



South Tyneside Council



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

**Friday, 11 September 2020 at 1.30 pm in the [https://youtu.be/ljP62Mfal\\_o](https://youtu.be/ljP62Mfal_o)**

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From the Chief Executive, Sheena Ramsey

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Item Business

1. **Apologies**

2. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 10)

The Committee are asked to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2020.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

Members are asked to declare any declarations of interest.

4. **Contracts Update** (Pages 11 - 22)

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

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

The next meeting will take place on Friday 11 December 2020 at 1.30 pm, venue to be advised

Contact: Helen Conway Email: [helenconway@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:helenconway@gateshead.gov.uk), Tel: 433 3993,  
Date: Friday, 4 September 2020

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

**Friday, 12 June 2020**

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

Gateshead Council Councillor Angela Douglas,

South Tyneside Council Councillor Jim Foreman

Sunderland Council Councillor Michael Mordey  
Councillor Paul Stewart

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Gateshead Council Colin Huntington, Marc Morley, Helen Conway

South Tyneside Council Andrew Whittaker

Sunderland Council Colin Curtis

South Tyne and Wear  
Waste Management  
Partnership Chris Wilson, Fiona Swinburne, Gary Smith

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Mark Walsh

**85 ELECTION OF CHAIR**

RESOLVED - That the Joint Executive Committee agreed that the Chair for 2020/21 would be Councillor Linda Green (Gateshead)

**86 ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRS**

RESOLVED - That the Joint Executive Committee agreed that the Vice Chairs for 2020/21 would be Councillor Mark Walsh (South Tyneside) and Councillor Michael Mordey (Sunderland)

The Joint Executive Committee agreed to send a letter of thanks to Councillor Amy Wilson, who has recently stood down, for her time spent on the JEC and to wish her well for the future.

**87 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

**88 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received

**89 CONTRACTS UPDATE**

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

The 2019/20 year end contract year performance was reported and across the 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.

Both the contractual recycling and recovery performance targets were exceeded and the unprocessed landfill diversion rate was once again 100%.

No environmental issues were reported during 2019/20 contract year and all Incinerator Bottom Ash samples returned compliant results.

No further progress was reported with SUEZ's potential construction of a sixth EfW Line at Haverton Hill.

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

The third Joint Insurance Cost Review (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.

The Committee were advised that 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.

Routine maintenance of buildings, plant and control systems was undertaken as scheduled at all three transfer stations during the year.

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 enable opportunities to be circulated across community contacts.

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.

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.

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.

Recently, the Visitor and Education Centre co-ordinator employed by GNEC submitted their resignation to take up an employment opportunity elsewhere. STWWMP are 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.

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

The Joint Committee were advised that the MRF contracts continue to be monitored closely by the Joint Partnership team. Table A at Appendix B highlighted 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.

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.

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.

Sunderland City Council continue to identify actions to help increase their recycling rates and reduce contamination rates, 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.

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 provided details of the tonnage of paper and cardboard (known as mixed fibre) that has been collected since the start of the trial.

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.

Table A at Appendix C highlights the year-end HWRC recycling performance for 2019/20, excluding inert materials, such as rubble.

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.

The Committee were informed that the new WEEE regional contract continued to operate without incident during the remainder of the 2019/20 financial year.

The formal launch of the STWWMP WEE 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.

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.

RESOLVED - That the JEC noted the contents of the report.

## **90 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC - STWWMP SERVICE DELIVERY**

The JEC received a report which provided an overview of household waste service delivery and associated challenges in response to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

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.

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.

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.

Mechanisms have been put in place by all authorities across the partnership to ensure staff safety, the temporary suspension of services where necessary and the introduction of alternative service delivery models. However, as lockdown eases, services are slowly being re-introduced across the partnership.

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.

Alongside local authority residual waste collection services, the national energy-from-waste (EfW) availability has remained consistent during pandemic, as have waste transfer stations for the different waste streams.

Across the country 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.

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.

By mid-May, 15% of local authorities 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 that a 20-40 reduction, which is less than a fifth of the absence levels that were reported in the last week of March.

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

As the pandemic continues, across the partnership, waste service operatives continue to receive positive feedback and thanks from all sectors of society, whether this is thank you posters in windows or 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.

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.

The partner authorities will also be subject to 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.

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 partner authorities from returning to pre-pandemic service arrangements and associated service delivery costs.

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.

