenhouse out of plastic bottles. Some of the bottles discarded during the Great North Run which were received from Middlefields Waste Transfer Station will be used. It was confirmed that some of the media have already picked up on the story and opportunities to promote it further should be progressed.

It was noted that there has been a few minor outages at the EFW facility over the last year caused by blockages in the bottom ash chute. Space suits are now being used to deal with blockages quicker. Line 4 will be shut down from 26 September until 3 October and line 5 will shut down on 23 until 29 October. During the shut down Durham's waste will be redirected to other facilities so that the Partnership's waste can be accommodated.

It was confirmed that Gateshead Council's Economic and Housing Growth Service continues to receive information on vacancies. Currently 40% of the posts at the EFW facility and 70% of the post holders at the WTS's are residents of the Partnership area.

Groundwork North East and Cumbria continue to work on community engagement, from April to August 2016 1648 children and young people participated in events at the Visitor and Education Centre. 284 local residents also took part in activities. A year long project is underway around Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) which is aimed at increasing WEEE reuse and recycling rates. Various events, including roadshows, school and amnesty events, have been held between May and August 2016.

The Campground Community Liaison Group met on 12 July and the last meeting of the Jack Crawford House Community Liaison Group was 22 September. No major issues were raised at either meeting.

In terms of the two Materials Recovery Facilities (MRF) contracts the joint partnership team is in day-to-day contact with both contractors. The comingled material tonnage has decreased across the partnership and this will continue to be monitored. It was noted that South Tyneside shows an increase in the paper recycling performance, however it was acknowledged that this was from a low starting point and is catching up with the Gateshead and Sunderland position. In comparison to the same period last year there has been a decrease in recovery, however generally waste is going up. This will be looked at closer in terms of trends and seasonal peaks and troughs. It was also noted that the quality of the material collected has significantly improved, therefore it was agreed that in future, quality as well as tonnage should be reported on.

The performance of the Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRC) is continuing to exceed targets. In relation to the HWRC contract Gateshead and

Sunderland have agreed to extend their contracts so that all are aligned and a joint partnership contract can be considered at the end of the current arrangements.

In terms of the green waste composting contracts, Gateshead joint partnership team recently led a joint procurement exercise supported by the Partnership's lead procurement team and officers from partner authorities to award new contracts for the provision and operation of green waste composting facilities.

RESOLVED - That the Joint Executive Committee noted the progress of the report.

5 RESOURCE RECOVERY SECTOR - UPDATE

The Joint Executive Committee received a report on issues arising across the resource recovery sector. Following visits by Councillors from each of the three authorities to facilities across the UK and Europe, a number of treatment technologies were viewed. Electricity generation through energy-from-waste was found to be the most cost effective for the partnership.

A number of problems have arisen in some treatment facilities in terms of their long-term viability, for example in the plasma gasification sector due to the complex technology in comparison to other combustion techniques. It was noted that Air Products' left the sector by scrapping the Tees Valley plant, at a cost of £770m. In terms of mechanical biological treatment technology there has been long-term site closures at several facilities due to major issues such as large-scale fires.

It was reported that there has been issues with delivery of energy-from-waste PFI projects. Defra withdrew £91m PFI credits from Norfolk County Council's waste incinerator project, which led to termination of the project, the DCLG also rejected a claim for financial support to cover the contractors compensation costs. Following this, Norfolk County Council has also been criticised for its short term contractual arrangements.

In addition Cornwall Council has been criticised for its £1.1 billion waste PFI contract being outdated. Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority has been accused of breaching procurement regulations, there has also been several fires at waste facilities and delayed completion due to design faults.

Cumbria County Council has had operations suspended due to a number of issues which meant that waste was diverted to landfill. Lancashire County Council and Blackpool Council have also experienced problems.

It was noted that these examples show the effectiveness of the partnerships residual waste treatment contract.

RESOLVED - That the Joint Executive Committee noted the contents of the report.

6

'BREXIT' - IMPLICATIONS FOR THE WASTE SECTOR

Following a request at the last meeting the Committee received a report on the position within the waste sector resulting from the referendum to leave the EU.

It was noted that the majority of UK environmental policy is shaped at EU level and a number of EU directives have had a significant impact on waste management and UK law. It was reported that an immediate impact of the referendum could be seen in some areas of the waste sector, such as a rise in costs for councils that export their waste as refuse derived fuel to operators in countries such as Germany and the Netherlands, because transactions conducted in euros have been affected by the falling exchange rates.

It was noted that EU law will still affect the UK once Article 50 has been triggered, and EU-based directives may continue to remain part of UK law once the UK has left the Union.

The Committee was advised that at this stage it was too early to know the impact of 'Brexit' on the waste sector and further updates would be brought to the Committee as appropriate.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the Joint Executive Committee noted the contents of the report.
 - (ii) That the Joint Executive Committee agreed to receive further updates regarding the implications on the waste sector of the referendum vote to leave the EU, as appropriate.

7

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

A presentation was given to the Committee on local, national and local authority waste-related stories that have been in the media.

