



South Tyneside Council



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

**Friday, 12 June 2020 at 1.30 pm to be held via TEAMS**

---

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 - 8)

The Joint Executive Committee is asked to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2020.

5. **Declarations of Interest**

6. **Contracts Update** (Pages 9 - 18)

Report attached

7. **Coronavirus Pandemic - STWWMP Service Delivery** (Pages 19 - 26)

Report attached

8. **Resources & Waste Strategy: Implications for Local Authorities**  
(Pages 27 - 30)

Report attached

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

The next meeting of the Joint Executive Committee will be held on Friday 11 September 2020 at 1.30pm

This page is intentionally left blank

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

**Friday, 13 March 2020**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Linda Green (Gateshead) Chair  
Gateshead Council Councillor Angela Douglas, Councillor John McElroy  
South Tyneside Council Councillor Jim Foreman, Councillor Joan Atkinson (Observer)  
Sunderland City Council Councillor Amy Wilson

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Gateshead Council Colin Huntington, Marc Morley, Helen Conway  
South Tyneside Council Andrew Whittaker  
Sunderland Council Graeme Guthrie  
South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership Chris Wilson, Fiona Swinburne

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Deborah Waller (Sunderland City Council)

**79 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2020 were agreed as a true record.

**80 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

**81 'FUTURE PROOFING' YOUR WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES: WRAP SUPPORT TO STWWMP**

The Joint Executive Committee received a presentation on 'Future Proofing' Your Waste Collection Services: WRAP Support to STWWMP, from Mike Gardner of WRAP.

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

## CONTRACTS UPDATE

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

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.

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.

Appendix A which was appended to the main report highlighted the latest 2019/20 contract year performance. During recent months, service availability has continued to be strong with plant availability 99.31% and turbine availability 99.04%.

The Joint Committee were also advised that the exercise to replace the Debt Service Reserve Account (DSRA) with a contingent Debt Service Reserve Facility (DSRF) is still progressing and hopes to be finalised within this financial year.

The Joint Committee were advised that the joint insurance cost reports are provided by STWER every two years which set out the mechanism for the insurance review procedure and sharing insurance cost differentials. The report illustrate the state of the insurance market during the term and any resulting increase of benefit from relevant insurance costs are shared between STWER and STWWMP.

The Joint Committee were advised that the third JICR has now been submitted by Willis Towers Watson and reviewed by STWWMP, with some issues raised for action. Initial indicators are that due to movements in the insurance market in relation to our technology the position is not as good as it has been previously.

The Joint Committee were also advised that all three of the WTS have continued to remain available and are 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.

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

The Environment Agency visited the Jack Crawford House WTS on 12 December 2019. No issues were raised during the visit.

The Joint Committee were advised that the RWTC affords provision for Suez to help to improve local prosperity across the partnership area by promoting vacant posts

within their facilities. Local vacancies are circulated to partner authorities economic development services for circulation to their client bases. Vacancies are also highlighted at the Jack Crawford House and Campground Community Liaison Groups to enable opportunities to be circulated across community contacts.

The Joint Committee were advised that currently, Suez are in the process of recruiting some posts at the EfW facility.

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.

Between April 2019 and January 2020, 5,982 local residents, children & young people and community group members took part in waste awareness events, activities and site visits.

The Joint Committee were advised 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.

Appendix B appended to the main report highlighted the latest 2019/20 performance (April 2019 – January 2020) for the materials collected by each partner authority in the kerbside 'blue bin' recycling service. The results are also broken down to demonstrate the paper collected separately in the inner box and the commingled materials collected in the main section of the blue bin.

The commingled recycling tonnages in each partner authority continue to fluctuate due to several different reasons, including the development of light weight recyclable materials across the sector, householder participation, and seasonal variations. However, paper tonnages collected separately in the inner caddy continue to fall year on year.

Appendix B appended to the main report, also highlighted MRF recycling and recovery rates (for commingled material only) since Quarter 1 2018/19. 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 and reduce contamination rates (shown as recover in the table), including direct engagement with the public.

The recycling trial that commenced in February 2019 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. Details of tonnage of paper and cardboard that has been collected since the start of the trial were also highlighted at Appendix B.

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.

The trial will continue to be delivered in the existing collection rounds until the end of the current MRF contract in March 2021. However, following further discussions with the contractor, the trial will not be extended into additional collection rounds in other parts of Gateshead and South Tyneside. This is due to the time remaining within the delivery of the current contract for the mobilisation and distribution of a significant number of additional bins, plus the necessary pre and post-trial communications and workshops that will be required to be delivered. Furthermore, the ownership of the additional bins may have a potential impact on the forthcoming MRF procurement exercise that is scheduled to commence later this year.

The Joint Committee were advised on 30 January 2020, STWWMP were advised of a serious Health & Safety incident that occurred at the Wards mixed fibre Facility at Hartlepool. As Wards are a sub-contractor to Palm Recycling Ltd, this facility receives some material from Gateshead and South Tyneside mixed fibre trial highlighted above. Unfortunately, a Wards member of staff suffered serious injuries during the incident and died at the scene. Enquiries are ongoing into the circumstances of the incident and a joint investigation is taking place with the Health & Safety Executive.

