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South Tyneside Council



SOUTH TYNE AND WEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA

Friday, 7 December 2018 at 1.30 pm in the Whickham Room - Civic Centre

From the Chief Executive, Sheena Ramsey

Item Business

1. Apologies

2. Minutes (Pages 3 - 20)

The Joint Executive Committee is asked to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 15 June 2018 and 21 September 2018.

3. Declarations of Interests

4. Challenges Affecting Recycling in the UK - A J&B Recycling Perspective

Presentation

5. Contracts Update (Pages 21 - 30)

Report attached

6. Communications Update

Presentation

7. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Joint Executive Committee will be held on Friday 15 March 2019 at 1.30 pm

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 2

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

SOUTH TYNE AND WEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, 15 June 2018

PRESENT: Councillor Councillor Linda Green (Gateshead Council) (Chair)
Gateshead Council Councillor Angela Douglas
South Tyneside Council Councillor Jim Foreman
Sunderland Council Councillor Amy Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Gateshead Council	Angela Frisby
South Tyneside Council	Tom Turmk
Sunderland Council	Mark Speed
South of Tyne & Wear Waste Management Partnership	Chris Wilson, Gary Smith, Fiona Swinburne
Suez R & R UK	Anna Bell
Groundwork	Stephen Armstrong Rachel Courtney

APOLOGIES:

Chris Fairhurst, Andrew Whittaker and Anthony Alder

17 ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED - That the Joint Executive Committee agreed that the Chair for 2018/19 would be Councillor Linda Green.

18 ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRS

RESOLVED - That the Joint Executive Committee agreed that the Vice Chairs for 2018-19 would be Councillor Mark Walsh and Councillor Amy Wilson.

19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Walsh, Councillor D Waller and Andrew Whitaker and Chris Fairhurst.

20 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

21 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were received.

22 RWTC CONTRACT PERFORMANCE

The Joint Executive Committee received an update from Anna Bell, SUEZ recycling and recovery UK on residual waste treatment contract performance for 2017-18.

It was noted that overall there had been 190,144.46 tonnes of contract waste from the three local authorities, with 58,663.82 tonnes from Gateshead, 49,886.82 tonnes from South Tyneside and 81,593.82 tonnes from Sunderland. This was marginally behind forecast. However, 100% diversion from landfill had been achieved.

As far as energy from waste performance was concerned 296,854.50 tonnes overall had been processed and performance was considered to be good. There had been 190,820 MWh generated and 168,913MWh exported to the national grid which was sufficient to power 30,000 homes.

One of the milestones which had been reached was that the millionth tonne of waste had been processed since service commencement.

Health and safety performance was reported to be exceptional with no serious occurrences. Near misses had been reported and put right and there was a downward trend in accidents.

There had been one permit breach which had been associated with the waste transfer facility at Campground but this had in fact related to a blocked drain on Springwell Road.

Over the year there had been a lot of community engagement work with community liaison groups such as Campground and Jack Crawford House and feedback had been very positive regarding the visitor and education centre activities with a significant number of visits taking place.

In terms of targeted recruitment and training 71% of the Residual Waste Treatment contract support employees are residents of South of Tyne and Wear area and all posts are advertised in the South of Tyne and Wear area through the partner

authorities. A review of opportunities for apprenticeships has also taken place to see how these can be brought into the waste transfer stations.

Contract challenges for 2018-19 are around improving recycling performance; promoting “right waste”, “right bin”; reducing blockages at EfW and ensuring all waste is treated correctly e.g. WEEE, batteries.

RESOLVED That the Joint Executive Committee noted the information presented.

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WASTE AWARENESS AND RECYCLING EDUCATION IN SOUTH TYNE AND WEAR

A presentation was given to the Committee on waste and recycling education in South Tyne and Wear by Stephen Armstrong and Rachael Courtney, Groundwork North East.

Stephen updated the Committee on the position relating to the Visitor and Education Centre project which had been running for four years now and has a full time dedicated officer, Wendy Fail, to support work with community groups and schools. The centre itself has a design which is certified as respecting the environment. A wide range of activities are co-ordinated at the Centre which hosts a number of community and school groups and these are often curriculum linked. The Centre has proved really successful with 150 / 200 school sessions per year equating to approximately 3 to 4 a week. The Centre also created a garden with a greenhouse made out of bottles from the Great North Run.

The Committee was provided with a case study of the work carried out by the Centre with St Mary’s RC School in Sunderland. The School carried out waste audits with their eco-group and managed to reduce waste in their classroom and kitchen through simple advice. In the kitchen waste was reduced from 260 Kilo per year to 75 kilo per year and in the classrooms waste was reduced from 154 kilo to 40 Kilo’s. Some of the actions leading to this drop in waste were having smaller amounts of the right food for lunch; having cutlery in the right place so it did not end up in the bin; waste free Wednesdays and carefully planned lunches.