As reported at the last meeting there has been a lot of media interest in the disrupted bin collection service in Newcastle, following changes in working practices. The unofficial dispute is now in its fifth month and the Council has ordered an independent review of its refuse collection services and working practices to compare them with arrangements in other authorities. This will include interviews with staff, managers, Trade Union representatives and Councillors will be interviewed.

It was reported that there has been a restructure in Defra, with Andrea Leadsom has been appointed as Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. In addition, Therese Coffey has replaced Rory Stewart as Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Defra. The Committee was advised that the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills have been scrapped and replaced by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and will be led by Greg Clark.

Defra has reported that, based on the first six months following the introduction of the plastic bag levy in England, it is expected that single use plastic bags issued by supermarkets will fall by six billion over the full year. The Waste and Marine Conservation Society highlighted that the reduction will benefit the environment as a whole and sea life in particular. In addition, the charge for plastic bags has resulted in donations of more than £29m from retailers to good causes.

It was noted that the BBC submitted a freedom of information request around the amount of household waste being rejected for recycling. It was confirmed that this has risen by 84% over the last four years as a result of increased scrutiny by contractors on material quality and the introduction of the MRF Code of Practice. The Environmental Audit Committee put the findings into context and pointed out that the 338,000 tonnes being rejected is less than 3.5% of the total amount of household waste that is collected for recycling. It also reported that the amount of household waste that is recycled has increased from 9.1 million tonnes in 2010 to 10 million tonnes in 2014. It was acknowledged that, in terms of the STWWMP, contractors' interpretation of rejected or contaminated materials does not necessarily mean that they cannot be recycled. However, close work continues with contractors to develop regular communication activities to help residents understand what can and cannot be recycled.

The Committee was advised that the Daily Mail recently published a report claiming that attacks on bin men have doubled since 2013, increasing from 159 to 309 in 2016. The report states that some refuse teams have been bombarded with waste, threatened and physically assaulted. The article also attributes the attacks to homeowners being 'infuriated with complex recycling rules' and 'restrictive rubbish quotas'. It was acknowledged that, in terms of the partnership, physical attacks on collection crews are rare although they can face regular verbal abuse. Gateshead and Sunderland crews have CCTV cameras on their collection vehicles and South Tyneside is currently trialling the system, signage on the vehicle raises public awareness and discourages anti-social behaviour towards staff.

A good news story was presented to the Committee around the rescue of a 90 year old tortoise that disappeared after getting into a bag of waste. Westminster City Council used GPS software to track the collection vehicle to a waste treatment facility, where thermal imaging equipment was then used to find the tortoise safe and well.

The Committee was advised that Gateshead recently held a Members Seminar about the story of the partnership, this was very well received and will be presented to full Council. Gateshead Councillors have also asked to visit the Waste Transfer Station and EfW plant and officers are happy to make similar arrangements regarding Members Seminars and visits to facilities for Councillors from Sunderland and South Tyneside.

RESOLVED - That the Joint Executive Committee noted the information presented.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee was advised that the STWWMP was a finalist in the Best Public / Private Partnership Working Initiative category at the APSE Service Awards. It was noted that to have the partnership's work recognised nationally across all aspects of the public sector is a significant achievement.

9 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday 9 December 2016 at 1.30pm.

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
SOUTH TYNE AND WEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP JOINT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, 9 December 2016

**This meeting was inquorate and those members in attendance
discussed the following issues**

PRESENT: Councillor Linda Green in the Chair (Gateshead Council)
Gateshead Council Councillor John McElroy and
Sunderland Council Councillor Graeme Miller

IN ATTENDANCE:

Gateshead Council Anthony Alder, Fiona Swinburne, Chris Wilson, Gary Smith,
Rosalyn Patterson
South Tyneside Council Andrew Whittaker
Sunderland Council Mark Speed and Colin Curtis

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mordey, Councillor West, Councillor Foreman and Martin Harrison.

2 MINUTES

Due to not being quorate it was recommended that the next meeting of the Joint Executive Committee confirm that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2016 are a correct record.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were submitted.

4 FROM JUNK TO JUVENILIA - WASTE AWARENESS EDUCATION THROUGH RECYCLED ART AND BEYOND

The Committee received a presentation from Stephen Armstrong, Programme

Manager at Groundwork around the partnership work that has been undertaken over the last year.

It was noted that the team are based at the Visitor and Education Centre and run community engagement to build capacity of communities and raise awareness around reduce, reuse and recycle. It was reported that a lot of work has been held with universities, colleges, schools and community groups. A wide range of activities are delivered which is tailored dependent on the audience to ensure the key messages get across successfully.

Groundwork carries out a lot of engagement activities through work within the Visitor and Education Centre and also outreach work, such as in schools, trips to the EfW site to educate and inform residents about correct practice and support behavioural change.

Over the last year the team has created an outdoor classroom at the Visitor and Education Centre, with a pond and compost facility. In addition there are raised beds for growing of food plants and wildflowers.

It was noted that partnership working is important in order to improve recycling and waste management whilst sharing resources and skills. Partnership working also allows more to be achieved with less and better enables communities.