The current MRF contracts for each partner authority will end on 31 March 2021. Previously, STWWMP secured free-of-charge consultancy support from the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to support the next MRF contract procurement. This included a collections options appraisal analysis and the final report will be used to evaluate the best option for the kerbside collection model that the partner authorities will have in place and its impact on the next MRF contract specification and procurement.

Table A, Appendix C appended to the main report highlighted the latest HWRC recycling performance for 2019/20 (April 2019-January 2020), excluding inert materials, such as rubble.

STWWMP has recently completed a joint procurement exercise for the management and operation of the HWRCs from 1 April 2020. Gateshead and South Tyneside awarded a new joint contract to SUEZ (subject to Cabinet approval in South Tyneside). The contract is for a period of 36 months with an option to extend for a further 3 x 12 month periods.

However, under this procurements exercise, Sunderland were unable to award a new contract as the bids received did not meet the affordability criteria. Alternative arrangements have now been identified to ensure service continuity from 1 April 2020.

The Joint Executive were advised that the regional contract procured through the North East Procurement Organisation (NEPO) for the collection and management of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and batteries was awarded to Valpak Limited. The 36-month contract commenced on 1 January 2020, with an option to extend for a further 2 x 12 month periods.

STWWMP appointed a project officer and part-time electrician to deliver the externally funded small WEEE Repair and Reuse Project. Their employment with GNEC commenced in January 2020 and the project's first repair event was held at Gateshead Civic Centre on 14 February 2020.

A formal launch for the project has been arranged for 18 March 2020 at the Visitor and Education Centre, with a formal invite circulated to relevant officers and councillors.

A second project, focusing on kerbside WEEE recycling, will commence once the grant has been formally received from the funding body. The receipt of funding has been delayed due to a rebranding of the funders from the WEEE Fund to Material Change and the launch of their new campaign 'Recycle Your Electricals'

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

83

## **COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE**

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

### **National Waste News**

The Joint Executive Committee were advised that in February, as part of the Prime Minister's cabinet reshuffle, George Eustace MP was named as the new Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Mr Eustace was previously a member of the Environment, food and Rural Affairs select committee.

Rebecca Pow was reappointed as Parliamentary Under Secretary, and Victoria Prentis was also appointed as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at Defra.

Committee will recall that Defra introduced the Environment Bill in October 2019, which aims to ensure that the UK maintains and improves its environmental protections as the UK leaves the EU. The progress was stopped when the general election was called.

The Bill was subsequently re-introduced on 30 January this year – and has now had two readings in the House of Commons.

The Bill sets out four priority areas, namely: air quality; water; biodiversity; and resource efficiency and waste reduction. The main areas of interest to local authority waste services relate to the establishment of the Office for Environmental Protection, which will advise Government on environmental issues and scrutinise their progress against environmental plans and targets and some clarification on the Extended Producer Responsibility obligations.

The Bill provides the powers and legal framework for the implementation of a deposit return scheme, should the Government decide that they wish to proceed, which seems likely.

It also covers the collection consistency requirements that state food waste will be collected separately and at least weekly.

The Bill has now passed on to the Committee Stage where each clause or part thereof can be debated further to any amendments and proposals for change submitted. The Joint Committee noted that, as it stands, the Bill is still short on any detail for many proposals raised within the resources & waste strategy.

The Joint Executive Committee were advised that waste management firm Veolia have had their say in how the public are disposing household batteries. Veolia say that the incorrect disposal of batteries mean that fires can occur in the back of the collection vehicles and at waste facilities.

Fires in waste vehicles are up by 37.5% since 2017, and recycling and waste plants are also suffering more than 300 fires a year. Futhermore, if batteries are disposed properly, there would also be environmental benefits by returning valuable resources back into use.

Within STWWMP, the safe disposal of batteries is an important part of how waste electrical and electronic equipment disposal is managed, and the Joint Executive Committee noted that all residents are encouraged to remove batteries from small WEEE disposed at out HWRCs.

The Joint Executive Committee were informed that there has been a surge in bin sleeping nationally and it was reported that more than a third of waste companies have discovered people sleeping in their bins in the last 12 months. A campaign by waste management company Biffa working with the Open University and the Chartered Institute of Waste Management has been launched and is calling for a nationally-agreed approach to address the issue.