Rachael updated the Committee on the Waste Electronics and Electrical Equipment (WEEE) project. The aim of the project was to engage with children and residents to reduce WEEE through a range of different mechanisms and built on the 2016 project in North Tyne & Wear.

There was a need for the project as it was found that there was not a great deal of public knowledge on how to manage batteries and WEEE etc. The project uses educational activities and is community and school driven using venues such as libraries and museums / road shows and competitions.

Rachael advised that in Springwell Village, Sunderland they had engaged members of the Ladybird Group and held an amnesty event where 45 local residents dropped off small WEEE following the event.

Work has been carried out primarily with primary schools via assemblies and has involved activities such as making electricity out of potatoes. The battery competition with a £500 cash prize for schools has proved popular with schools as have amnesty events in schools as a way of getting parents engaged.

Targets – see slide

Future plans – see slide

The Committee noted that recycling batteries is a big issue as these tend to be put in general bins and queried how feasible it would be to have recycling collections for batteries. Colin advised that whilst it would be feasible the cost to authorities would be prohibitive and so authorities should instead be promoting the use of recyclable batteries to the public.

It was queried whether battery recycling venues were promoted as this was important and it was suggested that consideration should be given to promoting this in the Council News.

The Committee noted that one of the big things Rachael was doing was having collection boxes for this type of waste in schools.

Colin indicated that it was recognised that electronics and electrical waste was an issue particularly at our Energy from Waste facility with problems arising due to contamination of the bottom ash from lithium batteries and this is why work is taking place to raise awareness.

The Committee noted the work being carried out in the community but considered that due to funding cuts / and the loss of some charitable community organisations the messages about recycling in the community had become diluted and lost focus. The Committee considered there were however significant opportunities to promote the recycling messages through community associations etc.

The Committee also queried whether linking work at the Education Centre in relation to recycling to other campaigns e.g. Dementia Friendly might assist with funding for projects in the future. Stephen advised that the Centre is not currently classed as dementia friendly but this was something which could be explored.

Stephen advised that if councillors were aware of specific community associations/centres who would like support / advice around recycling then Wendy Fail, as part of her outreach role, would be able to provide that if councillors provide her with the relevant information.

The Committee considered that it was important to get the message out about recycling electronics / electrical waste as a lot of damage was being done via batteries being placed in general waste.

Stephen indicated that they were planning a push on promoting this issue. Fiona advised the Committee that there would be a massive promotion amongst schools in

September in relation to rechargeable batteries and recycling with a range of prizes. Fiona agreed to contact the Joint Communications Team to see what information could be sent out to schools.

The Committee was advised that anyone who sells batteries has to have a recycling point in place and it was noted that there was a collection point in the foyer at the Civic Centre Gateshead.

The Chair stated that it would be important in schools to train a number of individuals so they could continue to train others to get the message out. The Chair queried whether there was the potential for school councils to have named people in each class and competitions between classes to engage young people in the recycling agenda.

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

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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.

2017/18 year end performance was reported and it was noted that once again residual waste treatment contract targets were exceeded.

It was also highlighted that the exercise to investigate the potential opportunity to refinance the debt associated with the RWTC continues to progress.

Further discussions with representatives from the Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), STWER and Willis Towers Watson insurers involving the joint insurance cost report associated with the RWTC were ongoing and the Committee would be updated on the position at relevant milestones.

The total amount of materials collected by each authority during 2017-18 broken down between the paper collected separately in the inner box and the comingled materials collected in the main section of the blue bin was reported. It was noted that in Gateshead and South Tyneside, overall recycling tonnages have dropped compared to the previous year.

There has been an increase in the amount of comingled recycling collected in Sunderland which can be attributed to the introduction of fortnightly refuse collections in April 2017.

Paper tonnages continue to reduce year on year for all three partner authorities and this reflects the national trend.

The latest performance figures were also reported for 2018/19 and it was noted that Beach Street HWRC recycling performance has reduced as a result of fortnightly

refuse collections in Sunderland in April 2017. This has resulted in more residents taking their residual waste to the HWRC which cannot be recycled and has also impacted on the Campground performance.

It was also reported that all three partner authorities had recommenced garden waste kerbside collection services in March / April 2018 and there has been a recent issue with the quality of garden waste on the Gateshead contract highlighted by the contractor. This has been due to contamination from HWRC sites not kerbside collections and the Partnership have been liaising with Suez to ensure this situation improves.

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

25 COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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

It was noted that a report to the Local Government Association (LGA)'s economy and environment board has highlighted that the additional sorting of mixed paper that would be needed to reduce contamination levels for export to China would cost one unnamed council an extra £500,000 a year and another has stated that current low paper prices would see it lose £3million a year.