Partnership working is achieved through open communication, a shared commitment and equality of contribution. Monthly Steering Group and reporting is carried out as well as regular knowledge sharing.

It was reported that, by Christmas, Groundwork has engaged 10,000 people over two years, held 260 school sessions, two thirds of the schools in the partnership area have been worked with and 260 different community groups.

RESOLVED - That the Joint Executive Committee note the information presented.

5 WEEE RECYCLE CAMPAIGN

A presentation was given on the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Recycle Campaign. It was noted that this is a year long campaign working in partnership with all three Council's.

The project is working to deliver a 3% increase in WEEE recycling and raising awareness on WEEE and battery recycling. This is through roadshows, school workshops, amnesty events and door knocking. Work is ongoing to create advertising to ensure the message is carried on beyond the year.

Through schools amnesty events are held for WEEE and battery recycling with competitions and incentives offered. In addition roadshows have been held in areas of high footfall to raise awareness. During the year 55 roadshows have been held which have reached 3831 people, 36 school visits have been carried out, 4 amnesty

events and 2500 door knocks.

It was questioned how schools have been contacted to get involved. It was confirmed that initially there was various pushes in order to get into schools and since then it has been through word of mouth, there is also a champion school in each of the partnership areas.

It was queried how people are informed about battery recycling and how they can do it on a regular basis. It was confirmed that there are battery recycling boxes in local shops and factsheets online. It was agreed that further conversations would be held at the next Steering Group meeting around marketing battery recycling better.

RESOLVED - That the Joint Executive Committee noted the information presented.

6 CONTRACTS UPDATE

The Committee received a report on the current position regarding the Residual Waste Treatment Contract and other contracts and activities managed by the Partnership.

Gateshead and South Tyneside Councils' are in a 48 month Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) contract with Palm Recycling Ltd which commenced in April 2014. Sunderland Council has a separate MRF contract with J&B Recycling for 36 months which commenced 1 April 2015.

Three separate Green Waste Composting contracts have been awarded; Gateshead with A Willey and South Tyneside with Suez, both for 36 months from 1 April 2016 and Sunderland with JBT for 31 months with effect from 1 September 2016.

In terms of the Residual Waste Treatment Contract the 2014/15 and 2015/16 reconciliation exercises are nearing completion and latest performance figures were provided.

The turbine at the EfW facility has not been operational since September 2016 and has been sent to Austria for repair. It is expected that this will be returned by March 2017, this has impacted on turbine availability which has dropped to 74%, although all residual waste is still being treated. The Residual Waste Treatment Contract is currently over achieving in terms of recycling and recovery performance from April to October 2016, there has also been 100% landfill diversion rate.

It was reported that actions to discharge two minor planning conditions at Campground Waste Transfer Station (WTS) have been progressed around noise monitoring assessments and recording of vehicles using the emergency road. Also, there have been minor outages due to blockages in the bottom ash chute, however no time was lost to the contract and there were no major issues during shutdown.

It was noted that employee levels remain stable, 40% of the posts at the EfW facility and 70% of the posts in the WTS are from the Partnership area.

Community Liaison Groups continue to be held with the Jack Crawford House group meeting on 22 September 2016 who expressed an interest in visiting SUEZ's new EfW plant at Wilton to see the rail links.

In terms of MRF contracts, feedback has been received from health and safety advisors around operational procedures at Riverdale, which have now been amended to enhance safety. This is used by Gateshead and South Tyneside vehicles.

Performance around HWRC and blue bin tonnage were provided.

The position with regards to the turbine was questioned. It was confirmed that the electrical winding unit will be replaced and there is confidence this will repair the problem. It was felt easier to remove and reinstall the turbine instead of attempting a repair on site.

The Committee requested more context in relation to personal injuries and near misses, to be included in the next report. It was acknowledged that Suez pride themselves on health and safety and therefore report everything, which can be very minor. It was also noted that a lot of the incidents occur during the shutdown period when there are high numbers of sub contractors onsite.

RESOLVED - That the Joint Executive Committee noted the progress of the project.

7 COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

A presentation was given to the Committee on local, national and local authority waste-related stories that have been in the media.

The Airports Commission identified its preferred option of a third runway at Heathrow. This would impact on the Lakeside EfW facility in Berkshire as it would need to be demolished to make way for the runway. The Commission's report recommends that it should be relocated as part of the proposals to a site nearby with minimal disruption.

It was reported that, in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement, there was no assurances over the future of landfill tax rates after April 2018. It was also noted in the statement that work is ongoing to clarify issues around landfill tax obligations. There was no specific environmental policy touched on in the speech, although the waste sector was highlighted as one of the six priority areas governed by the National Infrastructure Committee.

It was reported that the Dorset Waste Partnership, which manages waste services for seven local authorities, has called for further Government guidance over what constitutes household waste for disposal. Dorset currently charges for the disposal of construction waste, however a Conservative MP has written to the Local Government Minister to clarify what steps Government are taking to ensure that

Dorset Waste Partnership does not charge for waste from household DIY projects. In a written response to Parliament the Minister referred to legislation preventing local authorities from charging residents to dispose of household waste, classifying DIY waste as household if it results from work a householder could carry out. The Director of Dorset Waste Partnership responded and requested further clarification on what is now a national issue.

