



South Tyneside Council



**SOUTH TYNE AND WEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT
PARTNERSHIP JOINT EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE AGENDA**

Friday, 13 September 2019 at 1.30 pm in the Whickham Room - Civic Centre

From the Chief Executive, Sheena Ramsey

Item Business

1. **Election of Chair**

2. **Election of Deputy Chairs**

3. **Apologies for Absence**

4. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 16)

The Joint Executive Committee is asked to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 15 March 2019 and 14 June 2019 respectively.

5. **Declarations of Interests**

6. **Resources & Waste Strategy Consultation Outcomes - DEFRA Responses**

Presentation

7. **Contracts Update** (Pages 17 - 28)

Report of the Project Director, South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership

8. **Communications Update**

Presentation

9. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Joint Executive Committee will be held on Friday 13 December 2019 at 1.30 pm

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 4

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

SOUTH TYNE AND WEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, 15 March 2019

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

Gateshead Council Councillor Angela Douglas

South Tyneside Council Councillor Mark Walsh

Sunderland Council Councillor Amy Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Gateshead Council Helen Conway, Colin Huntington, Marc Morley

South Tyneside Council Tom Turner

Sunderland Council Colin Curtis

South Tyne & Wear Waste Management Partnership Chris Wilson, Gary Smith,
Fiona Swinburne, Tony Alder

Suez Anna Bell

GAP Waste Peter Moody

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Deborah Waller, Councillor Jim Foreman and Andrew Whittaker

43 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 15 June 2018, 21 September 2018 and 7 December 2018 respectively were agreed as a correct record.

44 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received or declared at the meeting.

**45 CHALLENGES AFFECTING RECYCLING IN THE UK - A SUEZ RECYCLING
AND RECOVERY UK PERSPECTIVE**

Anna Bell from Suez provided the Joint Executive Committee with a presentation on

challenges affecting recycling in the UK.

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

46 GAP GROUP

Peter Moody from GAP Waste provided the Joint Executive Committee with a presentation on the work of the company and its plans for the future.

The Joint Executive Committee were invited on a site visit to the GAP Fridge Reprocessing facility in Gateshead in the near future to see the plant in operation.

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

47 'OUR WASTE, OUR RESOURCES: A STRATEGY FOR ENGLAND'

The Joint Executive Committee received a presentation entitled 'Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England' which is the first significant waste-related statement from Government since the 2011 Waste Review and the subsequent Waste Prevention Programme for England in 2013.

The strategy forms part of the Government's flagship 25-Year Environment Plan, which also includes other publications such as the Clean Growth Strategy, the Industrial Strategy, and the Litter Strategy.

There are 8 chapters in total – some with more of an impact on local authorities than others and they are summarised as follows:-

- 1) Sustainable Production
- 2) Helping Consumers Take More Considered Action
- 3) Recovering Resources and Managing Waste
- 4) Tackling Waste Crime
- 5) Enough is Enough: Cutting Down on Food Waste
- 6) Global Britain – International Leadership
- 7) Research and Innovation
- 8) Measuring Progress – Data, Monitoring and Evaluation

The Executive Joint Committee were advised that a number of the proposals will have a major impact on the future delivery of local authority waste services, such as:

- The requirements to collect a core set of recycling materials, the seemingly mandatory separate collection of food waste, free garden waste collections
- Actions around HWRCs – which will also impact on the contractors who are delivering the service,
- New policy areas that could have a huge impact on local authorities and the waste sector – the external producer responsibility requirements and the introduction of a deposit return scheme.

The Executive Joint Committee were advised that many actions will require significant new investment through local authorities – in both the collection and disposal infrastructure – and government is committed to ensuring that local authorities are resources to meet the new net costs arising from the proposals, there is no description of how this will be achieved or the source of the funding.

The Partnership will now fully participate in relevant consultation exercises following the publication of the strategy, the first series of which were released in late February and will consider collection consistency, the introduction of a deposit return scheme and reforming the UK packaging producer responsibility system.

- RESOLVED -
- i) That the information be noted
 - ii) That officers circulate the consultation comments to members of the Joint Executive Committee for information
 - iii) That further updates will be provided to the Joint Executive Committee in due course.