Paper, card and plastic make up 46% of dry mixed recycling collected by local authorities. However, since China's restrictions took effect earlier this year, the average price of mixed paper has fallen from £93 to £10 per tonne. However, around half of the 407,000 tonnes of recovered paper exported in January 2018 went to new markets in India, Vietnam and Indonesia with the remainder sent to China.

The LGA has indicated recycling the material in the UK instead would be problematic as there was little robust evidence on the capacity of the UK recycling industry to recycle more material collected from households.

The sheer number of plastics used in packaging makes it difficult for councils to sort for recycling impacting on council's negotiating new waste collection and disposal contracts as supplier are unwilling to take 100% of the risk and therefore it would be likely to be split with councils.

MEPs in the European Parliament have recently backed ambitious and binding recycling targets set out in the EU's revised Circular Economy Package meaning that member states will be required to recycle 55% of municipal waste collected by 2025. This will rise to 60% by 2030 and 65% by 2035.

The new package was agreed by the European Council in December after Defra previously indicated it supported the Council in agreeing the revised proposals and

targets. This means that the targets will be adopted by the UK through the EU Withdrawal Bill as part of Brexit arrangements.

Defra has recently announced that David Rutley MP has been temporarily appointed as Parliamentary Under Secretary for State whilst Theresa Coffey recovers from a period of illness. The role will be unpaid and will be in addition to Mr Rutley's existing post as government whip. Mr Rutley is a former senior executive at Asda and worked as special advisor to the treasury, cabinet officer and ministry of agriculture in the last conservative government.

At the end of May, SUEZ launched its manifesto for resource productivity called "A vision for England's long-term resources and waste strategy" which it believes forms the basis of a comprehensive strategy that could see £9 billion added to the UK economy. The manifesto champions a move away from a throw-away society to a circular economy advocating that materials consumed should be viewed as precious resources that can be re-captured, re-used and recycled and suggests the UK government has a golden opportunity to kick start a resource revolution when we leave the EU.

The strategy also includes the findings of a poll around public perceptions of litter, with one in four Britons thinking that sandwich packaging or fast food containers are the main cause of litter and 18% believing it to be crisp packets or confectionary items and 14% thinking plastic bottles are to blame.

At the launch of the London Environment Strategy, Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London has announced that London waste authorities will be set minimum recycling standards to meet by 20220, including a requirement for separate waste collections.

Currently 41 % of the seven million tonnes of waste produced in the capital is recycled but by 2026 Mr Khan wants no biodegradable or recyclable waste sent to landfill and 65% of waste to be recycled which would put London well ahead of the circular economy target timeline.

The Strategy indicates that this would cut the waste stream by 20% and save £42 million from London's waste disposal bill. However, the Strategy also acknowledges that there are some formidable barriers to overcome eg the 33 waste authorities currently provide different waste and recycling collection services. However, it was noted that the London Borough of Barnet, in spite of the Strategy's requirements, has just announced plans to abandon food waste recycling. Instead it is proposed that residents dispose of their food waste in the existing residual waste bins where it will be used for energy recovery at an EfW.

In May the Treasury's call for evidence on using the tax system or charges to address single-use plastic waste closed. The consultation sought views on a range of potential tax options or chargeable actions to reduce single-use plastic including the potential development of an incineration tax, where waste companies would pay a tax on every tonne of plastic they incinerated. Responses to the consultation are still being analysed.

The European Commission is proposing new EU-wide rules to target the ten single-use plastic products most often found on Europe's beaches, which, together with lost and abandoned fishing gear, make up 70% of all marine litter items. A range of

products are planned to be banned from the market, including plastic cotton buds; cutlery; plates; straws; drink stirrers and sticks for balloons. These items can all be easily replaced by readily available and affordable alternatives. Where materials do not have straightforward alternatives the focus will be on limiting their use through national reductions in consumption; design and labelling requirements; and waste management clean-up obligations for producers.

The UK Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has launched the UK Plastic Pact which aims to make “unnecessary” single-use plastic packaging a thing of the past. Forty two businesses, who are responsible for over 80% of the plastic packaging on products sold through UK supermarkets have signed up and agreed to a series of ambitious targets by 2025. This includes eliminating problematic or unnecessary single -use plastic packaging through redesign, innovation or reuse delivery models; 100% of plastic packaging to be reusable, recyclable or compostable; 30% average recycled content across all plastic packaging.

WRAP has also announced that plastics will be the focus of the 2018 recycle week, which takes place from Monday 24 to Sunday 30 September. The annual event is now in its fifteenth year and aims to encourage the public to recycle more by demonstrating the benefits of recycling items from all around the home. The Partnership utilises the free of charge WRAP resources throughout the year and the Partnerships’ community education and engagement programme will dovetail with the specific Recycle Week resources during September. This will be further enhanced following initial discussions with intu Metrocentre about how the Partnership could support waste-related and recycling awareness events that are being planned within the centre.