Committee was advised that Somerset Waste Partnership will decide next month whether to switch from fortnightly to three weekly collection for their five local authorities. It is anticipated that the service change will lead to a 27% reduction in residual waste and deliver £1.7m savings per year. It was noted that the transition costs are forecast at £2.2m with an estimated pay back within 18 months so full year savings will be seen from 2019.

It was noted that a survey conducted on behalf of the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) has found that the Council services that people are most satisfied with are refuse and recycling. However, APSE warned that the public are now starting to see the impact of austerity with many respondents reporting a decline in their local services. 44% of those respondents thought that this was the combined fault of both Government and local Councils whilst only 27% thought this was caused by Government alone.

It was reported that there was a recent article in the Daily Mail around a group of bin men who have been sacked for helping an elderly man by clearing bags of rubbish from his garden. The men worked for Veolia in Kent and were dismissed for gross misconduct without first receiving a warning. Residents were so upset that they started a collection to help their families out over the Christmas period.

RESOLVED - That the Joint Executive Committee noted the information presented.

8 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday 17 March 2017 at 1.30pm.

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South Tyneside Council



REPORT TO THE SOUTH TYNE AND WEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

17 March 2017

REPORT OF: Tony Alder, Project Director, South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership

SUBJECT: Contracts Update

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To advise the Joint Executive Committee of the current position regarding the Residual Waste Treatment Contract and other ancillary waste treatment joint contracts and activities managed by the South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership (STWWMP).

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Residual Waste Treatment Contract (RWTC) was awarded to a consortium led by SITA UK (through SITA South Tyne and Wear Ltd) on 20 April 2011. The contract comprises the energy-from-waste facility (EfW) at Teesside, fed by waste from three Waste Transfer Stations (WTS) situated for use by each of the partner authorities. The contract commenced service on 22 April 2014.

2.2 In March 2015, SITA UK's parent company announced a global rebrand, indicating that all of its subsidiary companies would change their names to SUEZ. In December 2015, STWWMP received formal notification that SITA South Tyne and Wear Ltd had also changed its name, and would now be known as South Tyne and Wear Energy Recovery Ltd (STWER).

2.3 Gateshead and South Tyneside Councils' 48-month Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) contract for dry recyclables commenced service with Palm Recycling Ltd on 1 April 2014.

2.4 Sunderland Council awarded a separate MRF contract to J&B Recycling, which commenced service on 1 April 2015 for a period of 36 months.

2.5 Gateshead and Sunderland Councils jointly procured separate contracts for the management of their Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRC) with SUEZ. Both incentive-based contracts are two years and seven months in length, and commenced service at the beginning of September 2014.

- 2.6 South Tyneside Council entered into a different contract for HWRC management with SUEZ, which commenced on 1 April 2013. The contract allows the council to manage the end outlets for the waste streams and includes regular market-testing to ensure value for money is being received.
- 2.7 A joint procurement exercise awarded three separate green waste composting contracts for each partner authority to three different providers. Although separate contracts to different providers were awarded, the timing of the contract lengths has been structured to enable a joint partnership contract to be considered at the end of the current arrangements. The current contract providers are:
- Gateshead, with A.Willey for 36 months from 01 April 2016
 - South Tyneside, with SUEZ for 36 months from 01 April 2016
 - Sunderland, with JBT for 31 months from 01 September 2016
- 2.8 The joint partnership team continues to undertake strategic waste management functions on behalf of the partner authorities. This is enabling, amongst other things, a proactive and timely approach to management of the RWTC which is operated under strict timescales. Similar benefits are also afforded to the procurement and management of other ancillary contracts, such as MRF, HWRC, and green waste composting.

3. **RESIDUAL WASTE TREATMENT CONTRACT**

- 3.1 Both the 2014/15 and 2015/16 reconciliation exercises with STWER have now been completed. All information has been sent to partner authority finance teams for review, and the final actions between authorities will be processed before the closure of 2016/17 final accounts.
- 3.2 The joint partnership team continues to review and audit SUEZ monthly reports, which detail materials processed and service issues. Once approved, invoices are processed and apportioned to the partner authorities within contractual timescales.
- 3.3 The latest performance for the 2016/17 contract year (April 2016 – January 2017) can be found at Appendix A. Recycling and recovery performance both continue to exceed contractual targets.
- 3.4 A response is still awaited from Sunderland City Council regarding the action previously undertaken to discharge the two minor conditions associated with the planning application which has enabled bulk haulage vehicles to use the emergency road at Campground WTS. Following the completion of noise monitoring assessments in November 2016, vehicles using the emergency road continue to be monitored and recorded.
- 3.5 The turbine at the EfW facility is still not operational due to the maintenance issues experienced in September 2016, and was sent to Austria for repair. It is scheduled to be returned the EfW on 10 March for reinstallation and commissioning, and expected to be operational again by 17 March. STWER continues to manage service and contractual requirements, and the impact on

the average turbine availability is now calculated as 52% (see Appendix A). However, as reported previously, the EfW was designed to be able to operate without the turbine, and all of the Partnership's material continues to be accepted and processed as required.