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

**84**

#### **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Joint Executive Committee will be held on Friday 12 June 2020 at 1.30 pm



South Tyneside Council



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

**12 JUNE 2020**

**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 South Tyneside Councils recently undertook a joint procurement exercise for the management and operation of the HWRCs from 1 April 2020. The incentive-based joint contract was awarded to SUEZ for a period of 36 months with an option to extend for a further three x 12-month periods.
- 2.6 Under the joint procurement exercise, Sunderland City Council was unable to award a new contract as the bids received did not meet the affordability criteria. However, a short-term extraordinary extension has now been agreed with the current service provider, SUEZ.
- 2.7 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
- 2.8 Following the expiry of the above contracts, all three partner authorities agreed to 24-month extensions from 1 April 2020.
- 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 (RWTC)**

#### Service Update

- 3.1 Appendix A highlights the 2019/20 year-end contract year performance. Across the 2019/20 contract year service availability was strong with plant availability 94.26% and turbine availability 93.11%. 89% of the 194,881 MWh of electricity generated by Lines 4&5 was exported to the National Grid.
- 3.2 Both the contractual recycling and recovery performance targets were exceeded and the unprocessed landfill diversion rate was once again 100%.
- 3.3 The Line 4 annual planned maintenance shutdown began on 10 February 2020 as scheduled. Restart was originally planned for 26 February 2020, but was delayed for approximately 48 hours, predominantly as a consequence of extensive corrosion that had been identified around the flue gas duct entering the stack. Line 4 was therefore restarted on 28 February 2020.

- 3.4 As scheduled, the Line 5 annual planned maintenance shutdown commenced on 15 February. However, Line 5 was successfully brought into service 24 hours ahead of original shutdown schedule. Once back online, operations were consistent and stable with no reported losses of availability or unplanned events.
- 3.5 As part of the annual maintenance exercise, a minor inspection of the turbine/generator was conducted by equipment manufacturer TGM Kanis. Subsequently, two emergent issues were identified which were linked to a cracked component within the steam inlet governing valve and alignment issues between the turbine/generator/gearbox. Due to the availability of spare parts, this resulted in an additional seven days of unplanned turbine unavailability. The machine was successfully recommissioned on 6 March 2020 and has operated in a stable and consistent manner since.
- 3.6 Line 4 lost 0.17 hours of availability on 30 March 2020, which occurred during the annual boiler trip testing, as required by the insurers and the written scheme of examination. Outside of this short period, no further issues or losses of availability were encountered in March and operations following the maintenance shutdown were stable and consistent.
- 3.7 No environmental issues were reported during the 2019/20 contract year and all Incinerator Bottom Ash samples returned compliant results.

#### Line 6 - Update

- 3.8 There is no further progress to report with the potential construction of a sixth EfW Line at Haverton Hill.

#### Refinancing

- 3.9 The exercise to replace the Debt Service Reserve Account (DSRA) with a contingent Debt Service Reserve Facility (DSRF) is still progressing.

#### Joint Insurance Cost Review (JICR)

- 3.10 The third JICR was previously submitted by Willis Towers Watson and reviewed by STWWMP. Initial indications are that due to movements in the insurance market in relation to our technology the position is not as good as it has been previously. A response from STWER to the feedback previously provided is still awaited.

#### Waste Transfer Stations (WTS)

- 3.11 All three of the WTS were available for the entire 2019/20 contract period. Recycling outputs from the sites include segregated street sweepings, wood, scrap metals.
- 3.12 Routine maintenance of buildings, plant and control systems was undertaken as scheduled at all three transfer stations during the year.

#### Targeted Recruitment and Training (TR&T)

- 3.13 The RWTC affords provision for SUEZ to help to improve local prosperity across the partnership area by promoting vacant posts within their facilities. Local vacancies are circulated to partner authority economic development services for circulation to their client bases. Vacancies are also highlighted at

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

3.14 There are no further TR&T updates available at the current time.

#### Community Education and Engagement

3.15 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.

3.16 The final results of the 2019/20 programme were impacted by the coronavirus pandemic restrictions and the remaining activities that had been scheduled for late March were cancelled immediately.

3.17 Therefore, between April 2019 and March 2020, a total of 6,268 local residents, children & young people, and community group members took part in waste awareness events, activities, and site visits to different facilities. Of this, 5,872 were held through outreach sessions in local schools and community settings.

3.18 Recently, the Visitor and Education Centre coordinator employed by GNEC submitted their resignation to take up an employment opportunity elsewhere. STWWMP is discussing with SUEZ and GNEC how a recruitment process to identify a suitable replacement can be undertaken in due course within the current pandemic situation.

#### Community Liaison Groups

3.19 No Community Liaison Group meetings were held during February or March.

### **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 Tables A(i)-A(iii) at Appendix B highlight the 2019/20 year-end performance for each partner authority for the materials collected in the kerbside 'blue bin' recycling service, in comparison to service results since 2014/15. The results are also broken down into tonnages and percentage content to demonstrate the levels of paper collected separately in the inner box and the comingled materials collected in the main section of the bin.

4.3 The tables highlight that comingled recycling tonnages in each partner authority have fluctuated over recent years but demonstrate that paper tonnages collected separately in the inner caddy have continued to fall year-on-year.

4.4 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 each partner authority.