Government has recently announced plans for the introduction of a deposit return scheme in England to boost recycling rates and reduce litter. A national YouGov poll revealed that nearly three quarters of British drinks consumers would be likely to return plastic bottles and aluminium cans under such as scheme with a deposit of just 10 pence. 80% of people also believe that there should be more recycling bins with nearly 40 % of people admitting they are more likely to put plastic bottles and cans in a general rubbish bin.

The LGA has highlighted that any government initiatives to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste by 2024 must work alongside existing kerbside recycling services and not be viewed as an alternative if they are to be a success. 985 of local authorities currently provide a kerbside collection service that includes plastic bottles and over half of councils provide drop-off points for plastics.

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

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DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday 21 September 2018 at 1.30pm.

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GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

SOUTH TYNE AND WEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, 21 September 2018

THIS MEETING WAS NOT QUORATE

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

Gateshead Council Councillor Angela Dougals

South Tyneside Council

Sunderland Council Councillor Amy Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Gateshead Council Anthony Alder, Marc Morley, Robert Bowmaker, Helen Conway

South Tyneside Council Andrew Whittaker

Sunderland Council Mark Speed

South Tyne and Wear
Waste Management
Partnership Chris Wilson, Gary Smith, Karen Wynn

27 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor D Waller (Sunderland City Council), Councillor J Foreman (South Tyneside Council) Councillor C Donovan (Gateshead Council)

28 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2018 could not be agreed as committee was not quorate.

29 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

30 CHALLENGES AFFECTING RECYCLING IN THE UK - A PALM RECYCLING PERSPECTIVE

Ross Johnstone of Palm Recycling provided the Joint Executive Committee with a presentation on challenges affecting recycling in the UK from Palm's perspective.

The presentation focused on the market challenges of recycling in the UK, discussing issues such as export restrictions and quality standards, the Chinese market, fibre and plastic market impacts, the development of the Deposit Return Scheme and the possible implications of Brexit.

Ross agreed to provide the presentation slides to the members of the Joint Executive following on from the meeting.

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

31 CONTRACTS UPDATE

The Committee received a report on the current position regarding the Residual Waste Treatment Contract and other ancillary waste joint contracts and activities managed by the South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership (STWWMP).

The joint partnership team continues to review and verify monthly reports received from SUEZ, which details materials processed and service issues. Once approved, invoices are processed and apportioned to the partner authorities within contractual timescales.

The Committee were advised that the recent Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA) sampling results identified a number of occasions where limits (predominantly copper and lead) had been exceeded. Although a number of the reported exceedances were subsequently discounted, a stronger emphasis has been placed on accurate IBA sampling in future.

The Committee noted that volatile organic compound and carbon monoxide breaches resulted in the Environment Agency (EA) issuing compliance classification scheme (CCS) scores, which are recorded against the operator's compliance record. It was noted that the EA were satisfied with the action taken, which was reflected in the low CCS scores.

Other service issues highlighted including a lightning strike which resulted in a power blackout affecting the entire plant. Also, further details were provided to committee on procedures introduced to help prevent bulky items that may have been collected during service operations from being transported to the EfW which could result in bottom ash chutes blockages and plant downtime.

Appendix A provides the latest performance on the residual waste treatment contract for April – July 2018 with the Committee noting that contractual targets continue to be exceeded.

The Committee were informed that discussions on the joint insurance cost review are ongoing.

An update was provided on the community education and engagement programme noting specific detail of recent events. These have included a tour of the EfW facility by year 5 pupils, whole school waste awareness assemblies and the ongoing projects with Cedars and Portland Academies and Fell Dyke Primary School.

Plans are also progressing with intu Metrocentre for the partnership to deliver a recycling event as part of the national Recycle Week which takes place 24 – 30 September. Since the report was written its now been confirmed that groundwork will be present on Wednesday 26 September 2018 3 pm – 9 pm.

The Committee also received service updates on the MRF contracts with the latest performance results appended to the main report, highlighting the blue bin tonnage data and recycling and recovery performance between April – July 2018. Committee noted that the overall recycling tonnages in each partner authority continue to fluctuate, but paper tonnages collected separately in the inner caddy have fallen again compared to the same period last year. The paper tonnages continue to reduce year on year as previously highlighted. Sunderland City Council continue to identify actions to help increase their recycling rates at the materials recovery facility.

The Committee also noted that a recycling trial will take place in early 2019 in Gateshead and South Tyneside which will involve the collection of paper and card together in an additional wheeled bin, which will replace the inner caddy at those households on the trial. The partnership team and council officers are working closely with the contractor (Palm Recycling) to finalise the details of the trial, and although it will take place in Gateshead and South Tyneside, the results will benefit all three partner authorities and will be used when evaluating future service delivery models.

Committee also received details of the household waste and recycling centre contracts with the latest performance for 2018/19 appended to the main report at Appendix C.

The Committee also received further details on the green waste composting contracts. The partnership are also currently considering options available for contract extension periods.

