



South Tyneside Council



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

Friday, 11 December 2020 at 1.30 pm in the <https://youtu.be/wri1pimQbJg>

From the Chief Executive, Sheena Ramsey

Item Business

1. Apologies

2. Minutes (Pages 3 - 8)

The Joint Executive Committee is asked to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2020 (attached)

3. Declarations of Interest

4. Future Kerbside Recycling Options

Presentation

5. Contracts Update (Pages 9 - 22)

Report attached

6. STWWMP Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2021-2025
(Pages 23 - 26)

Report attached

7. Environment Bill Parliamentary Progress - Update (Pages 27 - 30)

Report attached

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Joint Executive Committee will be held on Friday 12 March 2021 at 1.30 pm venue TBA

Contact: Helen Conway Email: helenconway@gateshead.gov.uk, Tel: 433 3993

Date: Friday, 4 December 2020

This page is intentionally left blank

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 2

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

SOUTH TYNE AND WEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, 11 September 2020

PRESENT: Councillor Linda Green (Chair) Gateshead Council

Gateshead Council Councillor Angela Douglas

South Tyneside Council Councillor Mark Walsh
Councillor Jim Foreman

Sunderland Council Councillor Paul Stewart

IN ATTENDANCE:

Gateshead Council Colin Huntington, Marc Morley, Helen Conway

South Tyneside Council Tom Turner

Sunderland Council Colin Curtis

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

APOLOGIES: Councillor Michael Mordey, Councillor John Kelly

93 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2020 were agreed as a true record.

94 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

95 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 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.

The JEC were advised that 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.

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.

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.

The JEC were advised that Appendix A which was attached to the main report highlighted the 2020/21 contract performance for the period April – July 2020. Plant availability has remained strong at 98.49% and turbine availability 97.51%.

Both contractual recycling and recovery performance continues for the period above target and the unprocessed landfill diversion rate remains at 100%.

The JEC were advised that 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. A response from STWER is currently still awaited.

The JEC were informed that all three of the Waste Transfer Stations were fully operational between April and July. Recycling outputs from the sites include segregated street sweepings, wood and scrap metal. Routine maintenance of buildings, plant and control systems was undertaken as scheduled at all three transfer stations during the year.

The JEC were informed at the current time there were no targeted recruitment and training updates and all planned and proposed community education and engagement activities, and community liaison groups have been cancelled as a result of the on going COVID-19 pandemic. However, the suspension of activities is enabling a review of the programme to be undertaken, and a further update will be

provided to the JEC in due course.

Table A which was appended to the main report advised the JEC on the latest 2020/21 performance for blue bin recycling (April -July 2020). As previously reported to the JEC, all partner authorities have maintained the statutory blue bin recycling collection service to households throughout the COVID-19 pandemic without interruption to the service.

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' comingled 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.

The JEC were advised that the MRF contracts continue to be monitored closely by the joint partnership team. As highlighted above, recycling tonnages of comingled 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 materials at the MRF's 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.

Appendix B which was attached to the main report also contains Table B, which highlighted MRF recycling and recovery rates (for comingled materials only) since Quarter 1 2019/20. Recycling performance has generally remained at similar levels on each partner authority.

The JEC were advised that 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 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.

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 attached at Appendix B to the main report provided details to the JEC of the tonnage of paper and cardboard (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 in the longer term and will be used when evaluating future service delivery models.

The partner authority MRF contracts with Palm and J&B are set to expire at the end of the 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.

The JEC were advised that Table at Appendix C highlights the latest HWRC recycling performance for 2020/21 (April – July 2020). The new way of calculating HWRC recycling performances 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.

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 be noted that due to the limited number of materials being accepted at the sites due to the COVID-19 restrictions, this has also impacted on recycling performance.

The JEC was previously advised that following government guidance on essential travel requirements during the COVID-19 national lockdown, all partner authority HWRC's closed temporarily and ceased to operate at the end of March.

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 HWRC's 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.

Consequently, HWRC's across the partnership reopened on 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.

The partner authorities subsequently extended the range of wastes that could be disposed at HWRC's to include waste electrical and electronic equipment from 19 May. Vehicle access was still restricted to cars only.

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 HWRC's using the established vehicle permit scheme.

However, the JEC were advised that in order to continue traffic management and restrict the volume of vehicles accessing HWRC's 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.

The JEC were also advised that 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.

Contract management meetings and discussions continue to be held with service providers and no significant issues have been identified.