3.6 Appendix A also highlights RWTC cumulative health and safety statistics for this contract year. Comprehensive policies and procedures for accident reporting and investigation are in place to prevent non-injury incidents becoming events with more serious consequences. All incidents are investigated as soon as is practicable to determine underlying deficiencies or other factors that may be causing or contributing to the occurrence of incidents. Remedial and preventative actions to prevent reoccurrence are identified, along with opportunities for continuous improvement. All relevant information is recorded and risk assessed. Responsibility for implementing actions is assigned, along with a timeframe for completion, agreed with the joint partnership team, and their implementation monitored on an ongoing basis.

3.7 Health and safety statistics are shown against five different categories:

- **RIDDOR:** an incident or accident reported under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013. This includes the death of a person, injuries to workers which result in their incapacitation for more than seven days, and injuries to non-workers which result in them being taken directly to hospital for treatment. The one RIDDOR reported during this contract year related to a fractured thumb sustained by a technician whilst maintaining the EfW shredder.
- **Injuries and accidents:** an event that results in injury or ill-health from minor incidents such as slips, trips, and falls. Since April 2016, nine injuries and accidents have been reported, including a driver that slipped when approaching the weighbridge access door at Campground; an EfW operative that twisted their ankle whilst exiting a parked JCB; and a site operative at Jack Crawford House that was manually moving a wooden door in the transfer hall when the glass centrepiece fell out and cut their leg.
- **Near misses:** unplanned events that did not cause injury, ill-health, or damage, but had the potential to do so. Recent near misses reported during this contract year include: the activation of the EfW fire alarm due to smoke emitting from the seals and exhaust of the domestic boiler; a member of the public who entered the Campground site by driving through the exit gate; a possible hot load that arrived at Middlefields without prior notification; and the removal of a large gas bottle from the bulky waste prior to shredding at the EfW.
- **Property damage:** incidents where the delivery of routine operations has caused damage to property, equipment, vehicles, or the environment, but has not resulted in personal injury. During this contract year, incidents of property damage at Campground, for example, include: a hooklift truck that moved off the weighbridge whilst the barrier was still down, causing the barrier to bend and split; an external contractor's articulated vehicle that turned sharply to exit the tipping hall,

resulting in the trailer to slip out and collide with and damage another vehicle; and a loading shovel bucket that clipped and popped a rivet on the trailer an articulated vehicle during a loading operation.

- **Fires:** small scale fires may occur in a number of situations, for example if waste in vehicle is too hot and ignites, or when materials are being loaded into another vehicle. It is therefore important to ensure that clear procedures are in place to ensure that all incidents can be isolated, addressed, and disposed of as quickly as possible. During this contract year, incidents of two fires have been reported. On one occasion, a small fire occurred in Shed B at Middlefields but there was no damage to site or personal injury. At Jack Crawford House, a fire was detected inside the trailer of an external contractor's articulated vehicle whilst loading cardboard. There was no damage to site or personal injury, but slight damage to the vehicle trailer. Following investigation, no root cause could be identified for either incident, but fire risk assessments and contingency procedures were reviewed and reissued.

3.8 The planned EfW maintenance shutdown is taking place during February and March 2017 (Line 4: 17 February to 5 March, Line 5: 27 February to 22 March).

3.9 Staggering the shutdowns and redirecting third party waste is aimed at ensuring that there is no impact on the Partnership's waste, and contingency arrangements have not required to be implemented.

3.10 However, one of the RWTC contingency sites, Path Head Landfill near Ryton, closed on 31 January 2017. SUEZ has, therefore, confirmed the new contingency arrangements for the management of the Partnership's material should the EfW be unable to operate. These new arrangements (see table below) can be considered as more sustainable, because two 'recovery' options are included as preferences to the third (landfill) option:

Contract facility: Tees Valley EfW, Lines 4 & 5	
First contingency option	Tees Valley EfW, Lines 1, 2 & 3
Second contingency option	Alternative EfW treatment facilities, Kirlees; Wilton
Third contingency option	Ellington Road landfill, Ashington, Northumberland

3.11 Chris Noble, Head of Project Integra (the waste management partnership for Hampshire councils), has provided an update regarding their lobbying activities regarding the inclusion of Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA) within recycling performance figures, and thanked the Partnership for their support in engaging with MPs and Ministers. Following a conference call with the Department for Education, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Environment Agency (EA), Project Integra hosted a delegation of Defra officials at a Hampshire EfW and also an ash processing facility. The visit was aimed at providing officials with a greater appreciation of the processes involved and the nature of the end products.