- RESOLVED -
- i) That the information be noted
  - ii) The JEC agreed to receive further updates on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the delivery of waste services, as appropriate.
  - iii) That changes to the operational risk register due to the impact of coronavirus be brought to the next meeting of the JEC
  - iv) That a letter of thanks be sent on behalf of the JEC to all staff who have continued to provide waste services during the pandemic.

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## **RESOURCES & WASTE STRATEGY: IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

The JEC received a report advising of the government response to the recent Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee inquiry on the implications for local authorities of the Resources and Waste Strategy.



The JEC were advised that 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.

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

The JEC were advised that the government's response to the report 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.

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

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.

The key responses from Government included details on:

- Consultation
- Standardisation
- Food Waste

- Deposit Return Scheme
- EPR Funding

The JEC were advised that it is clear that the full impact of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic will not be known for some time. There will however, 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.

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 and Waste Strategy proposals, as well as the potential availability of additional funding through the New Burdens Doctrine.

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.

- RESOLVED -
- i) That the information be noted.
  - ii) The JEC agreed to receive further updates on the implementation of the Resources & Waste Strategy proposals, as appropriate.

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

The next meeting will be held on Friday 11 September 2020 at 1.30 pm – venue to be confirmed in due course.



South Tyneside Council



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

**11 SEPTEMBER 2020**

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

**SUBJECT:** Contracts Update

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**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)**

- 3.1 During the national lockdown to contain the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, residual waste levels rose significantly as the majority of residents across the partnership area remained at home due to restrictions on movement and the introduction of home working etc.
- 3.2 In comparison to the weeks immediately prior to the lockdown, additional Gateshead residual waste tonnages subsequently peaked at +15%, South Tyneside at +31%, and in Sunderland, the peak collection week showed a 27% rise.
- 3.3 However, all partner authorities have been able to continue to collect residual waste from households across the partnership area without interruption, the three waste transfer stations have continued to manage the waste levels that

were received, and the EfW facility has continued to operate as planned and process the waste for energy recovery.

#### EfW Service Update

- 3.4 Appendix A highlights the 2020/21 contract performance for the period April-July 2020. Plant availability has remained strong at 98.49% and turbine availability 97.51%.
- 3.5 Both contractual recycling and recovery performance continues to operate above target and the unprocessed landfill diversion rate remains at 100%.
- 3.6 Line 4 experienced a half hour volatile organic compound (VOC) breach on 26 April, which resulted in a plant trip arising from a suspected significant gas bottle explosion within the furnace. The breach was reported to the Environment Agency (EA) and the compliance classification score (CCS) is still awaited.
- 3.7 Between 27 and 29 May, Line 4 lost 48.16 hours of availability and Line 5 29.75 hours due to a consecutive trip of all four air-cooled condenser fans, which also resulted in a loss of the turbine for 44 hours. Initial investigations indicated that the root cause of the issue was due to a spurious software trip which was reset. The turbine was successfully restarted on 29 May.
- 3.8 However, Line 4 lost a further 5.83 hours of availability and Line 5 6.08 hours on 14/15 June due to a repeat condenser fan failure which tripped the plant again, including the turbine for 29.1 hours. Following further inspections, the fault was traced to a malfunctioning emergency stop switch which was repaired. As only one of five switches have been identified as faulty, its replacement can be carried out during the 2021 annual maintenance shutdown. The turbine was successfully restarted on 16 June.
- 3.9 30 minutes of abnormal operations were reported to the EA on 6 June due to a total loss of power to the emissions monitoring equipment. However, as evidence was available to prove that operational stability was maintained throughout the full period of the incident this is, therefore, not classified as a breach and will not receive a CCS.
- 3.10 To date, all Incinerator Bottom Ash samples have returned compliant results.

#### Refinancing

- 3.11 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)

- 3.12 The third JICR was previously submitted by Willis Towers Watson and reviewed by STWWMP. A response from STWER is still awaited.

#### Waste Transfer Stations (WTS)

- 3.13 As highlighted above, all three of the WTS were fully operational between April and July. Recycling outputs from the sites include segregated street sweepings, wood, and scrap metals.

- 3.14 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)

- 3.15 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.

- 3.16 There are no TR&T updates available at the current time.

Community Education and Engagement

- 3.17 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.

- 3.18 All planned and proposed activities have been cancelled as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. However, the suspension of activities is enabling a review of the programme to be undertaken.