- 4.5 Sunderland City Council continue to identify actions to help increase their recycling rates and reduce contamination rates (shown as recovery in the table), including direct engagement with the public. The rate shows a significant drop in the recovery rate to 17.39%. However, it should be noted that the method for calculating this data is now based on inputs into the MRF rather than outputs.
- 4.6 The recycling trial that commenced in February 2019 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.
- 4.7 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 year-end HWRC recycling performance for 2019/20, excluding inert materials, such as rubble.
- 5.2 During the 2019/20 contract year, the actual tonnage of recycled materials received at HWRCs increased in comparison to the previous year. However, the amount of residual waste also significantly increased which impacted on the percentage-based annual recycling targets, which were subsequently not achieved.

## **6. WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (WEEE) CONTRACT**

- 6.1 The new WEEE regional contract continued to operate without incident during the remainder of the 2019/20 financial year.
- 6.2 The formal launch of the STWWMP WEEE Repair and Reuse Project, originally scheduled for 18 March 2020 at the Visitor and Education Centre, had to be cancelled at late notice due to restrictions introduced because of the coronavirus pandemic. This also resulted in the two employees delivering the project being furloughed by GNEC. However, the project funders have agreed that STWWMP can extend the timeline for the delivery of the project to reflect the period where activities are unable to be delivered because of the pandemic.
- 6.3 A second project, focusing on kerbside WEEE recycling, will commence once the grant has been received from the funding body. However, this is still awaited due to further delays in the launch of the 'Recycle Your Electricals' campaign and the implications of the ongoing pandemic situation.

7. **RECOMMENDATION**

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

---

**Contacts:**

Chris Wilson, Contract Manager (Policy), STWWMP Tel: 433 7478

Fiona Swinburne, Contract Manager (PFI), STWWMP Tel: 433 7428

Gary Smith, Contract Manager (Recycling), STWWMP Tel: 433 7480

## RESIDUAL WASTE TREATMENT CONTRACT

2019/20 year-end performance

Total contract waste	19,546 tonnes
Contract waste delivered to WTS: - Campground - Middlefields - Jack Crawford House	Gateshead 61,268 tonnes Sunderland 17,969 tonnes South Tyneside 50,598 tonnes Sunderland 64,711 tonnes
Total contract waste delivered to EfW	190,178 tonnes
Line 4 availability Line 5 availability Overall EfW availability	94.49% 94.04% 94.26%
Average turbine availability	93.11%
Electricity generated Electricity exported Electricity imported	194,881 MWh 173,428 MWh 23288.5 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 17 151 48 0

## MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY CONTRACTS

Table A(i): Year-end blue tonnage data 2014/15 – 2019/20 - Gateshead

Year	Total recycling (tonnes)	Comingled materials (tonnes)	Comingled materials (percentage)	Separate paper (tonnes)	Separate paper (percentage)
2014/15	15,765	12,314	78.10%	3,451	21.9%
2015/16	16,260	13,101	80.57%	3,159	19.4%
2016/17	15,737	12,808	81.39%	2,929	18.6%
2017/18	15,299	12,757	83.39%	2,542	16.6%
2018/19	15,286	13,080	85.57%	2,206	14.4%
<b>2019/20</b>	<b>15,403</b>	<b>13,416</b>	<b>87.10%</b>	<b>1,987</b>	<b>12.9%</b>

Table A(ii): Year-end blue tonnage data 2014/15 – 2019/20 – South Tyneside

Year	Total recycling	Comingled materials	Comingled percentage	Separate paper	Paper percentage
2014/15	11,838	10,066	85.03%	1,772	15.0%
2015/16	12,220	10,749	87.96%	1,471	12.0%
2016/17	11,978	10,114	84.44%	1,863	15.6%
2017/18	11,216	9,516	84.84%	1,700	15.2%
2018/19	10,952	9,481	86.57%	1,471	13.4%
<b>2019/20</b>	<b>11,154</b>	<b>9,768</b>	<b>87.58%</b>	<b>1,386</b>	<b>12.4%</b>

Table A(iii): Year-end blue tonnage data 2014/15 – 2019/20 - Sunderland

Year	Total recycling	Comingled materials	Comingled percentage	Separate paper	Paper percentage
2014/15	19,026	14,798	77.78%	4,228	22.2%
2015/16	19,349	15,448	79.84%	3,902	20.2%
2016/17	18,798	15,552	82.73%	3,246	17.3%
2017/18	20,314	18,137	89.28%	2,177	10.7%
2018/19	21,080	19,054	90.39%	2,026	9.6%
<b>2019/20</b>	<b>20,472</b>	<b>18,757</b>	<b>91.6%</b>	<b>1,715</b>	<b>8.4%</b>

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%	84.8%	15.2%	79.3%	20.7%
Q2 2019/20	87.5%	12.5%	83.6%	16.4%	77.1%	22.9%
Q3 2019/20	88.45%	11.55%	89.72%	10.28%	79.84%	20.16%
Q4 2019/20	88.00%*	12.00%*	88.00%*	12.00%*	82.61%*	17.39%*