The JEC were advised that 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.

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.

In conclusion the JEC were advised that 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 JEC in September each year, once Waste Data Flow returns have been validated.

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.

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%

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

96

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

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

This page is intentionally left blank



South Tyneside Council



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

11 DECEMBER 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 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' incentive-based joint contract for the management and operation of HWRCs from 1 April 2020 was awarded to SUEZ for a period of 36 months with an option to extend for a further three 12-month periods.
- 2.6 Under the joint HWRC 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 that will end on 30 September 2021 has 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 ongoing COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic restrictions, household waste levels have continued to remain high. However, all partner authorities have been able to maintain residual waste collections from households across STWWMP without interruption.
- 3.2 COVID-19 contingency measures remain in place across all SUEZ RWTC sites and no significant staffing issues have arisen. The three waste transfer stations have continued to manage the waste levels received and the EfW facility continues to operate as planned and process the waste for energy recovery. Where possible, home working for support services has been implemented.

- 3.3 SUEZ have advised that they are intending to apply for funding to pursue a ground-breaking carbon capture and storage project with project partners BP. Utilising the EfW facilities at Haverton Hill and Wilton, the project is aimed at neutralising carbon through liquification so it can be returned to gas reservoirs in the sea via underground pipelines. The partner authorities have provided a letter of support for the project.

EfW Service Update

- 3.4 Appendix A highlights the 2020/21 contract performance for the period April-October. Plant availability has remained strong at 97.69% and turbine availability 94.88%.
- 3.5 Both contractual recycling and recovery performance continues to operate above target and the unprocessed landfill diversion rate remains at 100%.
- 3.6 The Environment Agency have confirmed a compliance classification score (CCS) of 0.1 in relation to the half hour volatile organic compound (VOC) breach encountered on Line 4 in April.
- 3.7 No further emissions breaches were reported during the period August-October and all incinerator bottom ash (IBA) samples returned compliant results.

Line 4 Update

- 3.8 28.41 hours of availability were lost on 18-19 August due to a bottom ash chute blockage.
- 3.9 4.33 hours of availability were also lost on 3 September due to the second pass residue conveyor jamming, which is suspected to have been caused by falling refractory material.
- 3.10 However, a significant unplanned event occurred between 4-6 September whereby a fault with the turbine generator voltage regulator resulted in a total loss of plant power, which was compounded by the failure of the plant island mode function. This resulted in a total loss of 56.17 hours of Line 4 availability as unburnt waste material from the furnace grate needed to be removed before the plant could be restarted.

Line 5 Update

- 3.11 The turbine generator voltage regulator/ loss of plant power fault and remedial actions highlighted above also impacted Line 5, which lost 37.5 hours of availability.
- 3.12 Furthermore, 21.25 hours of availability were also lost on 20-21 October due to a bottom ash chute blockage.

Turbine Availability

- 3.13 Turbine availability was also significantly impacted by the failure of the automatic voltage regulator in the HV switchgear and 183.17 hours of turbine operations and power export were lost as a consequence. A root cause analysis exercise was undertaken to identify probable initiating causes and future actions to mitigate.

- 3.14 3.17 hours of turbine availability were lost on the 6 October as the original turbine control was replaced with a new upgraded version.

Refinancing

- 3.15 The exercise to replace the Debt Service Reserve Account (DSRA) with a contingent Debt Service Reserve Facility (DSRF) was completed and closed in October. The financial model has been agreed which has resulted in a £1.69 per tonne reduction to the Band 0 price for all partner authorities. Over the remainder of the contract, this equates to an estimated saving per authority of Gateshead: £88,000; South Tyneside: £84,000; and Sunderland: £105,000.
- 3.16 The Annual Unitary Charge Forecast Monthly Payment has been amended for 2020/21 so the benefit can be realised immediately rather than being accounted for within the reconciliation process.

Joint Insurance Cost Review (JICR)

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

2020/21 Insurance Premium

- 3.18 Due to market availability, STWER requested another change in the insurance cover for the forthcoming insurance year (from 1 November). They advised that they expect the insurance premiums for Property and Business Interruption to increase by approximately 20% in comparison to last year and may rise further due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. STWER have completed the insurance cover exercise and the documentation for approval of the waiver is being reviewed by STWWMP with support from colleagues at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

Waste Transfer Stations (WTS)

- 3.19 As highlighted above, all three of the WTS were fully operational between April and October. Recycling outputs from the sites include segregated street sweepings, wood, and scrap metals.
- 3.20 Routine maintenance of buildings, plant and control systems continues to be undertaken as scheduled at all three transfer stations.