48 MRF MARKET ENGAGEMENT EVENT

The Joint Executive Committee were advised of the recent Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) market engagement event that was held at Gateshead International Stadium.

Gateshead and South Tyneside councils' MRF contract for dry recyclables with Palm Recycling Ltd, commenced service on 1 April 2014. A 36-month contract extension to 31 March 2021 was agreed in 2018.

Sunderland City Council's separate MRF contract commenced service with J&B Recycling on 1 April 2015. Similarly, a contract extension period to 31 March 2021 has been agreed with the contractor.

As the maximum contract extension periods for both MRF contracts have been agreed, this means that all three partner authorities will require new MRF arrangements from 1 April 2021.

However, in planning for the procurement of the next MRF contract, the ongoing uncertainty within the waste sector must be considered. This includes the impact of the Chinese recycling import restrictions; the outcome of the negotiations for the UK to leave the EU; and the implications arising from the recent publication of the resources and waste strategy, 'Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England'.

It was agreed that to further support the development of the next MRF contract specification, it was important for STWWMP to arrange a market engagement event so direct dialogue with potential service providers could be held. This enabled a number of issues to be discussed, such as:

- The viability of the current kerbside recycling collection system and consider

- potential alternative options.
- The optimum contract length for the STWWMP MRF contract commencing in April 2021.
 - The viability of constructing a dedicated STWWMP MRF or waste transfer station within the partnership area.
 - The management of risk and reward in relation to market prices and contamination levels within the next MRF contract structure

The Joint Executive Committee were advised that STWWMP approached the national Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to enquire if any independent support was available to assist with the development of the next MRF contract specification. WRAP subsequently agreed to fund free-of-charge support, and STWWMP participated in a formal procurement process, which appointed renowned environmental consultants Eunomia Research and Consulting to support STWWMP.

The STWWMP market engagement event was held on 27 February 2019 and 10 companies participated with current MRF contractors also involved.

Representatives from WRAP and Eunomia attended the event as observers and facilitated a short plenary session after the event closed to discuss initial feedback from the face-to-face discussion with service providers.

A full analysis and evaluation exercise following the event will now be undertaken and this will be delivered through a dedicated workshop with the STWWMP Officer Project Board to discuss a full options appraisal exerciser to consider a range of issues that STWWMP must address in developing the next MRF contract specification, including:

- Collection models
- The legislative context and potential impacts on local authority waste management,
- Pricing structure, and
- Current factors affecting the MRF market

This will enable a procurement 'road map' and action plan to be developed, so that STWWMP can develop an appropriate MRF contract specification that provides the best value to the partner authorities and is commercially attractive to service providers within the market.

- RESOLVED -
- i) That the information be noted
 - ii) Agree to receive further updates regarding the development of the next STWWMP MRF contract specification, as appropriate

The Joint Executive 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 latest contract performance (April 2018-January 2019) and service updates during recent months were reported.

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

Between April 2018 and the end of January 2019, over 6,500 local residents, children and young people, and community group members have taken part in waste awareness events, activities, and site visits.

A separate events programme for the dedicated Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) project with local schools and community groups formally closed at the end of January. Final project results are currently being prepared.

The Campground Community Liaison Group met on Tuesday 27 November 2018. The group were informed that the site is operating well and managing contract waste as expected. It was also noted that Sunderland Councillors had undertaken a site visit to both Jack Crawford house and the EfW. A presentation on the delivery of the dedicated Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) project was also provided.

The Materials Recovery Facility (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.

Table A at Appendix B (attached to the main report) highlights the total amount of materials collected by each authority between April 2018 and January 2019, 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.

Table B at Appendix B (attached to the main report) highlights MRF recycling and recovery rates (for comingled materials only) since Quarter 1 2017/18. Recycling performance has generally remained at similar levels in Gateshead and South Tyneside. Sunderland City Council's recycling rate has improved slightly in the latest quarter and they continue to identify actions to help increase their recycling rates and reduce contamination (shown as recovery in the table) rates.

The Joint Executive Committee were also advised that a recycling trial commenced in February on a single collection round in both Gateshead and South Tyneside. This enables around 2,400 households to recycle paper and cardboard materials

together in a separate, additional, wheeled bin. Initial monitoring and sampling of the trial data suggests that residents are actively taking part and the quality of the paper and card picked up on the first collection day was extremely positive. 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.