- 3.12 Through the Basingstoke MP Maria Miller, Project Integra also secured a meeting with Thérèse Coffey MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at Defra. At the meeting, it was confirmed that the UK is pushing for IBA (including metals from IBA and material used as an aggregate) to be included within the standard definition of what can be counted against a Member State's recycling rate. This feedback can be considered as a success, and the Partnership will continue to work with Project Integra and maintain a watching brief on the ongoing negotiations.
- 3.13 The RWTC also affords provision for SUEZ to help to improve local prosperity across the partnership area by promoting vacant posts within their facilities. The Economic and Housing Growth Service at Gateshead Council continues to receive information on local vacancies, which are then cascaded to partner authorities for circulation to their client base.
- 3.14 Over recent months, there have been some changes in the percentage of staff employed at the EfW that live within the partnership area. This includes some plant managers and shift supervisors that have moved on within the sector and taken up new opportunities outside of SUEZ. These posts have all been filled internally, and SUEZ will begin a recruitment exercise to backfill the promoted posts over the next month. Furthermore, on further inspection of HR records, SUEZ has identified that a number of other staff have subsequently moved house to neighbouring local authority areas outside of the Partnership. Consequently, this has impacted on the percentage figure for staff employed at the EfW from within the partnership area, which now stands at 7% of the operational posts available. However, the level of Partnership residents employed at the three WTS or in the management and administration of the RWTC continues to remain stable, with 70% of the post holders residents of Gateshead, South Tyneside, or Sunderland.
- 3.15 SUEZ specialises in securing and recovering resources, and as part of a global brand, this includes a number of other resource management solutions. Within the North East, in addition to its waste activities, SUEZ also has a significant presence in optimisation services for water networks. For example, the industrial water team is based in offices at Low Fell, Gateshead, and there are also laboratories located in County Durham. Consequently, work continues with the joint partnership team to consider how other local recruitment opportunities across the SUEZ brand can be provided to residents from the partnership area.
- 3.16 STWWMP remains committed to an ongoing programme of community education and engagement, delivered by Groundwork North East and Cumbria (GNEC) in both the Visitor and Education Centre and through activities held in local schools and community settings.
- 3.17 Between the beginning of April 2016 and the end of February 2017, 4,014 children and young people have now participated in events, including:
- A waste awareness session delivered to 180 Year 10 students at Mortimer College in South Shields
 - A bottle top art project with all 68 pupils from Hill Top School, Gateshead
 - A waste assembly to all 98 pupils at St. John's CE Primary School, which also included the announcement of the winner of the 'Recycle for Ryhope' competition

- The commencement of a long-term recycling auction project with Keelman’s Way School in Hebburn, South Tyneside

3.18 As part of the community education and engagement programme, a number of ongoing working relationships have been established with schools across the partnership area. This includes St. Mary’s RC Primary School in Sunderland who recognised that they were producing more waste than was acceptable. Two years ago, a school waste audit identified that they were throwing away 75kg of waste each week from the classrooms and 260kg per week of food waste. To address this they participated in a number of waste-related activities, events, and projects with GNEC and recent audit results have shown that classroom waste has now reduced by more than half to 33kg, and food waste cut to 155kg.

3.19 556 members of local community groups and organisations have also participated in events at either the Centre itself or within their local community since April 2016. Recently, this included recycled crafts sessions with Sunderland ESPA (Education and Services for People with Autism).

3.20 The seats for the teaching area in the Visitor and Education Centre’s outdoor classroom are expected to be completed by local chainsaw artist, Tommy Craggs, by the end of April 2017. The classroom’s opening event has been scheduled for the afternoon of 11 May 2017.

3.21 The year-long Waste Electric and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) project, funded through the WEEE Improvement Fund has now concluded. The project complemented the general education and engagement programme and aimed to increase WEEE reuse and recycling rates across the partnership area.

3.22 Since community activities began in May 2016, a total of 10,931 engagements were achieved across the partnership area through the delivery of the following activities:

- 96 roadshows
- 81 school events (including Brownie and Beaver events etc.)
- 6 amnesty events
- 1,305 door knocking engagement discussions
- 5,888 household information drops

3.23 The project targeted a 3% overall increase in WEEE recycling, but a number of WEEE streams saw significant increases during the period of the project:

WEEE material stream	Tonnage 2015	Tonnage 2016	% difference
Large domestic appliances	516.37	559.34	+8%
Cooling equipment	743.92	930.43	+25%
Visual display equipment	483.40	546.17	+13%
Lamps	5.65	4.01	-29%
Small WEEE	649.88	733.04	+13%
Batteries	18.74	23.60	+26%

- 3.24 The date for the deferred Campground Community Liaison Group meeting is still to be confirmed with SUEZ.
- 3.25 The Jack Crawford House Community Liaison Group met at the Carnegie Community Centre, Villette Road, on 16 February 2017. SUEZ provided the group with an update regarding operations, noting that the waste transfer station (WTS) continues operate and receive waste as forecast, and no significant accidents or incidents have been reported. It was also highlighted that all contract waste received to date has been recovered or recycled. The group were advised by Sunderland City Council that household residual waste collections will move to an alternate weekly collection service from 1 April 2017, but that this is not expected to have a significant impact on the operations of the WTS.
- 3.26 Although the EA were not able to attend, they provided an update for the meeting which confirmed that no complaints or compliance issues had been received about Jack Crawford House, and that site regulation will continue on an ongoing basis at the WTS and other permitted sites within the local area.
- 3.27 The next meeting was scheduled for 8 June 2017.