- RESOLVED -
- i) That the information be noted
 - ii) Councillors requested that they be included in the communication plan for the roll out of the recycling trial in early 2019 in Gateshead and South Tyneside involving the collection of paper and card together.

A presentation was given to the Committee on International, National and Local Authority waste news.

International Waste News

The Committee were advised that a recent translation of an official Chinese government announcement reveals an intention to reduce solid waste imports to zero by 2020.

The Committee were aware that China set and then increased a number of restrictions on recyclable materials that the country imports, which have had a major impact on global recycling markets. However, it was noted that in July, China and the European Union signed a joint Memorandum of Understanding on Circular Economy cooperation; which is expected to set the scene for greater sharing of best practice, potentially creating a system shift towards a low carbon, regenerative economy.

The Committee were advised that a total of 15 Commonwealth countries have now pledged to join together to take action to tackle ocean plastic pollution by eliminating avoidable plastic waste – such as bans on microbeads, or a commitment to cutting down on single-use plastic bags

European Waste News

The Committee were informed that a recent report by the Environmental Services Association looked into the weight-based recycling targets proposed through the EU Circular Economy Package. The report suggests that a dashboard approach utilising other, new, metrics that map behaviours across the value chain, targeting different stakeholders; such as targets to measure resource productivity, environmental performance, producer responsibility indicators and public satisfaction or perception surveys.

The report also highlighted that increasing the UK based recycling reprocessing capacity should be a Government priority, along with requirements for extended producer responsibility and recycled content across UK manufacturing.

National Waste News

New research released by the North London Waste Authority has found that the 'Blue Planet effect' has revealed that 69% of people surveyed are trying to change their plastic habits to help the environment. Half of the 2,000+ UK adults surveyed stated that they thought recycling as much as possible was the best way to reduce the impact of single use plastics on the environment, rather than stop buying or using these items. North London Waste Authority (NLWA) has issued a reminder to residents to highlight waste prevention, targeting a switch to reusable bottles as an example and calling on more shops, bars and cafes to make it easier for people to refill water bottles on the go.

The Committee were advised that the Waste and Resources Action Programme has also undertaken some work to help the public understand plastics by publishing a factsheet on plastic packaging for anyone who may be interested in the complexities around different types of plastic packaging.

Separate analysis from the Local Government Association suggests that only a third of plastics used by households is recyclable, and has called on manufacturers to stop using materials that 'hamper recycling efforts'

The LGA claim that 525,000 tonnes of plastic pots, tubs and trays are used by households every year - but that just 169,145 tonnes are able to be recycled 99% of councils collect plastic for recycling and 77% plastic pots, tubs and trays. The LGA also point out that black plastic used in some food packaging is notoriously difficult to recycle and is a particular problem.

In a unconnected move, it was noted that supermarket chain Aldi have recently announced that they plan to phase out the use of black plastic trays on a range of fresh produce, replacing them with recyclable, reusable or compostable materials by 2025.

Committee were also advised that there has been an 86% drop in English supermarket plastic bag sales from the big 7 supermarkets, with 9 billion fewer bags issued since 2015. In 2017/18 the plastic bag levy resulted in the donation of £60m to good causes.

The Prime Minister also announced that the government plans to consult on extending the levy to all retailers, with over three billion bags still estimated to be supplied by small and medium sized enterprises each year.

The Committee were advised that the Treasury has announced that there had been overwhelming support from the public on a range of measures, in the recent consultation on using tax measures to reduce single use plastics, which, included encouraging recycling as opposed to incineration; A record of 162,000 responses were received.

The Committee noted that the Partnership's waste strategy prioritises recycling ahead of incineration as a waste disposal option – both on environmental and financial grounds.

Local Authority Waste News

The Committee were advised that London Mayor Sadiq Khan has expressed deep concern at Barnet council's proposal to stop its separate household food waste collections, suggesting that, if needed, he would use his powers of direction to block the move. However, the Leader of Barnet Council, said that the Mayor will not be able to use executive powers to force the authority to continue to deliver separate food waste collections, because they can only be used when compliance by the authority did not lead to excessive additional cost.

The Committee were advised that Council services in West Dunbartonshire,

Inverclyde and Argyll & Bute will be affected as external waste contractor Greenlight Environmental have called in the administrators. West Dunbartonshire has warned its residents of the closure of two household waste and recycling centres and the cessation of some other collection services, such as separate glass collections.

The failure of the business has drawn concerns from local politicians and MSP's.

Local Waste News

The Committee were informed that North Tyneside Council has introduced alternate weekly collections, which sees recycling and residual waste collected fortnightly.

North Tyneside has the worst recycling rate in Tyne and Wear and were the only regional local authority still to operate a weekly collection for household residual waste.