Targeted Recruitment and Training (TR&T)

- 3.21 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.
- 3.22 As a result of a promotional opportunity, the Operations Manager role at the EfW plant is currently vacant and the recruitment process is ongoing.

Community Education and Engagement

- 3.23 STWWMP remains committed to an ongoing programme of community education and engagement, delivered 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.

- 3.24 Interviews were recently held for the new Visitor and Education Centre Co-ordinator and the successful candidate commenced employment with GNEC on 19 October.
- 3.25 Following the suspension of all previously planned and proposed activities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the programme is currently being reviewed to allow opportunities for virtual activities to be considered.
- 3.26 However, work has recently progressed on a competition for local school children to design a vehicle wrap for a WEEE contractor's vehicle to increase awareness of the danger of disposing batteries in both the residual and recycling waste streams.
- 3.27 In addition, a 'Twelve Days of Christmas Campaign' has also been launched with schools. Supported virtually by the new Visitor and Education Centre Co-ordinator, the campaign can be tailored by each school to meet their own requirements.

Community Liaison Groups

- 3.28 The pandemic also continues to impact both the Campground and Jack Crawford House Community Liaison Groups and meetings are still not 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-October). All partner authorities have continued to maintain the 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 pandemic continues to see higher levels of recycling presented across the partner authorities as many residents continue to work from home.
- 4.3 Furthermore, the pandemic appears to be impacting on the types of materials that are being recycled and whilst the amount of paper continues to fall, there has been an increase in cardboard packaging. For example, since the lockdown in Gateshead, cardboard materials have represented nearly a quarter of all the recycling that has been presented where previously, cardboard rarely made up more than 10% of all the recycling collected. Tonnages of glass and metals collected have also increased as consumer shopping habits have evolved during the COVID-19 restrictions.
- 4.4 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, frequent contract meetings/ calls are being held with contractors to discuss any mitigation 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 discussed with the joint partnership team.

- 4.5 Appendix B also contains Table B, which highlights MRF recycling and recovery rates (for comingled materials only) since Quarter 1 2019/20. Unfortunately, the pandemic has also affected contamination rates, which have increased in Gateshead and South Tyneside throughout this period and has resulted in a lower recycling performance in Quarter 2 2020/21. As sampling exercises are undertaken jointly, the results are the same for both partner authorities. STWWMP continues to work with the contractor to identify how performance can be improved, including ensuring material sampling methodologies are robust.
- 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 Tonnages collected through the trial have generally remained static throughout the pandemic with a slight increase in South Tyneside. The contractor has confirmed that there is a greater percentage of cardboard being collected and paper percentages have reduced.
- 4.8 Feedback from residents will be important when evaluating future service delivery models and benefit all three partner authorities in the longer-term.
- 4.9 The current partner authority MRF contracts expire at the end of March 2021 following the conclusion of the contract extension periods that were activated in 2018. The contracts cannot be routinely extended beyond this date.
- 4.10 Therefore, under normal circumstances the STWWMP preparation for a full tendering exercise leading to the award of a replacement MRF contract(s) for the partner authorities from 1 April 2021 would have begun soon after March 2020. Unfortunately, this was when the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic struck and the national lockdown was put in place. The unexpected disruption resulting from this public health emergency (such as the transition to remote working, realigned procurement priorities to ensure PPE could be sourced, the requirement for key staff to maintain the delivery of frontline services, and restrictions on travel and social distancing etc.) immediately impacted on STWWMP's ability to move forward with the planned procurement exercise.
- 4.11 Household kerbside recycling collections are statutory waste collection services and it is critical that the partner authorities ensure that kerbside recycling collections are maintained without interruption from April 2021. Consequently, alternative options in relation to the provision of such services were considered. Following analysis of the options available and provisional discussions with a range of local MRF service providers, extending the existing contracts under the provisions of Regulation 72 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR2015) was identified as the most feasible option available to STWWMP.