\*Estimated results

Table C: Mixed fibre separate collection trial

Month	Gateshead (tonnes)	South Tyneside (tonnes)
April 2019	8.00	8.00
May 2019	8.38	7.42
June 2019	8.00	7.68
July 2019	7.87	6.68
August 2019*	15.76	15.02
September 2019	8.16	7.26
October 2019	7.70	7.48
November 2019	8.56	8.10
December 2019	9.00	8.06
January 2020	10.02	9.84
February 2020	7.88	7.04
March 2020	8.02	7.46
<b>Total</b>	<b>107.35</b>	<b>100.04</b>

\*NB: 2 fibre collections delivered during the month of August 2019

## HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING CENTRE CONTRACTS

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

<b>HWRC</b>	<b>Annual Target</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
Campground	63.4%	62.9%
Cowen Road	63.1%	62.7%
Beach Street	61.6%	56.7%
Middlefields (Recycling Village)	N/A	59.1%



South Tyneside Council



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

**12 JUNE 2020**

**REPORT OF:** Colin Huntington, Project Director, South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership

**SUBJECT:** Coronavirus Pandemic - STWWMP Service Delivery

---

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To provide the Joint Executive Committee with an overview of household waste service delivery and associated challenges in response to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

**2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 On 16 March 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson advised that in response to the rapidly developing coronavirus pandemic, everyone in the UK should avoid 'non-essential' travel and contact with others, and to work from home wherever possible.

2.2 Government subsequently announced on 18 March 2020 that all schools in would close from the afternoon of Friday 20 March, except for those looking after the children of key workers and vulnerable children.

2.3 To further contain the spread of the virus, a UK-wide 'partial' lockdown was announced on 23 March 2020 which instructed the public that they must stay at home, except for certain very limited purposes, i.e. shopping for basic necessities; for 'one form of exercise a day'; for any medical need; and to travel to and from work when 'absolutely necessary'.

2.4 Therefore, the STWWMP partner authorities needed to urgently consider how to ensure that the statutory waste services could continue to be provided households across the partnership area, whilst protecting the health and safety of both the staff delivering the services and local residents themselves.

### 3. STWWMP SERVICE DELIVERY

3.1 Since the beginning of the national lockdown and the subsequent ongoing restrictions on all aspects of daily life, each of the partner authorities have faced numerous challenges in ensuring that as many as possible of the range of waste services that are usually available can continue to be delivered to residents.

#### *Impact on Frontline Service Delivery*

3.2 In recent months, there have been increased pressures on staff and resources. This has required the partner authorities to plan for the potential impact of staff unavailability, which could still yet be a significant concern if a 'second wave' of the virus becomes prevalent.

3.3 However, despite such challenging times, the team effort and professionalism demonstrated by the partner authorities - fully supported by the different external waste contractors and advice and guidance from other organisations across the waste sector - has meant that all residents across Gateshead, South Tyneside, and Sunderland have continued to receive their key waste collection services. This has enabled the statutory kerbside services, such as household residual and recycling collections, to be maintained without interruption. This continues to be achieved whilst ensuring that the health and safety of all staff and members of the public is of paramount importance and the highest priority in the ongoing service delivery.

#### *Contractors' Response*

3.4 During the initial stages of the lockdown the majority of residents were required to stay at home, so the amount of waste that households presented for collection increased. Since Easter, analysis indicates an average increase in recycling tonnages presented by households is 24% in Gateshead, 30% in South Tyneside, and 28% in Sunderland. Despite this, the support received from contractors ensured that all waste transfer stations and facilities, both material recovery facilities, and the energy-from-waste facility continued to accept waste and operate as close to as normal as possible, with no impact on service delivery.

#### *Staff Safety*

3.5 Home working for staff support services has been implemented wherever possible and support provided to other vulnerable staff who, in accordance with the latest government and NHS advice, have been advised to be stringent in following social distancing guidelines or self-isolation requirements.

3.6 However, as 'key workers', many waste services staff cannot work from home and the partner authorities rely on them to maintain critical service provision to residents. Consequently, all partner authorities and contractors have been able to swiftly implement appropriate alternative measures to protect their health and safety across all services, sites, and locations. This includes:

- The development of new coronavirus-related risk assessments to provide guidance to all staff and managers and ensure that the partner authorities comply with their duty to provide a safe and healthy

workplace/working conditions for staff who remain working in their regular place of work during the pandemic.

- The widespread use of additional support vehicles on collection rounds to ensure staff can ensure that social distancing is maintained when travelling during collection routes.
- The provision of additional signage, traffic management arrangements, and resources on sites, as appropriate.
- Minimising attendance in workplaces, supported by revised shift rotas and restrictions to site/office access, especially arrangements for communal areas such as kitchens.
- Additional staff training to allow for flexibility within the delivery of services, which in some cases enabled the redeployment of staff into another areas of work or to support critical services where required.

#### *Temporary Suspension of Services*

3.7 Unfortunately, to ensure that the key services highlighted above could continue to be delivered, difficult decisions had to be taken and some household waste services were temporarily suspended. This included the household garden waste kerbside collection services, which were withdrawn before any collections from the households subscribing to the 2020 could commence.