- 3.19 The recruitment process to appoint a replacement Visitor and Education Centre Coordinator is also ongoing within the COVID-19 restrictions. The job description and person specification were agreed, the post advertised, and interviews scheduled to take place in September 2020.

Community Liaison Groups

- 3.20 The pandemic has also impacted on both the Campground and Jack Crawford House Community Liaison Groups and no meetings have been able to be held.

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

- 4.1 Table A at Appendix B provides the latest 2020/21 performance for blue bin recycling (April-July 2020). As previously reported to the Joint Executive Committee, all partner authorities have maintained the statutory blue bin recycling collection service to households throughout the COVID-19 pandemic without interruption to service.

- 4.2 However, as with residual waste levels, the impact of the national lockdown resulted in significant increases in recyclable materials presented by households across the partnership area. All partner authorities' commingled recycling increased by over 30% when compared to April-July 2019, yet the continuing decline in paper-based materials was further accelerated during the lockdown, which resulted in significant reductions in separately presented paper materials when compared to the same period last year.

- 4.3 The MRF contracts continue to be monitored closely by the joint partnership team. As highlighted above, recycling tonnages of commingled materials remain at above average levels, therefore, regular contract meetings/calls are being held with contractors to discuss any mitigation measures that may need

to be taken to ensure that the storage of material at the MRFs does not become an issue and that the sites are still able to process the additional tonnage that is being received. The contractors' updated business continuity plans have also been requested.

- 4.4 Appendix B also contains Table B, which highlights MRF recycling and recovery rates (for comingled materials only) since Quarter 1 2019/20. 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 an estimated 17.05%. 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 in the longer term and will be used when evaluating future service delivery models.
- 4.8 The partner authority MRF contracts with Palm and J&B are set to expire at the end of March 2021. The partner authorities continue to evaluate the most feasible service delivery options for this contract post-March 2021 and further detail will be provided at the next meeting.

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

- 5.1 Table A at Appendix C highlights the latest HWRC recycling performance for 2020/21 (April-July 2020). The new way of calculating HWRC recycling performance now excludes not only inert materials (such as rubble), but also electrical waste (WEEE), low grade wood, and dry mixed recyclables/textiles etc. This means that the performance of a site appears to be lower than that of previous years. The results highlight the performance of the first recycling incentivised HWRC contract delivered in South Tyneside but the results for Sunderland are provided for comparison only as the contract is, technically, calculated differently.
- 5.2 However, the results shown are still subject to change due to new national guidelines regarding the recycling of all wood materials collected at HWRCs. Furthermore, it should also be noted that due to the limited number of materials being accepted at the sites due to the COVID-19 restrictions (see below), this has also impacted on recycling performance.
- 5.3 The Joint Executive Committee was previously advised that following government guidance on essential travel requirements during the COVID-19

national lockdown, all partner authority HWRCs closed temporarily and ceased to operate at the end of March.

- 5.4 Subsequent guidance on local authority prioritisation of waste collection services was issued by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) on 7 April, which was followed by further guidance on 17 April regarding the re-opening of HWRCs for the disposal of waste. This was aimed at providing extra support to households where the build-up of waste produced during the lockdown restrictions posed 'a risk of injury, health or harm', and strict COVID-19 legislation and protocols would need to be maintained on site.
- 5.5 Consequently, HWRCs across the partnership reopened in early May with an alternative service delivery model in place. This included restrictions to the number of vehicles accepted on sites, reductions to the material streams that could be disposed, and the implementation of strict social distancing measures with zones in place to ensure that residents did not interact with other residents (i.e. one car per zone at any one time).
- 5.6 The partner authorities subsequently extended the range of wastes that could be disposed at HWRCs to include waste electrical and electronic equipment from 19 May. Vehicle access was still restricted to cars only.
- 5.7 At the start of June, some restrictions on vehicle access to sites were lifted and small car-derived vans, family pick-up trucks, and 4x4-type vehicles with rear panels were allowed to access the HWRCs using the established vehicle permit scheme.
- 5.8 However, to continue to consider traffic management and restrict the volume of vehicles accessing HWRCs at any one time, both Gateshead and South Tyneside continue to operate the 'odd and even' car number plate system and in Sunderland, the advance booking system. Larger vans, commercial vehicles, or vehicles with trailers are still currently omitted from the accepted vehicles list.

## **6. GREEN WASTE COMPOSTING CONTRACTS**

- 6.1 Because of the restrictions introduced due to the pandemic and requirement to maintain statutory waste collection services, each partner authority suspended the garden waste kerbside collection service prior to the commencement of the 2020 season in April. Collections recommenced for service subscribers in May.
- 6.2 Contract management meetings and discussions continue to be held with service providers and no significant issues have been identified.