- 4.12 Initial discussions with the current Sunderland MRF contractor, J&B Recycling, indicated that they would be prepared to enter into a new short-term contract. Unfortunately, the Gateshead and South Tyneside contractor, Palm Recycling, was not willing to accommodate such a provision.
- 4.13 However, the contract with Palm also includes sub-contracting arrangements with Ward Recycling Ltd (who operate the MRF at Teesside) and with Riverdale PLC at Team Valley (who operate the delivery point that receives the recycling collected by the partner authorities for onward transportation to the MRF). Both companies indicated that they would be prepared to undertake a new short-term arrangement with Gateshead and South Tyneside.
- 4.14 Therefore, each partner authority is in the process of finalising approval to utilise an urgent direct award under Regulation 32 (2) (c) of the PCR2015 to the existing MRF contractor for Sunderland and the current Gateshead and South Tyneside sub-contractors.
- 4.15 These contracts will commence on 1 April 2021 for a period of 12 months ending 31 March 2022. Initial preparations for a full tendering exercise leading to the award of a replacement longer-term MRF contract(s) for the partner authorities from 1 April 2022 have already commenced and regular discussions are being held with the Officer Project Board.

5. HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING CENTRE CONTRACTS

- 5.1 Table A at Appendix C highlights the latest HWRC recycling performance for 2020/21 (April-October). 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.
- 5.2 Discussions are ongoing with SUEZ regarding the impact of the COVID-19 restrictions (such as the national lockdown when all HWRC sites were closed to the public and the subsequent restrictions on materials that were accepted on site) on the contractual recycling targets.
- 5.3 Over the summer months, the partner authorities have continued to undertake a gradual easing of the restrictions in the alternative service delivery models that were originally introduced because of the pandemic.
- 5.4 For example, in August, sites began to accept all of the materials that were previously able to be disposed at HWRCs, such as metals, rubble, textiles and large electrical appliances. To help maintain a safe social distance, access to the gantries overlooking the skips and the number of people allowed to leave their vehicle while on site is restricted to one person at any one time
- 5.5 In September, the HWRC vehicle permit scheme was re-introduced and this enabled residents to apply for a permit to dispose waste using a car with a trailer.

- 5.6 From early November, the restriction on large vans was also lifted after the numbers of people using sites continued to ease, which meant that all vehicles which had previously been allowed access to the sites prior to the pandemic are now able to do so again. As usual, vehicles such as large vans will require a permit before being allowed on site.
- 5.7 When the HWRCs reopened in May, to consider traffic management issues, Gateshead and South Tyneside introduced an odd and even number plate system to help manage traffic and reduce queuing. In Sunderland, an advance booking system was introduced. As allowing larger vans on site is likely to increase dwell times due to the quantities of waste that these vehicles typically contain, to help reduce queuing both systems will remain in place for the foreseeable future.
- 5.8 During the summer months, to help cope with the backlog of domestic waste and recycling after the original national lockdown, all STWWMP HWRCs reopened with extended opening hours of 8am to 8pm. From 1 October, all sites returned to the normal winter opening schedule, i.e. 9am to 5pm on weekdays and from 9am to 6pm on Saturdays and Sundays in Gateshead and Sunderland, and 8am to 6pm in South Tyneside.
- 5.9 However, despite the easing of some of the previous restrictions highlighted above, which are aimed at returning HWRC services to as near as normal as is possible within the current pandemic situation, STWWMP continues to monitor the ongoing COVID-19 situation very closely to ensure the strict 2 metre social distancing rules continue to be followed.
- 5.10 As highlighted above, the short-term extraordinary extension to the Sunderland City Council HWRC contract with SUEZ is set to expire at the end of September 2021. This coincides with the development and opening of a new HWRC located in Pallion. The joint partnership team is supporting the Council in the procurement of a replacement contract to manage the new site.

6. GREEN WASTE COMPOSTING CONTRACTS

- 6.1 All three partner authorities have now completed the 2020 kerbside garden waste collection season, which were extended into early December in South Tyneside and Sunderland.
- 6.2 No significant issues or significant contamination issues were identified during the course of collections.
- 6.3 Throughout the winter period, residents can continue to dispose garden waste free-of-charge at the household waste and recycling centres.

7. WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (WEEE) CONTRACT

- 7.1 The extended WEEE Reduce and Reuse project delivery timetable has now been confirmed with the funders. The team returned on a full-time basis in September and began reviewing methods of engagement to identify new methods to collect material to redistribute to vulnerable residents. This now includes the provision of packs of working small WEEE for redistribution throughout the STWWMP area through the Changing Lives Charity and to young adults coming out of care and into their new homes.
- 7.2 Recently, STWWMP received notification that the organisation funding the kerbside WEEE project, Material Change, had changed its name to Material Focus. The contract has now been signed and a WEEE Behavioural Change Officer appointed to deliver project activities. This includes collections of small domestic WEEE and batteries from properties in targeted estates/ areas in each partner authority area.
- 7.3 The project will link to the Reduce and Reuse Project by providing working small WEEE appliances that have been collected and maximise reuse opportunities.

8. RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 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

2020/21 latest performance: April-October 2020

Total contract waste	124,169 tonnes
Contract waste delivered to WTS: - Campground - Middlefields - Jack Crawford House	Gateshead 38,833 tonnes Sunderland 12,180 tonnes South Tyneside 31,878 tonnes Sunderland 41,278 tonnes
Total contract waste delivered to EfW	119,118 tonnes
Line 4 availability Line 5 availability Overall EfW availability	97.22% 98.16% 97.69%
Average turbine availability	94.88%
Electricity generated Electricity exported Electricity imported	115,810 MWh 102,359 MWh 2,288 MWh
Recycling performance	Target 2.1% Performance 2.5%
Recovery performance	Target 95.5% Performance 97.5%
Unprocessed landfill diversion rate	100%
Health and safety: - RIDDOR - Injuries and accidents - Near misses - Property damage - Fires	0 7 47 22 0

MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY CONTRACTS

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

	Gateshead	South Tyneside	Sunderland
Comingled tonnage	9,469	7,134	13,468
Paper tonnage	883	534	748
Total tonnage	10,352	7,668	14,216
<i>Comparison to April- October 2019 - comingled</i>	<i>23.4% increase</i>	<i>27.0% increase</i>	<i>26.1% increase</i>
<i>Comparison to April- October 2019 - paper</i>	<i>24.7% decrease</i>	<i>35.3% decrease</i>	<i>28.2% decrease</i>
<i>Comparison to April- October 2019 - all materials</i>	<i>17.0% increase</i>	<i>19.0% increase</i>	<i>21.2% 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	88.5%	11.6%	89.7%	10.3%	79.8%	20.2%
Q4 2019/20	88.6%	11.4%	89.0%	11.0%	82.7%	17.3%
Q1 2020/21	87.0%	13.0%	87.0%	13.0%	82.9%	17.1%
Q2 2020/21	81.1%	18.9%	81.1%	18.9%	83.1%	16.9%

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
April 2020	7.40	8.34
May 2020	5.18	8.36
June 2020	8.32	8.16
July 2020*	17.36	16.42
August 2020	7.92	8.24
September 2020	8.60	7.60
October 2020	9.22	7.60
Total	171.35	164.76

**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 rates

HWRC	Annual Target	Quarter 1 2020/21	Quarter 2 2020/21
Campground	48%	53.21%	51.25%
Cowen Road	48%	59.35%	55.56%
Beach Street	N/A	52.10%	53.27%
Middlefields (Recycling Village)	50%	53.20%	50.61%

This page is intentionally left blank



South Tyneside Council



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

11 DECEMBER 2020

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

SUBJECT: STWWMP Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2021-2025

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To update the Joint Executive Committee on the progress of the latest refresh of the South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 On 16 March 2018, the Joint Executive Committee received a report highlighting the proposed structure for the refresh of the STWWMP Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS). Whilst the new structure retained and simplified the previous strategic objectives, specific actions were replaced with five broad, over-arching themes which support flexibility in delivering day-to-day services and activities. This approach will still provide opportunities to be considered to further joint partnership or new ways of working through the development of trial activities or dedicated 'projects' targeting priority issues.

2.2 However, unfortunately, STWWMP has been unable to progress further the publication of the JMWMS, which was put on hold until the impact of the partner authority climate emergency declarations on all aspects of local authority services became clearer.

2.3 Furthermore, there have also been significant delays in the development of national waste policy as Government delayed the publication of the resources and waste strategy (RaWS) until late December 2018. This was then followed by a series of consultation exercises that considered the strategy's key proposals, such as the introduction of a deposit return scheme, reforms to the UK packaging producer responsibility system, and ensuring consistency in household and business recycling collections. Further consultation exercises

are planned which are expected to clarify which of the proposals will be legislated as well as how they will be implemented and funded.

- 2.4 Unfortunately, the COVID-19 coronavirus public health emergency has also impacted on the forthcoming RaWS consultation process, which was originally scheduled for 2020 but has now been delayed until spring 2021 at the earliest.