The Committee were also advised that SUEZ have started the process to construct a new £100 million EfW at Billingham on Teesside; on land adjacent to the partnerships facility. Planning permission for a sixth energy from waste line at Haverton Hill was actually granted in 2014, and SUEZ estimate that the new facility will be operational by 2022, with the capacity to potentially treat 240,000 tonnes of residual waste a year. Enabling works have been completed, and Suez are now in the process of procuring a construction contractor to build the facility.

It is also anticipated that the construction and operation of Line 6 will not impact on operations across Lines 1 to 5 or the delivery of the partnership's residual waste treatment contract.

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

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EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED - That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the remaining business in accordance with paragraph 7 of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

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WASTE MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP AUDIT REPORT

The Committee were informed of Audits undertaken to date and also previous reviews that have been undertaken during the partnerships development stages and after the first year of operation.

These focused on governance arrangements including:

- Contract documents
- Performance framework
- Terms of reference and delegations

All were found to be satisfactory.

The most recent audit was completed in May 2018 and the testing focused on:

- Budget monitoring processes
- Financial reconciliations and transactional checks, and
- Performance monitoring

The audit concluded processes were **Operating Well** with no significant findings being raised. Two minor best practice recommendations were identified and raised with managers.

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

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DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Joint Executive Committee will take place on Friday 7 December 2018 at 1.30 pm.

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South Tyneside Council



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

7 December 2018

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 latest position regarding the Residual Waste Treatment Contract and other ancillary waste 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 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. A contract extension period was activated in 2018, which is scheduled to end on 31 March 2021.

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. A contract extension period was activated in 2018, which is also scheduled to end on 31 March 2021.

- 2.5 Gateshead and Sunderland councils jointly procured separate contracts with SUEZ for the management of Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRC). Both incentive-based contracts were two years and seven months in length and commenced service at the beginning of September 2014. 36-month contract extension periods were activated from 1 April 2017.
- 2.6 From 1 December 2017, South Tyneside Council entered into a 30-month HWRC management with Remondis JBT.
- 2.7 The end dates for all three HWRC management contracts are co-terminus. This will enable a joint approach between all three partner authorities to be considered for a new contract commencing on 1 April 2020.
- 2.8 A joint procurement exercise awarded three separate green waste composting contracts for each partner authority. Although contracts were awarded to three different providers, 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: A.Willey for 36 months from 01 April 2016
 - South Tyneside: SUEZ for 36 months from 01 April 2016
 - Sunderland: JBT (now delivered by Remondis following take-over of JBT) for 31 months from 01 September 2016
- 2.9 The joint partnership team continues to undertake several waste management functions on behalf of the partner authorities, including reviewing and verifying monthly contract reports, which detail materials processed and service issues. Once approved, invoices are processed and, where appropriate, apportioned between partner authorities within contractual timescales.
- 2.10 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 The latest contract performance (April-October 2018) can be found at Appendix A.

Service Update

- 3.2 During recent months, the operation of the EfW has encountered no significant issues so unavailability has been limited. For example, Line 5 has experienced 100% availability over the last three months. However, some services issues were experienced on Line 4:
- 0.5 hours of availability were lost on 4 August due to moisture within the air pollution control system, which restricted the ammonia flow and required the waste feed to be temporarily stopped. The delivery valve was cleaned out and dried and is now operating effectively.

- 18 hours were lost over 7-8 August due to high carbon monoxide (CO) levels that occurred during a plant trip as a consequence of overpressure in the flue gas treatment reactor. Procedural and technical investigations have been conducted and actions identified to prevent a recurrence.
- 3.3 Three and a half hours of turbine availability were lost on 29 September as a result of a trip initiated by a pump fault on the closed water cooling system. The trip was investigated, and the system reset.
- 3.4 An Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA) exceedance of high copper levels was reported during October, resulting in the second exceedance within the rolling 24-week reporting period. Investigations are ongoing to identify a possible root cause.
- 3.5 During October, it was also observed that the Line 4 outboard and inboard grates were sticking during operations. However, the issue did not affect plant combustion or performance. A full investigation noted that operations have since improved, and whilst no repairs are considered to be necessary at this stage, the situation will continue to be monitored.
- 3.6 The dates for the annual EfW maintenance shutdown have now been confirmed:
- Line 4: 20 February – 14 March 2019
 - Line 5: 5 – 27 March 2019

Joint Insurance Cost Review (JICR)

- 3.7 Discussions with representatives from the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), STWER, and Willis Towers Watson insurers involving the joint insurance cost report associated with the RWTC are ongoing.