Appendix C (attached to the main report) highlights the latest HWRC recycling performance (April – December 2018).

Recycling performance at the sites remains at a similar level to the previous year. However, recycling performance at Cowen Road (Gateshead) and Beach Street (Sunderland) is currently slightly below the annual target, although this may change once the statistics for the full year are received. The performance at Beach Street could still be affected by the introduction of fortnightly collections in 2017.

All HWRC contractors continue to explore whether additional materials disposed at sites can be recycled and further improve recycling performance.

The partner authority HWRC contracts SUEZ and Remondis are set to expire at the end of March 2020. The joint partnership team has begun discussions with partner authorities to consider contract requirements facilitate next joint procurement process which will be delivered later in 2019.

The current contract periods are scheduled to end in March 2019. However, it has been agreed that the contracts for all three partner authorities will be extended for a period of 12 months from 1 April 2019.

Contract management meetings continue to be held with service providers at the various facilities, which also include Health & Safety site inspections. The garden waste kerbside collection service will resume in April 2019 in all three partner authorities.

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

50 COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

A presentation was given to the Joint Executive Committee on International, National and Local Authority waste-related stories that have been in the media.

International Waste News

The Joint Executive Committee were advised that the US National Waste and Recycling Association has written to Donald Trump urging him to raise China's ban on imported recyclables during trade talks with the Chinese government.

The NWRA president said that they believe that there are better ways for the Chinese to achieve their goal of improving their environment than to place what he described as 'unrealistic restrictions' on recycling imports.

The letter also states that, for decades, the US has exported one-third of its recyclables to China in a 'mutually beneficial relationship'.

National Waste News

The Joint Executive Committee were advised that the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy and Transport (ADEPT) has called for a fundamental review of how waste services are managed, saying that it supports the drive to make producers pay.

Launching their policy position on the resources and waste strategy, the association has outlined its support for an extended responsibility scheme. The president of the ADEPT noted that:

- Local authorities have to make tough decisions about where the budget is spent,
- But that in order to provide the waste and recycling services that people expect the current systems need to change,
- And responsibility for managing packaging waste must lie with the producer – which will not only reduce the burden on local authorities but will also provide incentives for long term investment and give markets greater certainty

ADEPT also wants to see greater investment in the UK's own waste processing capacity – particularly given the current uncertainty across the market globally.

The Joint Executive Committee were advised that in response to the publication of the strategy and consultation on a deposit return scheme, the Association of Convenience Stores has said that a manual scheme 'won't work' in convenience stores.

The consultation exercise proposes a network of reverse vending machines and manual return points, which would be hosted by retailers. The ACS has previously argued that manual returns would cause a number of issues for small retailers and are not a practical solution.

The Joint Executive Committee were also advised that following a hugely successful trial in 2018, Highland Spring has now launched a nationwide retailer roll-out of a 100% recycled and recyclable plastic eco bottle.

During the trial, shoppers expressed a desire for more eco bottles, and following the national launch, Highland Spring said that more 100% recycled and recyclable bottles will follow later in the year, including a kids Eco Bottle which has been designed to help young people understand more about healthy hydration and responsible recycling.

The results of the trial showed that shoppers responded well to the new eco bottle, with no negative reaction to the appearance of the recycled plastic material, and environmental awareness emerged as one of the key factors in people choosing to purchase the bottle.

The Joint Executive Committee were reminded that Walkers recently launched the UK's first nationwide crisp packet recycling scheme and in January 2019, Marks and Spencer went one step further with the news that they are launching a new plastics initiative to enable customers to bring back non-recyclable plastic packaging.

Unlike the Walkers scheme, which only targets crisp packets, this scheme includes a range of plastic packaging in addition to crisp packets, including black plastic food trays and sauce sachets. M&S has pledged to give the plastic collected a 'new life' by recycling it into store fittings, furniture and playground equipment for schools.

The scheme was initially launched in eight M&S stores in the South of England, but the scheme will be rolled out to stores nationally by the end of this year.

M&S has said that as a business, the company is committed to reducing the amount of plastic we use and have already started phasing-out non-recyclable packaging from their products.