3.8 Throughout the suspension of the service(s), the contractors indicated that they would be able to mobilise immediately when the individual partner authorities recommenced kerbside collections from subscribers. All partner authorities have now been able to reintroduce the garden waste services and collections are now taking place within the existing fortnightly collection schedule. Prior to its recommencement, communications activities were undertaken to remind subscribers not to present additional bagged waste at the side of their bins if they were full and, for the safety of everyone, that all residents must comply with social distancing requirements and not to approach collection crews.

3.9 Due to the government's lockdown guidance on essential travel requirements, the four household waste and recycling centres (HWRCs) closed during the initial weeks of the pandemic. Following updated government advice and discussions between the partner authorities and the HWRC management contractor (SUEZ), all STWWMP HWRCs have now reopened. However, residents have been advised that visits to HWRCs should still only be undertaken if it is essential and that journeys are only allowed under the current lockdown restrictions if the waste materials cannot be stored at home without causing risk of injury or harm to health.

#### *Alternative Service Delivery Models*

3.10 Therefore, for the foreseeable future, HWRCs will continue to operate within the strict social distancing measures that were introduced to enable them to reopen in a safe manner by restricting the number of vehicles accessing sites at any one time. In some cases, the HWRCs have temporarily introduced longer opening hours (8am-8pm) to help to manage demand.

3.11 Current HWRC restrictions also include limitations to the types of materials that can be disposed and only bagged household waste, garden waste, cardboard, wood, and bulky waste such as old furniture will be accepted (although this was recently extended to enable the disposal of some waste electrical and electronic

equipment, including small domestic appliances such as toasters, kettles, and vacuum cleaners, televisions, and small fridges).

- 3.12 The number of vehicles that are able to access sites must, therefore, be carefully managed to prevent excessive queues that may impact on the highway and flow of traffic elsewhere. At the current time, access to sites is also restricted to cars only, and no vans, vehicles towing trailers, pick-ups, or commercial vehicles of any type are allowed on site. The existing permit system for such vehicles remains suspended until further notice. However, the partner authorities remain in regular discussions with SUEZ regarding the potential extension of site access in the near future to additional vehicles, such as car-derived vans and pick-ups.
- 3.13 In Gateshead and South Tyneside, site access is also managed by a new, simple, car number plate system which has been introduced to restrict opportunities to access sites based on car registration details, i.e. vehicles with 'even' and 'odd' years of manufacture identified on number plates access sites on alternate days. However, in Sunderland, HWRC site access is determined by a new, easy-to-access booking system where residents must register in advance before attending Beach Street to dispose of their waste. Both new systems are operating effectively, and all residents using STWWMP HWRCs may also be asked for proof of their address.

#### 4. THE NATIONAL PICTURE

##### *Local Authority Service Delivery*

- 4.1 The challenges that the partner authorities have faced during the pandemic are not uncommon and most other local authorities around the country have also had to focus on maintaining statutory waste services. As with STWWMP, there has also been an impact on other waste services such as kerbside garden waste collections and HWRCs.
- 4.2 Since the lockdown began, a waste services survey has been jointly issued by the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT)/ Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC)/ National Association of Waste Disposal Officers (NAWDO)/ Local Government Association (LGA) on a weekly basis. STWWMP has submitted a response each week highlighting the service delivery position across the partner authorities. By the end of May 2020, the survey results highlighted:

<b>Service</b>	<b>Operating normally</b>	<b>Minor disruption</b>	<b>Moderate disruption</b>	<b>Severe disruption</b>	<b>Service not available</b>
Residual collections	91%	8%	1%	0%	0%
Recycling collections	81%	17%	1%	0%	0%
Garden Waste collections	72%	14%	7%	3%	4%

- 4.3 The results above show that now that the pandemic has passed its peak, the significant majority of other local authorities have been able to recommence at least some element of waste services that may have previously been suspended.
- 4.4 Services such as residual waste collections have remained consistent over recent weeks/months, whilst improvements seen in some areas in recent weeks have enabled four out of five local authorities to now report recycling collections that are operating as normal.
- 4.5 Almost three quarters of garden waste collections services are now operating again – a figure that has doubled since the end of March.

*Waste Disposal Services*

- 4.6 The weekly survey also includes an analysis of waste disposal services and their availability for local authorities. At the end of May, the analysis shows:

<b>Service</b>	<b>Operating normally</b>	<b>Minor disruption</b>	<b>Moderate disruption</b>	<b>Severe disruption</b>	<b>Service not available</b>
Energy-from-Waste	94%	5%	1%	0%	0%
Materials Recovery Facility	78%	17%	4%	1%	0%
Waste Transfer Stations	90%	9%	1%	0%	0%
Household Waste and Recycling Centres	15%	38%	41%	3%	3%
Open Windrow Composting	89%	8%	1%	1%	1%

- 4.7 Alongside local authority residual waste collection services, the energy-from-waste (EfW) availability has remained consistent during pandemic, as have waste transfer stations for the different waste streams.
- 4.8 Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) have seen greater levels of disruption in comparison to residual waste treatment options such as EfW, but almost four in five MRFs are now reporting to be operating as normal.
- 4.9 Similarly, 79% of Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs) are now reporting minor or moderate levels of disruption to services (92% of which have identified operational capacity of 30-40%), with only 3% remaining closed. In mid-April, 92% of HWRCs across the country were closed.