Waste Transfer Stations (WTS)

- 3.8 All three of the WTS have remained available throughout the current contract year, with all sites continuing to accept STWWMP contract waste without significant issues. Recycling activities are ongoing at each site, which includes the segregation of materials, such as street sweepings, wood, and scrap metals.
- 3.9 Routine maintenance of buildings, plant, and control systems continues to be delivered as planned and no significant issues have been identified.
- 3.10 The former 'civic amenity' site area at Middlefields WTS was inspected by the Environment Agency (EA) on 24 August. No issues were raised, with the EA commenting '*...the site is operating well and this is represented in the year to date compliance rating [0 CCS points, compliance band A].*'

Targeted Recruitment and Training (TR&T)

- 3.11 The RWTC affords provision for SUEZ to help to improve local prosperity across the partnership area by promoting vacant posts within their facilities. The Economic Development Service at Gateshead Council continues to receive information on local vacancies, which are then cascaded to partner authorities for circulation to their client base. Local vacancies are also highlighted at the

Jack Crawford House and Campground Community Liaison Groups to enable opportunities to be circulated across community contacts.

- 3.12 Following an internal restructure within SUEZ, and the conclusion of the subsequent secondment period, the position of site manager at Jack Crawford House WTS was advertised, interviews held, and a Sunderland resident was externally appointed into the role. The official start date is anticipated to be during January 2019.

Community Education and Engagement

- 3.13 STWWMP remains committed to an ongoing programme of community education and engagement, managed by Groundwork North East & Cumbria (GNEC) at the visitor and education centre, the energy-from-waste facility, and through outreach activities held in local schools and community settings.

- 3.14 Between April and October 2018, over 7,280 local residents, children and young people, and community group members have taken part in waste awareness events, activities, and site visits. Recently, this has included:

- Waste awareness assemblies with 134 pupils at Harlow Green Primary School, Gateshead, and 157 pupils at St. Gregory's Primary School, South Tyneside.
- A waste awareness roadshow with almost 1,350 STWWMP residents at the intu Metrocentre as part of the national Recycle Week, which also enabled 14 children from Blaydon St. Joseph's Primary School Eco Club to undertake a behind-the-scenes tour of intu's recycling activities and facilities at the centre.
- Waste awareness community roadshows, including: 69 residents at Doxford Park (Sunderland); 165 attending the Big Local Event, Jarrow (South Tyneside); and 64 at the Raich Carter Centre Family Fun Day in Sunderland.

- 3.15 A separate events programme for the dedicated Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) continues to be delivered with local schools and community groups. A battery amnesty campaign was launched in schools across STWWMP in September. Battery tubes are also being rolled-out to schools and community venues to further encourage battery recycling.

Community Liaison Groups

- 3.16 The Jack Crawford House Community Liaison Group met on Thursday 15 November 2018.

- 3.17 The group were updated on site operations, noting that it was operating well with no significant accidents or incidents occurred during the period since the last meeting. It was highlighted that across STWWMP, waste continues to be 100% diverted from landfill.

- 3.18 Although the EA were unable to attend the meeting, they provided a statement confirming that whilst no inspections had been undertaken since the last community liaison group meeting, they were happy with site operations.

- 3.19 The group also received a presentation on the dedicated WEEE project.

3.20 The Campground Community Liaison Group is scheduled to meet on Tuesday 27 November.

4. **MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY (MRF) CONTRACTS**

4.1 The MRF contracts continue to be monitored closely by the joint partnership team. This includes processing payments, holding regular contract meetings and performance reviews, and Health & Safety site inspections at the various contractor facilities to ensure that recycling performance is maximised.

4.2 Table A at Appendix B highlights the total amount of materials collected by each authority between April and October 2018, broken down to demonstrate the paper collected separately in the inner box and the comingled materials collected in the main section of the blue bin. The overall recycling tonnages in each partner authority continue to fluctuate, but paper tonnages collected separately in the inner caddy have fallen again compared to the same period last year.

4.3 Appendix B also contains Table B, which highlights MRF recycling and recovery rates (for comingled materials only) since Quarter 1 2017/18. Recycling performance has generally remained at similar levels in each partner authority. Sunderland City Council continue to identify actions to help increase their recycling rates.

4.4 A recycling trial will be introduced in Gateshead and South Tyneside in January/February 2019 which will involve the collection of paper and card together in an additional wheeled bin, which will replace the inner caddy at the households in the trial area. Councillors are being fully briefed regarding the development and delivery of the trial. Meetings with the contractor, Palm Recycling, remain ongoing to ensure the new arrangements are communicated effectively to residents within the trial area. Although the trial is taking place in Gateshead and South Tyneside, the results will benefit all three partner authorities and will be used when evaluating future service delivery models.

4.5 The joint partnership team has begun investigations to support the partner authorities in considering the future delivery of the MRF contracts post-2021. As part of this process, a market engagement day will be held in February 2019, enabling a range of recycling contractors to engage in direct dialogue with STWWMP. This will impact on the next MRF contract procurement exercise by enabling the partnership to clarify and consider contractors' delivery model preferences.