3. STWWMP JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

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

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

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

- 3.3 Whilst there is no statutory requirement for STWWMP to produce a JMWMS, the Partnership considers the publication of a strategy as 'best practice' and has committed to undertaking regular reviews, the first of which was published in January 2013.

4. JMWMS REVIEW – PROGRESS TO DATE

- 4.1 It is important that STWWMP can ensure that the partner authorities have a relevant, top-level, waste management strategy available to them. This will support flexibility in service delivery whilst continuing to meet key aims and aspirations.

- 4.2 However, the current JMWMS is now significantly out of date – largely because of the significant achievements successfully delivered by the partner authorities since its publication in 2013. This includes:

- The completion of the new residual waste processing and treatment infrastructure (including the construction of the STWWMP energy-from-waste facility) and service commencement of the 25-year residual waste treatment contract;
- The development of complementary household kerbside recycling services across all three partner authorities, including the introduction of additional recyclable materials;

- The introduction of a dedicated community education and engagement programme delivered by third sector environmental regeneration charity Groundwork North East & Cumbria from our new visitor and education centre at Campground;
- The establishment of a joint partnership team to provide the Waste Disposal Authority functions on behalf of the partner authorities through the day-to-day contract management functions for the range of waste treatment and recycling contracts with external service providers; and
- The development of close and effective working relationships at all levels with SUEZ, Groundwork North East & Cumbria, and other external recycling contractors.

4.3 The refreshed JMWMS structure previously agreed by the Joint Executive Committee was initially intended to provide strategic direction for the period 2018-2022 but, for the reasons highlighted above, it has not been possible to further progress the publication of the JMWMS.

4.4 However, as the uncertainty across the waste sector is likely to continue for the near future, to ensure that high-level guidance can be provided to support decisions on future service delivery issues and inform short-to-medium term budget planning cycles, it is important that further consideration is given to reconsider the work previously undertaken based on the latest information available and realign the five-year strategy refresh to cover the period 2021-2025.

5. **NEXT STEPS**

5.1 The refreshed JMWMS has been designed to:

- Be easy to understand, follow, and enable progress to be monitored.
- Consider the context of partner authority waste services within the current financial climate and other restrictions on service delivery.
- Be clear about the priorities and not commit partner authorities to deliver actions with unknown external outcomes and/or influences.
- Be proportionate and realistic about issues that STWWMP can directly influence at different levels, e.g. nationally; within their own operational activities; and across other services within their own councils.

5.2 It is proposed that a fully designed final STWWMP JMWMS 2021-2025 is presented for consideration by Joint Executive Committee on 12 March 2021 which, if agreed, will then be published online by each partner authority later in the same month.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The Joint Executive Committee is requested to:

- (i) Note the contents of this report; and
- (ii) Agree to receive the final design of the South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2021-2025 for approval prior to its publication in March 2021.

Contacts:

Chris Wilson, Contract Manager (Policy), STWWMP

Tel: 433 7478



South Tyneside Council



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

11 DECEMBER 2020

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

SUBJECT: Environment Bill Parliamentary Progress - Update

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide the Joint Executive Committee with an update on the progress of the Environment Bill through Parliament following the delay caused by the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Environment Bill aims to ensure that England maintains and improves its environmental protections when the UK leaves the EU. It supports the delivery of the government's 25-year Environment Plan through:

- Provisions regarding targets, plans, and policies for improving the natural environment;
- The establishment of the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP);
- Provisions about waste and resource efficiency;
- Provisions concerning air quality;
- Provisions for the recall of products that fail to meet environmental standards;
- Provisions regarding water;
- Provisions concerning nature and biodiversity;
- Provisions for conservation covenants; and
- Provisions about the regulation of chemicals; and for connected purposes.

2.2 The Bill was first introduced to Parliament in October 2019 and passed its second reading unopposed by MPs on 28 October. It subsequently progressed to the committee stage for further scrutiny and the next stages of the Parliamentary process for becoming law.

- 2.3 The Environment Bill Committee was due to reconvene to 'scrutinise the bill line by line' and table amendments with the aim of reporting back to Parliament on 1 December, but this process was paused following the dissolution of Parliament on 5 November for the General Election on 12 December 2019.
- 2.4 The Bill was subsequently reintroduced at the end of January 2020 but, once again, its progress was paused on 19 March due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic.
- 2.5 Committee discussions recommenced on 3 November 2020. Following the Bill's completion of Committee Stage, it will be further scrutinised by the whole House of Commons at Report Stage and Third Reading, after which it will then move to the House of Lords for further debate and scrutiny.