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

51 PROGRAMME OF FUTURE MEETINGS 2019-2020

The Joint Executive Committee received the Programme of Future Meetings for 2019-2020.

RESOLVED - that the information be noted

52 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Joint Executive Committee were advised that this would be Tony Alder's last meeting, as he is retiring from the Council and the South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership Joint Committee with effect from the end of March 2019.

The Joint Executive Committee wished to place upon record their thanks to Tony for his work and wished him every success in the future.

53 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Friday 14 June 2019 at 1.30 pm in the Whickham Room, Civic Centre.

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

Friday, 14 June 2019

PRESENT:

Councillor Angela Douglas - Gateshead Council
Councillor Mark Walsh – South Tyneside Council

IN ATTENDANCE:

Colin Curtis - Sunderland Council
Colin Huntington - Gateshead Council
Fiona Swinburne - STWWMP
Chris Wilson - STWWMP
Gary Smith – STWWMP
Mark Morley – Gateshead Council
Tom Turner – South Tyneside Council
Anna Bell – SUEZ
Melvyn Mallam-Churchill – Gateshead Council

54 ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED:

(i) The election of Chair was deferred.

55 ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRS

RESOLVED:

(i) The election of Deputy-Chair was deferred.

56 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L Green and Donovan of Gateshead Council, Councillors Wilson and Waller of Sunderland Council and Councillor Foreman of South Tyneside Council.

57 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

(i) The approval of the minutes of the last meeting held on 15 March 2019 was deferred.

58 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED:

(i) There were no declarations of interest.

**59 RESIDUAL WASTE TREATMENT CONTRACT 2018/19 - ANNA BELL,
REGIONAL WASTE MANAGER, SUEZ**

The Joint Executive Committee received a presentation to provide an update on the latest position regarding the Residual Waste Treatment Contract 2018/19.

It was noted from the presentation that there continues to be a good record of health and safety practise; it was also highlighted that accidents have been few and that near misses are being recorded. It was stated that there had been a total of 93 near misses recorded which will prevent the likelihood of future accidents.

The Joint Executive Committee were advised that in 2018/19 no contract waste was sent to landfill which is a matter to be proud of. It was also noted that only four complaints had been received to Suez from residents, all of which related to odour.

From the presentation, the Joint Executive Committee were provided with an overview of performance and recycling. It was identified that there was a reduction in recycling rates between December and January 2018; it was stated that this dip is seen year on year due to Christmas.

RESOLVED:

(i) The Joint Executive Committee noted the contents of the presentation.

**60 RESOURCES AND WASTE STRATEGY CONSULTATIONS - STWWMP
RESPONSES**

The Joint Executive Committee received a report to advise on the submission of responses by South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership (STWWMP) to the recent resources and waste strategy consultation exercises.

It was advised from the report that following publication, the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) issued three consultation exercises which sought views from organisations such as Local Authorities and Waste Management Companies on many of the strategy proposals. A summary of the proposals was detailed within the report highlighting that there was a strict 12-week period for responses to be submitted.

The Joint Executive Committee were advised that STWWMP coordinated a joint response to each consultation exercise on behalf of the three partner authorities. It was also highlighted from the report that to inform the process, feedback was sought from a wide range of key stakeholders including: the Joint Executive Committee; members of the Officer Project Board; key service providers; STWWMP Lead Authority professional support and elected members and executive officers from each partner authority.

It was stated that the consultation had now closed and that STWWMP now await the government to publish the outcome of the consultation exercises and to clarify their impact on the strategy's original proposals. It was stated that the STWWMP largely agreed with most of the strategy's principles and that they are aligned to the partnerships' strategic principles about minimising waste and encouraging people to become responsible recyclers.

The Joint Executive Committee were warned that more work needs to be done. It was noted that a long journey lies ahead for all local authorities, the waste sector and across the value chain. It was further stated that there is likely to be more consultation on the outcome of these consultations.

The Joint Executive Committee expressed their thanks to Chris Wilson for coordinating responses to the consultation. The full detail of the response submitted was provided to the Joint Executive Committee within the report appendix.

RESOLVED:

(i) The Joint Executive Committee noted the contents of the report.

61 CONTRACTS UPDATE

The Joint Executive Committee received a report to advise 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).