4. **MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY CONTRACTS**

- 4.1 The MRF contracts continue to be monitored closely by the joint partnership team. This includes processing payments, regular contract meetings, performance reviews, and health and safety site inspections at the various contractor facilities to ensure that recycling performance is maximised.
- 4.2 The latest 2016/17 blue bin information can be found at Appendix B.
- 4.3 Table A highlights the total amount of material collected by each authority between April 2016 and January 2017, broken down between the paper collected separately in the inner box and the comingled materials collected in the main section of the bin. It demonstrates that the total amount of material collected has reduced slightly in each of the three partner authorities, when compared to the same period last year. This is a national issue and could be attributed to several factors, including:
- A reduction in traditional newspaper readership/distribution
 - The development of lightweight recyclable materials
 - An increase in rejected recycling collections due to the inclusion of contaminated/non-target materials
- 4.4 Table B highlights MRF recycling and recovery rates for comingled materials only, since the first quarter 2015/16. However, MRF recycling performance can fluctuate - largely due to the material batch sampling exercises that are used to calculate recycling performance, which are based on small sample sizes (20-30 tonnes). Furthermore, the most recent results for Sunderland demonstrate a recycling figure of 79.9%. However, the sample that was selected included an

unusually high amount of moisture, which impacted on the results because some of the cardboard material was graded as not of sufficient quality for recycling by end processors.

- 4.5 Recycling performance for Gateshead and South Tyneside has generally improved following extensive contract discussions with the contractor, Palm Recycling, and the deployment of extra resources by both councils at the material delivery point at the Team Valley, Gateshead. This has helped to improve the quality of the recyclable material following tipping by council vehicles and prior to its transportation for processing at the MRF.
- 4.6 All councils continue to raise awareness to try to reduce recycling contamination through editorials in council publications, improved website content, and social media messages, and 'toolbox talks' with collection crews.
- 4.7 The joint partnership team, working with colleagues at Sunderland City Council, are currently working closely with the contractor, J&B Recycling, to resolve some key contractual issues, including how material quality can be improved.
- 4.8 Health and safety is also an important issue within the MRF contracts and is discussed at all contract management meetings, with site inspections of contractor delivery points regularly taking place. As with the RWTC, all incidents are investigated as soon as is practicable to determine underlying deficiencies or other factors that may be causing or contributing to the occurrence of incidents. Remedial and preventative actions to prevent reoccurrence are identified, along with opportunities for continuous improvement, and all relevant information is recorded and risk assessed.
- 4.9 The current MRF contracts for all partner authorities are scheduled to end at 31 March 2018. The joint partnership team recently developed a report for discussion by the Officer Project Board which considered potential future MRF contract options for further evaluation, aimed at ensuring that the most economical and sustainable solution for the partnership can be identified. The Partnership continues to investigate deliverable options and further information will be provided as conclusions are drawn.

5. HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING CENTRE CONTRACTS

- 5.1 The joint partnership team also closely monitor all aspects of contract management in relation to the Gateshead and Sunderland HWRC contracts. This includes processing payments, regular contract meetings, and health and safety site inspections at the HWRCs. The South Tyneside contract is managed directly by officers from South Tyneside Council.
- 5.2 The latest performance information (April 2016 – January 2017) can be found at Appendix C. However, it should be noted that because the South Tyneside HWRC contract is delivered in a different way to the Gateshead and Sunderland contract, when performance for each HWRC contract is calculated in the same way, the South Tyneside results will be slightly lower.

- 5.3 All of the current HWRC contracts are scheduled to expire on 31 March 2017. Gateshead and Sunderland have now agreed extend their contracts with SUEZ from 1 April 2017 for a further 36 months.
- 5.4 South Tyneside is negotiating a short-term extension with SUEZ, and will let a new contract from 1 August 2017 with an end date that is co-terminus with the Gateshead and Sunderland contract extensions. This will enable a joint approach between all three partner authorities at the expiry of the new arrangements.
- 5.5 The joint partnership team and colleagues from the partner authorities continue to consider how efficiencies and/or savings can be delivered through HWRC service provision. This includes reviewing: the permit system for vans and trailers; opening times; and the potential introduction of charges for construction and demolition-type materials brought to sites.

6. GREEN WASTE COMPOSTING CONTRACTS

- 6.1 The joint partnership team provide all aspects of contract management for the Gateshead and Sunderland contracts, with officers from South Tyneside Council directly managing their contract. This includes processing payments, regular contract meetings, and health and safety site inspections at the various facilities.
- 6.2 The Sunderland contract was awarded to JBT in September 2016, and the company has recently announced that it was completely taken over in November by Remondis (part of the German Rethman Group), which has its main office at Bedlington, Northumberland. The change in ownership is not expected to impact on day-to-day operations at the site at Birtley.

7. RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 The Joint Executive Committee is requested to note the contents of this report.