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

- 7.1 The team delivering the DTS WEEE Reduce and Reuse Project returned from furlough on a part-time basis in August, with plans to return to full-time activities from September. Due to the implications of the pandemic, methods of engagement are being reviewed to consider new methods to collect material for servicing and redistribution to vulnerable residents.



7.2 Discussions are ongoing regarding the kerbside WEEE Material Change project, considering a potential start date of September 2020, once the funding has been received. The project will also link into the work of the DTS Reduce and Reuse Project.

## 8. ANNUAL RECYCLING PERFORMANCE

8.1 In response to an audit undertaken by the Lead Partner Internal Audit Service in 2019, it was agreed that overall partner authority recycling performance should be reported to the Joint Executive Committee in September each year, once Waste Data Flow returns have been validated.

8.2 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.

8.3 The NI192 results have risen in each partner authority, with the 2019/20 results showing:

- Gateshead 32.0%
- South Tyneside 30.7%
- Sunderland 27.3%

## 9. RECOMMENDATION

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

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### 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

2020/21 latest performance: April-July 2020

Total contract waste	71,467.85 tonnes
Contract waste delivered to WTS: - Campground - Middlefields - Jack Crawford House	Gateshead 22,280.58 tonnes Sunderland 7,410.91 tonnes South Tyneside 18,000.66 tonnes Sunderland 23,775.69 tonnes
Total contract waste delivered to EfW	68,526.52 tonnes
Line 4 availability Line 5 availability Overall EfW availability	98.18% 98.80% 98.49%
Average turbine availability	97.51%
Electricity generated Electricity exported Electricity imported	67,875 MWh 60,508 MWh 126 MWh
Recycling performance	Target 2.1% Performance 2.5%
Recovery performance	Target 95.5% Performance 97.0%
Unprocessed landfill diversion rate	100%
Health and safety: - RIDDOR - Injuries and accidents - Near misses - Property damage - Fires	0 5 20 14 0

## MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY CONTRACTS

Table A: 2020/21 latest blue bin tonnage data: April-July 2020

	Gateshead	South Tyneside	Sunderland
Comingled tonnage	5,768	4,345	8,172
Paper tonnage	487	307	428
<b>Total tonnage</b>	<b>6,255</b>	<b>4,652</b>	<b>8,600</b>
<i>Comparison to April-July 2019 - <b>comingled</b></i>	<i>30.7% increase</i>	<i>35.8% increase</i>	<i>35.9% increase</i>
<i>Comparison to April-July 2019 - <b>paper</b></i>	<i>26.1% decrease</i>	<i>33.2% decrease</i>	<i>26.2% decrease</i>
<i>Comparison to April-July 2019 - <b>all materials</b></i>	<i>23.3% increase</i>	<i>27.1% increase</i>	<i>28.4% increase</i>

Table B: MRF recycling and recovery performance

Period	Gateshead		South Tyneside		Sunderland	
	Recycling	Recovery	Recycling	Recovery	Recycling	Recovery
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	88.60%	11.40%	89.00%	11.00%	82.70%	17.30%
Q1 2020/21	86.99%*	13.01%*	86.99%*	13.01%*	82.95%*	17.05%*

\*Estimated results

Table C: Mixed fibre separate collection trial

<b>Month</b>	<b>Gateshead (tonnes)</b>	<b>South Tyneside (tonnes)</b>
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
April 2020	7.40	8.34
May 2020	5.18	8.36
June 2020	8.32	8.16
July 2020*	17.36	16.42
<b>Total</b>	<b>145.61</b>	<b>141.32</b>

*\*NB: 2 fibre collections delivered during the months of August 2019 and July 2020.*

## HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING CENTRE CONTRACTS

Table A: 2020/21 latest recycling performance (excluding inert materials, such as rubble, WEEE, low grade wood and dry mixed recycling/textiles):

<b>HWRC</b>	<b>Annual Target</b>	<b>April-July 2020</b>
Campground	48%	51.4%*
Cowen Road	48%	58.4%*
Beach Street	N/A	48.2%*
Middlefields (Recycling Village)	50%	52.7%*

*\*NB: Results subject to change – currently includes all wood materials collected but verification required regarding treatment routes, i.e. recycling, recovery, or disposal.*

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