From the report, it was noted that the Residual Waste Treatment Contract (RWTC) was awarded to a consortium led by SITA UK through SITA South Tyne and Wear Ltd in April 2011. It was highlighted that in March 2015 SITA UK's parent company announced a rebrand indicating that subsidiary companies would change their names to SUEZ. Further details of contractual changes were also summarised within the report for information.

The Joint Executive Committee were advised that the STWWMP remains committed to an ongoing programme of community education and engagement. It was noted that during the contract year 2018/19 7,700 local residents, children and young people, and community group members took part in waste awareness events, activities and site visits. From the report, the Joint Executive Committee were also advised of activities that took place during April 2019 which included 32 year 4 pupils from St Joseph's RC Primary School in Sunderland visiting the partnership's energy-from-waste facility.

From the report it was detailed that the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) contracts continue to be closely monitored by the joint partnership team. The Joint Executive Committee were also provided with highlights of the 2018/19 year-end performance from the materials collected by each partner authority in the kerbside blue-bin recycling service amongst other data.

A question was asked about the overall decrease in recycling as shown in the report. It was advised that there is no real pattern or trend to explain this however it was

noted that paper recycling has decreased alongside a national trend.

RESOLVED:

(i) The Joint Executive Committee noted the contents of the report.

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COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

The Joint Executive Committee received a presentation providing a Communications Update.

It was noted that the Government's draft Environmental Bill does not match the current environmental protections provided by membership of the EU according to the findings of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee. It was further stated that The Bill sets out how government plans to maintain environmental standards in the UK when it leaves the EU but following scrutiny of the draft the Committee called on government to make significant revisions.

The Joint Executive Committee were further provided with details of efforts to maintain standards and to protect the environment post Brexit.

A summary of the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC) consultation response was provided to the Joint Executive Committee. It was noted that one of the key issues raised in the collection consistency consultation concern was highlighted that the proposed mandatory separate food waste collections would be cost prohibitive to those councils not currently offering the service.

From the presentation it was also highlighted that the Scottish Government had announced a 'return to retail' DRS. The Joint Executive Committee were provided with further detail and context that the consultation on the introduction of a deposit return scheme was aimed at England, Wales and Northern Ireland due to Scotland developing their own scheme.

It was stated that an incineration tax may be introduced if UK recycling rates are missed; it was also highlighted that this would work in conjunction with the landfill tax according to Theresa May. It was noted that the Environmental Services Association had highlighted that it's the lack of end of markets for materials that have prevented recycling not EfWs.

An overview on initiatives proposed by Michael Gove was provided, this included the ban on plastic straws, stirrers and cotton buds. It was also noted that there will be exemptions for medical need when the ban comes in to force in April 2020. From the presentation, the Joint Executive Committee were also provided with an update on other plastic reducing and recycling initiatives such as that of Sainbury's who are to trial 'pre-cycling'.

RESOLVED:

(i) The Committee noted the contents of the presentation.

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DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Joint Executive Committee is scheduled for Friday 13 September 2019 at 1:30pm in the Whickham Room, Civic Centre.

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South Tyneside Council



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

13 SEPTEMBER 2019

REPORT OF: Colin Huntington, 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 agreed in 2018, which is scheduled to end on 31 March 2021.

2.4 Sunderland City 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 agreed 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 agreed from 1 April 2017.
- 2.6 From 1 December 2017, South Tyneside Council entered into a 30-month HWRC management contract 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 1 April 2016
 - South Tyneside: SUEZ for 36 months from 1 April 2016
 - Sunderland: JBT (now delivered by Remondis following take-over of JBT) for 31 months from 1 September 2016
- 2.9 Following the expiry of the above contracts, all three partner authorities agreed to a 12-month extension from 1 April 2019.
- 2.10 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.
- 2.11 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 (RWTC)**

2018/19 Reconciliation

- 3.1 The 2018/19 reconciliation exercise is now complete. During the year, energy prices increased over and above the agreed ceiling price, which resulted in a £232,862.68 income-sharing payment to the partner authorities. This is the first payment that STWWMP has received since service commencement.

Service Update

- 3.2 Appendix A highlights the latest 2019/20 contract year performance. During recent months, service availability has been strong with plant availability rising to 99.98% and turbine availability 97.61%.