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RESIDUAL WASTE TREATMENT CONTRACT

2016/17 latest performance: April 2016 - January 2017

Total contract waste	163,791 tonnes
Contract waste delivered to WTS: - Campground - Middlefields - Jack Crawford House	Gateshead 48,394 tonnes Sunderland 14,417 tonnes South Tyneside 72 tonnes South Tyneside 40,067 tonnes Sunderland 60,841 tonnes
Total contract waste delivered to EfW	157,523 tonnes
Overall EfW availability	80.2%
Average turbine availability	52%
Electricity generation	90,487 MWh
Recycling performance	Target 2.1% Performance 4.1%
Recovery performance	Target 95.9% Performance 95.9%
Unprocessed landfill diversion rate	100%
Health and safety: - RIDDOR - Injuries and accidents - Near misses - Property damage - Fires	1 9 59 27 2

MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITY CONTRACTS

Table A: 2016/17 latest blue bin tonnage data: April 2016 – January 2017

	Gateshead	South Tyneside	Sunderland
Comingled tonnage	10,696	8,473	12,972
Paper tonnage	2,464	1,560	2,741
Total tonnage	13,159	10,034	15,663
<i>Comparison to April 2016 - January 2017 - all materials</i>	<i>3.9% decrease</i>	<i>2.2% decrease</i>	<i>3.7% decrease</i>
<i>Comparison to April 2016 - January 2017- paper</i>	<i>6.8% decrease</i>	<i>26.6% increase</i>	<i>16.7% decrease</i>
<i>Comparison to April 2016 - January 2017 - comingled</i>	<i>3.2% decrease</i>	<i>6.2% decrease</i>	<i>0.4% decrease</i>

Table B: MRF recycling and recovery performance - December 2016

Period	Gateshead		South Tyneside		Sunderland	
	Recycling	Recovery	Recycling	Recovery	Recycling	Recovery
Q1 2015/16	76.0%	24.0%	76.10%	23.9%	87.0%	13.0%
Q2 2015/16	71.9%	28.1%	74.0%	26.0%	85.8%	14.2%
Q3 2015/16	78.4%	21.6%	74.3%	25.7%	83.2%	16.8%
Q4 2015/16	82.4%	17.6%	81.2%	18.8%	81.0%	19.0%
Q1 2016/17	89.1%	10.9%	87.0%	13.0%	85.4%	14.6%
Q2 2016/17	87.8%	12.2%	86.0%	14.0%	82.5%	17.5%
Q3 2016/17	88.1%	11.9%	85.1%	14.9%	79.9%	20.1%

HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING CENTRE CONTRACTS

April 2016 - January 2017 recycling (excluding inert materials, such as rubble):

HWRC	April 2016 - January 2017
Campground	65.85%
Cowen Road	63.65%
Beach Street	66.33%
Middlefields (Recycling Village)	56.10%



South Tyneside Council



REPORT TO THE SOUTH TYNE AND WEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

17 March 2017

REPORT OF - Tony Alder, Project Director, South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership

SUBJECT: Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy: Five-Year Review

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To advise the Joint Executive Committee of the forthcoming review of the South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) was agreed by each partner authority Cabinet in 2007. It covers the management of municipal waste for the period 2007–2027, including:

- Waste collected from households
- Recycling collections
- Waste taken to recycling banks
- Collections of bulky waste
- Street sweepings
- Collection of household clinical waste
- Commercial/trade waste collected by the local authorities
- Fly-tipped waste
- Waste accepted at household waste recycling centres

2.2 It does not consider most industrial, commercial, construction, or demolition wastes, which are generally managed by the private sector.

3. JMWMS REVIEW

- 3.1 Whilst there is no statutory requirement on STWWMP to produce a JMWMS, the Partnership considers the publication of a strategy as 'best practice', and has committed to undertake a review every five years. The first review was undertaken during 2012 and published in January 2013, but this will be the first review since service commencement of the residual waste treatment contract in 2014.
- 3.2 The current JMWMS identifies six over-arching objectives and 17 policies with a number of actions to support their delivery.
- 3.3 The Officer Project Board will consider options to review the JMWMS to inform whether a 'light touch' review would be most appropriate given the nature and scale of changes required, or whether a fundamental review and public consultation exercise should be undertaken.

4. NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 The joint partnership team will lead a small officer working group with representation from each partner authority to consider progress against policies and actions agreed in the 2012 JMWMS review.
- 4.2 In completing the 2017 JMWMS review, the working group will also consider:
- European, national, and regional policy and legislation
 - General changes in the waste industry
 - Feedback received by the partner authorities from residents
 - Changes made by partner authorities to waste services
 - Current performance and future targets
 - Financial context and authorities' medium term financial strategies
 - Extending the JMWMS timeframe to 2039, so that it covers the full length of the residual waste treatment contract
- 4.3 Following the development of a draft review, wider input and approval will be sought, including:
- Feedback from officers within partner authorities
 - Discussions with the Officer Project Board
 - Discussions with the Joint Executive Committee, and cabinet members/councillors in each partner authority
 - Formal approval by each partner authority Cabinet
 - Formal approval by the Joint Executive Committee

5. RECOMMENDATION

5.1 The Joint Executive Committee is requested to:

- i) Note the contents of this report; and
- ii) Agree to receive further updates regarding progress of the 2017 review of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy, as appropriate.

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