*Staffing Levels*

- 4.10 By mid-May, 15% of survey respondents were experiencing 'no impact' on operational staffing levels. 78% of local authorities reported a 'less than 20% reduction on staffing levels, a similar level to the two weeks prior. 6% reported

a 20-40 reduction, which is less than a fifth of the absence levels that were reported in the last week of March.

- 4.11 The same survey also identified the greatest reported causes for disruption to collection services, which continues to be staff absence due to self-isolation (highlighted by 45% of local authorities, although this has fallen in recent weeks). The effects of social distancing is the next greatest reported cause for service disruption, identified by 41% of respondents, followed by absence due to sickness (32%).

*Waste Arisings*

- 4.12 Finally, the survey also considers changes in the levels of waste across the three main waste streams that are collected at the kerbside since the lockdown began:

Service	+100% increase	50-100% increase	20-50% increase	0-20% increase	No impact	0-20% decrease	20-50% decrease	50+100% decrease
Residual	2%	3%	28%	58%	8%	0%	1%	0%
Recycling	0%	9%	34%	49%	7%	0%	1%	0%
Garden Waste	8%	18%	26%	34%	9%	5%	0%	0%

**5. NEXT STEPS**

- 5.1 As the pandemic continues, across STWWMP, waste service operatives continue to receive positive feedback and thanks from all sectors of society, whether this is thank you posters in windows or on notices and cards left on bins. It would appear that residents are recognising that alongside social care staff, shop workers, NHS staff, and many other key workers, local authority waste services are essential to the functioning of society, whether this is in a period of crisis or not.
- 5.2 However, the recovery phase of the pandemic will mean the partner authorities will encounter many further challenges that will need to be considered to ensure that waste services can continue to be delivered, whilst protecting the health and safety of all staff and the public at all times.
- 5.3 As more waste services continue to expand and become closer to ‘normal’ service delivery, further interim risk assessments will be required to be developed through close working between the three partner authorities and relevant service contractors. This will also enable contract management roles such as site inspections to be reintroduced and routinely delivered.
- 5.4 As highlighted above, across the country there is now a very low rate of HWRC unavailability, and all four HWRC’s are now open across the partnership area. However, it is likely that there could be a long period of alternative service delivery before any HWRCs are back to full working order. Furthermore, further

consideration will need to be given to agree how the service(s) can be safely enhanced to provide opportunities for residents to dispose additional waste streams and when it will be appropriate to allow larger vehicles, such as vans and pick-ups, to access HWRCs again.

- 5.5 The partner authorities will also be subject to a steep learning curve on the implications of the new 'track and trace' procedures and how this could impact on increased staff absences and, therefore, the continued delivery of waste services.
- 5.6 In addition, all local authorities have incurred significant additional financial costs to ensure services across all areas of their activities can be delivered safely within the current situation. The ongoing lockdown restrictions will prevent the partner authorities from returning to pre-pandemic service arrangements and associated service delivery costs.
- 5.7 However, the longer some form of restrictions remain in place, the additional financial pressures could begin to impact on the services that the partner authorities are able to provide. The local government sector and their support organisations remain in dialogue with government regarding the additional costs required to support all aspects of local authority services during the pandemic. Within the waste services sector, feedback from support organisations such as LARAC suggests that their discussions with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) have indicated that the department is keen to identify evidence of extra costs that local authority waste services are incurring. STWWMP will therefore continue to engage with relevant waste sector organisations and surveys and ensure that the service delivery challenges and associated additional costs will be highlighted as appropriate.

## 6. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 The Joint Executive Committee is requested to:
- (i) Note the contents of this report; and
  - (ii) Agree to receive further updates on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the delivery of waste services, as appropriate.

---

### **Contacts:**

Chris Wilson, Contract Manager (Policy), STWWMP Tel: 433 7478

This page is intentionally left blank



South Tyneside Council



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

**12 JUNE 2020**

**REPORT OF:** Colin Huntington, Project Director, South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership

**SUBJECT:** Resources & Waste Strategy: Implications for Local Authorities

---

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To advise the Joint Executive Committee with the government response to the recent Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee inquiry on the implications for local authorities of the Resources & Waste Strategy.

**2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 In December 2018, as part of the 25-year Environment Plan, the government published a new national Resources & Waste Strategy (*'Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England'*), which was followed in 2019 by separate consultation exercises which sought views from a wide range of organisations and members of the public on many of the key proposals outlined within the strategy.

2.2 The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) published the outcome of the consultation exercises in July 2019, although this did not include confirmation of which of the proposals would be implemented or how they would be funded. At the current time, further consultation exercises to clarify the implementation of the Strategy's proposals are still expected during 2020.

2.3 However, the government subsequently published The Environment Bill, which provides a legal framework to deliver many of the proposals identified in the Strategy, should government wish to do so.