- 3.3 Line 4 was unavailable for 0.08 hours on 29 May 2019 as a consequence of a plant trip initiated whilst carrying out maintenance inspections of the furnace pressure instruments.
- 3.4 Several potential blockages were able to be cleared using the conveyor rams that were installed previously. Therefore, Line 4 experienced no further unplanned losses of availability and Line 5 experienced 100% availability during May-July.
- 3.5 1.41 hours of turbine availability were lost on 13 May 2019 due to the requirement to conduct an annual turbine over speed trip test.
- 3.6 No environmental breaches were reported in April and all incinerator bottom ash samples returned compliant results.
- 3.7 The 2020 annual maintenance shutdown dates have been confirmed:
- Line 4: 10am, 11-29 February 2020
 - Line 5: 10am, 15 February - 4 March 2020
- 3.8 A contingency plan covering transfer station operations and destinations will be developed by SUEZ and shared with STWWMP before the shutdown takes place.
- Line 6 - Update
- 3.9 Pre-planning discussions are ongoing regarding the development and construction of Line 6 on the site identified within the Haverton Hill footprint, which is outside of the boundary of Lines 1-5.
- Refinancing
- 3.10 The exercise to replace the Debt Service Reserve Account (DSRA) with a contingent Debt Service Reserve Facility (DSRF), is progressing.
- 3.11 As a result of this change the shareholders of STWER will benefit from receiving cash significantly earlier than anticipated. This also means that STWWMP receives a share of this benefit, as the transaction falls within the scope of the re-financing provisions within the contract.
- 3.12 It has been agreed that STWWMP will support STWER to revise the funding arrangements in order to release the DSRA balance and that the STWWMP share of the gain is extracted through an ongoing reduction to the Unitary Charge. This reduction will be allocated to each authority using the cost sharing principles agreed in the Inter Authority Agreement.
- 3.13 The reduction to the Unitary Charge will generate revenue savings for each partner authority and it is projected that the joint benefit will be £0.24m per annum and £4.8m over the remainder of the contract.
- 3.14 STWWMP continues to work closely with financial and legal advisors (Local Partnerships and Pinsent Mason) to implement the transaction. The costs of this support are funded prior to calculating and sharing the gain, meaning that STWWMP will be reimbursed for any professional fees that are incurred.

3.15 The exercise is scheduled to be completed in September 2019.

Joint Insurance Cost Review (JICR)

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

Waste Transfer Stations (WTS)

3.17 All three of the WTS have continued to remain available, with all sites accepting 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.

3.18 Routine maintenance of buildings, plant, and control systems continue to be delivered as planned and no issues have been identified.

3.19 During the contract year 2019/20, no Environment Agency visits have taken place, no environmental breaches were reported, and no CCS scores were applied. All sites remain in Compliance Band A.

Targeted Recruitment and Training (TR&T)

3.20 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.

3.21 SUEZ are currently in the process of recruiting a weighbridge operator for the Campground site. Plans are also in place to review the Apprenticeship provision at Lines 4&5.

Community Education and Engagement

3.22 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.

3.23 Between April and July 2019, 2,983 local residents, children and young people, and community group members took part in waste awareness events, activities, and site visits. Recently, significant activities have included:

- EfW tours for:
 - 29 Eco Club pupils from Barmston Primary School, Sunderland;
 - 15 pupils from the Link School, Sunderland.
- Waste awareness assemblies for:
 - 198 Year 9 pupils at Joseph Swan Academy, Gateshead;
 - 137 Year 7 pupils at Boldon School, South Tyneside;
 - 136 pupils at St. Joseph's Primary School, South Tyneside;
 - 148 pupils at St. Bede's Primary School, Sunderland.

- Waste awareness sessions for:
 - 156 Year 9 pupils at Mortimer College, South Tyneside;
 - 210 Year 10 pupils at Hebburn Comprehensive, South Tyneside;
 - 180 Year 7 pupils and 120 Year 8 pupils at St. Joseph's Academy, South Tyneside.
- Schools waste awareness event and family fun day organised by Sunderland West Area Committee at Barnes Park with 649 attendees.