4.6 Furthermore, STWWMP has secured free-of-charge consultancy from the national Waste Resources and Action Programme (WRAPWRAP), which will enable specialist support to be provided in the development of the future MRF contract, such as:

- Analysis of the outcomes arising from the market engagement day;
- Support in the evaluation and impact of the Palm paper and card recycling trial;

- Appraisal of different collection service configurations and service delivery models; and
- Support in the development of contract specifications and relevant documentation.

4.7 The Palm MRF on Teesside, which processes recycling material collected by Gateshead and South Tyneside, was recently offline for 4 days. However, the fault has now been rectified and there was no impact on contract operations as materials were able to safely stored on site before full service resumed.

4.8 In October, councillors from Sunderland City Council visited the J&B Recycling MRF at Hartlepool. The visit was aimed at demonstrating what happens to waste that is collected for recycling, how it is processed, and the problems caused by material contamination etc. In addition to the operations at the MRF, councillors also witnessed two different council collection crews undertaking recycling rounds and material drop-off activities at the waste transfer station at Washington.

5. **HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING CENTRE CONTRACTS**

5.1 Appendix C highlights the latest HWRC recycling performance April-September 2018).

5.2 Recycling performance at the sites remains at a similar level to the previous year and is either exceeding or in line with annual recycling targets.

5.3 At Beach Street, residual waste received has increased significantly in comparison to the same period to last year, with a slight increase in recycling tonnages also experienced.

5.4 All HWRC contractors continue to explore whether additional materials disposed at sites can be recycled and further improve recycling performance. For example, SUEZ are currently trialling mattress recycling at the Gateshead and Sunderland sites. Mattresses are traditionally difficult to recycle, due to the different materials involved in their manufacture, but SUEZ has provided additional resources and equipment to separate the different material types (i.e. metals and flock) so that they can be both be processed as recycling.

6. **GREEN WASTE COMPOSTING CONTRACTS**

6.1 All three partner authorities recommenced garden waste kerbside collection services in March/April 2018. Contract management meetings have been held with service providers at the various facilities, which also include Health & Safety site inspections.

6.2 The current contract periods are scheduled to end in March 2019. However, it is proposed that the current contracts are extended for a period of 12 months. Written feedback from all contractors to confirm the extensions is awaited.

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

2018/19 latest performance: April-October 2018

Total contract waste	114,985.42 tonnes
Contract waste delivered to WTS: - Campground - Middlefields - Jack Crawford House	Gateshead 35,771.47 tonnes Sunderland 11,055.13 tonnes South Tyneside 29,948.53 tonnes Sunderland 38,210.29 tonnes
Total contract waste delivered to EfW	112,399.88 tonnes
Line 4 availability Line 5 availability Overall EfW availability	98.09% 97.67% 97.82%
Average turbine availability	98.44%
Electricity generated Electricity exported Electricity imported	119,634 MWh 105,438 MWh 15,842 MWh
Recycling performance	Target 2.1% Performance 3.2%
Recovery performance	Target 95.5% Performance 96.8%
Unprocessed landfill diversion rate	100%
Health and safety: - RIDDOR - Injuries and accidents - Near misses - Property damage - Fires	1 4 51 19 0

MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY CONTRACTS

Table A: 2018/19 latest blue bin tonnage data: April-October 2018

	Gateshead	South Tyneside	Sunderland
Comingled tonnage	7,549	5,449	10,745
Paper tonnage	1,315	888	1,117
Total tonnage	8,864	6,336	11,863
<i>Comparison to April-October 2017 - comingled</i>	<i>3.7% increase</i>	<i>0.6% decrease</i>	<i>2.8% increase</i>
<i>Comparison to April-October 2017 - paper</i>	<i>14.2% decrease</i>	<i>12.2% decrease</i>	<i>16.0% decrease</i>
<i>Comparison to April-October 2017 - all materials</i>	<i>0.6% increase</i>	<i>2.4% decrease</i>	<i>0.6% increase</i>

Table B MRF recycling and recovery performance

Period	Gateshead		South Tyneside		Sunderland	
	Recycling	Recovery	Recycling	Recovery	Recycling	Recovery
Q1 2017/18	89.8%	10.2%	84.9%	15.1%	73.4%	26.6%
Q2 2017/18	88.1%	11.9%	84.2%	15.8%	75.6%	24.4%
Q3 2017/18	88.6%	11.4%	85.7%	14.3%	76.4%	23.6%
Q4 2018/17	88.0%	12.0%	82.3%	17.7%	75.3%	24.7%
Q1 2018/19	88.3%	11.7%	84.6%	15.4%	75.5%	24.5%
Q2 2018/19	86.7%	13.3%	83.1%	16.9%	76.4%	23.6%

HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING CENTRE CONTRACTS

2018/19 latest recycling performance (excluding inert materials, such as rubble):

HWRC	Annual Target	April-September
Campground	63.4%	65.0%
Cowen Road	63.1%	63.6%
Beach Street	61.6%	61.1%
Middlefields (Recycling Village)	N/A	60.9%