2.4 Following a four-month inquiry into the implications of the Strategy for local authorities, the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee published its Nineteenth Report of Session 2017–19, Waste Strategy: Implications for local authorities [HC 2071] as House of Commons Paper HC 2071.

### **3. KEY COMMITTEE FINDINGS**

#### **3.1** Some of the Committee's key findings from the inquiry included:

- Concerns by reports from local authority representatives that they were not sufficiently consulted in advance of the publication of the Strategy, particularly around recycling targets, financial implications and the 'desirability' of the proposed changes to waste management services.
- An agreement for the proposal to implement an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme so that producers bear a greater responsibility for the disposal costs of the materials that they introduce into the waste system. The Committee also recommended that the government commits to undertaking a review of funding levels at least every two years, providing top-up funding to local authorities if this becomes necessary.
- An acknowledgement that despite 'strong opposition' from many to the incineration of waste, producing energy-from-waste has a role to play within the waste hierarchy. Consequently, an incineration tax should not be introduced in the short term, as this would simply increase costs for local authorities and council tax payers. However, the Committee considers that the government is right to keep an incineration tax under review, but only insofar as it will encourage local authorities to prioritise long-term investment in the recycling infrastructure and must not lead to a transfer of waste from incineration to landfill.

#### **3.2** The Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC) provided evidence to the inquiry in both written and in person at the select committee.

### **4. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE - OVERVIEW**

**4.1** The government's response to the report was published in March 2020, in which they acknowledged that there is a balance to be struck between local decision making and what is considered necessary to increase the quantity and quality of recycling nationally. However, they disagreed with the Committee's conclusion that the Strategy has sought to dictate from the centre what is best decided at local level.

**4.2** Therefore, whilst government highlighted that local decision making is key to effectively implementing their reforms, they also highlighted that in recent decades, various EU Directives have imposed top-down requirements on local authorities and regulated how local waste services are provided. Furthermore, they also emphasised that Parliament has also previously legislated directly to set minimum requirements on household recycling.

**4.3** Close working with local authorities to implement reforms will continue through Defra and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, and government confirmed its commitment to fund any new burdens on local government in line with the New Burdens Doctrine.

## 5. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE - KEY FEEDBACK

### 5.1 Some of the key responses from government included:

#### *Consultation*

- Arrangements regarding how government engages with the Local Government Association and local government representatives will be reviewed to ensure that they are fully consulted on the development and implementation of the proposals.

#### *Standardisation*

- All English local authorities will be required to collect glass, metal, plastic, paper and card, food waste, and garden waste for recycling, as set out in the Environment Bill.
- Government's view is that a free garden waste service would remain the best approach to delivering overall environmental benefits, but as previously stated, further consideration will be given to the overall cost and benefits of this proposal before a decision on how best to proceed can be made.
- Local authorities will get access to £2.9bn of extra funding available to them in 2020/21 for core services, including waste services and also measures to support recycling reward schemes.

#### *Food waste*

- Government analysis shows that if all local authorities provided at least kerbside properties with a separate food waste collection service, this would increase the amount of food waste collected by 1.35m tonnes by 2029 and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 1.25m tonnes a year. Government considers this is a strong case for separate collection of food waste for treatment through anaerobic digestion, which also supports other government policies to decarbonise energy production and reduce the reliance on fossil fuels.

#### *Deposit Return Scheme*

- Committee's comments that the implementation of a deposit return scheme should be deferred are noted, but government remains minded to introduce a deposit return scheme for drinks containers from 2023 (or sooner if possible), subject to further evidence and analysis.
- Government recognise the concerns raised by local authorities that some of the material they currently collect for recycling will be diverted to a deposit return scheme. However, this will be compensated by reforms to the EPR system which will ensure that producers will be responsible for the costs of dealing with the packaging waste they produce.

#### *EPR Funding*

- Government has previously made it clear that the process of raising costs from producers for packaging disposal and allocating funding to local authorities will be transparent and fair to both local authorities and producers.

## 6. **NEXT STEPS**

- 6.1 It is clear that the full impact of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic will not be known for some time. There will be significant challenges that local authorities will continue to face for the foreseeable future in continuing to ensure that key services, such as waste management, can continue to be delivered safely.
- 6.2 Furthermore, the impact of the pandemic on future local authority funding cannot yet be predicted. This includes the impact on the national waste policy direction and the further implementation of the Resources & Waste Strategy proposals, as well as the potential availability of additional funding through the New Burdens Doctrine.
- 6.3 However, STWWMP will seek to fully engage in the forthcoming consultation exercises when they are released by government and ensure that potential local challenges arising for the implementation of the Strategy's proposals are clearly identified, costed, and communicated.

## 7. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 The Joint Executive Committee is requested to:
- (i) Note the contents of this report; and
  - (ii) Agree to receive further updates on the implementation of the Resources & Waste Strategy proposals, as appropriate.

---

### **Contacts:**

Chris Wilson, Contract Manager (Policy), STWWMP Tel: 433 7478