Community Liaison Groups

- 3.24 The Campground Community Liaison Group is next scheduled to meet on Tuesday 24 September 2019.
- 3.25 The Jack Crawford House Community Liaison Group met on Thursday 11 July 2019.
- 3.26 The group received an update on site operations, noting that the site was operating well and is managing contract waste in line with expectations. No significant accidents or incidents had occurred during the period since the last meeting.
- 3.27 The Environment Agency provided an update which reported that no complaints about the site had been received since the last meeting and that no permit breaches had been identified on previous inspections.
- 3.28 It was noted that no odours had been detected at the site and the group queried how many bulk haulage vehicles attended the site per day. SUEZ confirmed that approximately 12-15 vehicles visit the site Monday to Friday.
- 3.29 The next meeting is scheduled to take place at 6pm on Thursday 17 October 2019.

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 In July, the Sunderland City Council MRF contractor, J&B Recycling Ltd, acquired a new material delivery site at Monument Park, Washington. The new site is adjacent to the previous site, therefore there has been no disruption to the blue bin collection service or the delivery of materials by the council to the contractor.
- 4.3 Table A at Appendix B highlights the latest 2019/20 performance (April-July 2019) for the materials collected by each partner authority in the kerbside 'blue bin' recycling service. The results are 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.

- 4.4 The commingled recycling tonnages in each partner authority continue to fluctuate, but paper tonnages collected separately in the inner caddy continue to fall when compared to the same period last year. The amount of paper collected separately by the three partner authorities is currently 11.1% of the overall tonnage. This compares to an average of 20.3% in 2014.
- 4.5 Appendix B also contains Table B, which highlights MRF recycling and recovery rates (for comingled materials only) since Quarter 1 2018/19. Recycling performance has generally remained at similar levels in Gateshead and South Tyneside. Sunderland City Council's recycling rate has improved over recent quarters and the council continues to identify actions to help increase their recycling rates and reduce contamination (shown as recovery in the table) rates.
- 4.6 The recycling trial that commenced in February on a single collection round in both Gateshead and South Tyneside is enabling around 2,400 households to recycle paper and cardboard materials together in a separate, additional, wheeled bin. Table C at Appendix B provides details of the tonnage of paper and cardboard (known as mixed fibre) that has been collected since the start of the trial. The data, which has been provided by the contractor (Palm Recycling Ltd) shows that the overall tonnage collected during the trial is comparable to the same period pre-trial. However, the quality of the recycling has improved dramatically, which has resulted in more materials being sent for recycling and, therefore, less contamination/rejected materials that would require alternative disposal methods.
- 4.7 The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) are supporting STWWMP to evaluate the trial and their analysis is anticipated by the end of September. As part of this process, residents participating in the trial have been asked for their views on the trial's collection model.
- 4.8 Although the trial is taking place in Gateshead and South Tyneside, the trial feedback and results will benefit all three partner authorities and will be used when evaluating future service delivery models.

5. HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING CENTRE CONTRACTS

- 5.1 Table A at Appendix C highlights the latest HWRC recycling performance for 2019/20 (April-July 2019), excluding inert materials, such as rubble.
- 5.2 All HWRC contractors continue to explore whether additional materials disposed at sites can be recycled and further improve recycling performance.
- 5.3 The partner authority HWRC contracts with SUEZ and Remondis are set to expire at the end of March 2020. The joint partnership team has arranged for a joint procurement exercise to take place, which includes options for further joint working on HWRC contracts. Contract documentation is currently being finalised and the new tender is due to be issued in October 2019.

6. GREEN WASTE COMPOSTING CONTRACTS

6.1 The garden waste kerbside collection service resumed in all three partner authorities in April 2019. Contract management meetings continue to be held with service providers at the various facilities, which also include Health & Safety site inspections.

7. WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (WEEE) CONTRACT

7.1 The regional contract procured through the North East Procurement Organisation (NEPO) for the member authorities for the collection and management of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and Batteries is currently out to tender.

7.2 The current framework ends on 31 December 2019 and the new contract is scheduled to commence from 1 January 2020.

7.3 The term of the new contract is 36 months, with an option to extend for a further 2 x 12 months. This is to allow time for current consultations to be carried out by central government and enable consideration of any new policies or statutory obligations which may result.

7.4 The contract covers the following categories of WEEE:

- Large Domestic Appliances (LDA);
- Fridges and Freezers (to include commercial type and ammonia units);
- Small Domestic Appliances (SDA);
- Visual Display Equipment;
- Fluorescent Lighting Tubes; and
- Post-Consumer Batteries.

7.5 Further updates will be provided as the procurement process progresses.

8. ANNUAL RECYCLING PERFORMANCE

8.1 The recent audit undertaken by the Lead Partner Internal Audit Service considered STWWMP ancillary contract management. The final report found that the control systems in place were found to be operating well.

8.2 However, the report highlighted two 'best practice' recommendations, which included that STWWMP report overall recycling performance in each partner authority to the Joint Executive Committee to inform members and assist in identifying areas where the partner authorities may be able to improve performance.

8.3 In response, STWWMP agreed to report overall recycling performance to the Joint Executive Committee in September each year, once Waste Data Flow returns have been validated.

8.4 All local authority overall recycling performance is generated by the national Waste Data Flow database, using the definition of the former national performance indicator NI192 to calculate the percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting.

8.5 The partner authority NI192 results for 2018/19 are:

- Gateshead 31.6%
- South Tyneside 30.7%
- Sunderland 27.1%

9. RECOMMENDATION

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

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RESIDUAL WASTE TREATMENT CONTRACT

2019/20 latest performance: April-July 2019

Total contract waste	66,773.55 tonnes
Contract waste delivered to WTS: - Campground - Middlefields - Jack Crawford House	Gateshead 20,996.05 tonnes Sunderland 6,064.05 tonnes South Tyneside 17,436.57 tonnes Sunderland 22,276.88 tonnes
Total contract waste delivered to EfW	65,931.88 tonnes
Line 4 availability Line 5 availability Overall EfW availability	99.96% 100% 99.98%
Average turbine availability	97.61%
Electricity generated Electricity exported Electricity imported	68,878 MWh 61,596 MWh 1,678.5 MWh
Recycling performance	Target 2.1% Performance 2.8%
Recovery performance	Target 95.5% Performance 97.2%
Unprocessed landfill diversion rate	100%
Health and safety: - RIDDOR - Injuries and accidents - Near misses - Property damage - Fires	0 5 42 18 0

MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY CONTRACTS

Table A: 2019/20 latest blue bin tonnage data: April-July 2019

	Gateshead	South Tyneside	Sunderland
Comingled tonnage	4,397	3,184	6,213
Paper tonnage	751	517	632
Total tonnage	5,149	3,700	6,844
<i>Comparison to April-July 2018 - comingled</i>	<i>0.4% increase</i>	<i>0.5% increase</i>	<i>3.2% decrease</i>
<i>Comparison to April-July 2018 - paper</i>	<i>12.3% decrease</i>	<i>10.9% decrease</i>	<i>8.1% decrease</i>
<i>Comparison to April-July 2018 - all materials</i>	<i>1.5% decrease</i>	<i>1.1% decrease</i>	<i>3.7% decrease</i>

Table B: MRF recycling and recovery performance

Period	Gateshead		South Tyneside		Sunderland	
	Recycling	Recovery	Recycling	Recovery	Recycling	Recovery
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%
Q3 2018/19	87.0%	13.0%	82.9%	17.1%	77.6%	22.4%
Q4 2018/19	87.8%	12.2%	84.3%	15.7%	79.4%	20.6%
Q1 2019/20	87.2%*	12.8%*	85.1%*	14.9%*	79.3%	20.7%

*Gateshead and South Tyneside – April 2019 only

Table C: Mixed fibre separate collection trial

Month	Gateshead (tonnes)	South Tyneside (tonnes)
April	8.00	8.00
May	8.38	7.42
June	8.00	7.68
July	7.87	6.68
Total	32.25	29.78

HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING CENTRE CONTRACTS

Table A: 2019/20 latest recycling performance (excluding inert materials, such as rubble):

HWRC	Annual Target	April-July 2019
Campground	63.4%	65.9%
Cowen Road	63.1%	64.9%
Beach Street	61.6%	61.8%
Middlefields (Recycling Village)	N/A	63.7%

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