3. **ENVIRONMENT BILL: WASTE AND RESOURCE EFFICIENCY**

- 3.1 In terms of the waste and resource efficiency provisions, the Bill provides a legal framework to deliver many of the proposals identified in the national Resources and Waste Strategy (*'Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England'*), should government choose to do so. The introduction of new powers and amendments to existing legislation will have a number of implications for the resources and waste sector, especially local authority waste services.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

- 3.2 The Resources and Waste Strategy (RaWS) includes proposals to reform the UK packaging producer responsibility system, which is also known as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). This proposal will require packaging producers to pay for the full cost of managing materials at their end-of-life, i.e. the cost of collecting and sorting waste for disposal. The 'full net cost recovery' requirement of the Bill is aimed at incentivising packaging producers to eco-design products with sustainability or recycling in mind.

- 3.3 Under the current system, local authorities mostly meet the cost of the collection and disposal of packaging. However, recycling disposal costs fluctuate as market values fall or when material is not wanted by reprocessors on economic or market grounds. Although the Bill covers a range of topics - including packaging targets and labelling - the key aspects of EPR governance will consider how financial contributions to the system will be redistributed towards collection services, which will likely significantly change the way that local authority waste services are funded.

Collection Consistency

- 3.4 Government consider that consistency in local authority recycling collections is also vital to ensuring that a new EPR system operates effectively and eliminates confusion by making the recycling process easier.
- 3.5 Therefore, the Bill confirms the RaWS proposal that stipulates that a consistent set of recyclable materials will be collected at the kerbside by all local authorities across England - namely glass, metal, plastic, and paper and card. All of these materials are already collected at the kerbside as recycling by the STWWMP partner authorities.

3.6 However, feedback from across the waste sector has expressed some concern that this initial core set of materials could be further extended through the inclusion of additional, problem materials, such as plastic film. Traditionally considered as a difficult-to-recycle material, plastic film is not currently recycled by the STWWMP partner authorities but is expected to be featured in the second round of RaWS consultation exercises in 2021.

3.7 Furthermore, other collection consistency proposals will come at a cost to STWWMP. For example, the proposed mandatory introduction of separate food waste collections will require significant financial investment from the partner authorities and the potential reintroduction of free-of-charge garden waste kerbside collection services will remove a valuable income stream. However, the RaWS states that government will fund the net costs of any new burdens on local authorities resulting from the implementation of its proposals.

Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)

3.8 The Bill also allows for the introduction of a deposit return scheme where consumers will pay an up-front deposit when they purchase a drinks bottle or can, which is then redeemed on return of the used item. Depending on the DRS model selected ('all-in' or 'on-the-go'), whilst this will likely impact on littering, it will also have a significant impact on the recyclable materials currently disposed in most local authority kerbside recycling services.

3.9 In responding to the earlier RaWS consultation exercises, STWWMP highlighted that the UK local authority recycling collection system does well in terms of harvesting plastic bottles at the kerbside and that an 'all-in' model will redirect valuable materials that are already collected by the partner authorities and will impact on our recycling rates. Furthermore, the remaining 'blue bin' materials may be considered as low value recycling that are less attractive to the market, which may impact on future procurement exercises and associated recycling reprocessing gate fees.

3.10 However, the continued media coverage regarding issues such as plastics in the sea or natural environment is likely to result in the implementation of DRS in England, although the unknown financial implications arising from the ongoing coronavirus pandemic may yet impact on the timeline associated with its introduction.

4. **NEXT STEPS**

4.1 The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has already consulted on the three key areas of the RaWS proposals highlighted above and this has informed the publication of the Environment Bill. The pandemic has delayed a second round of RaWS consultations, which are now expected in spring 2021. It is anticipated that this will provide more detail on the specifics of these reforms and what the measures outlined in the Bill could mean for local authorities.

4.2 Therefore, at the current time, a number of key questions regarding the implementation of RaWS proposals still remain unanswered. However, as the consultation programme progresses, STWWMP will continue to work closely with the partner authorities and directly engage with government to ensure that STWWMP is best prepared for the impact of significant legislative and funding changes as recycling services and producer responsibility requirements are overhauled in the years to come.

5. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1 The Joint Executive Committee is requested to:

- (i) Note the contents of this report; and
- (ii) Agree to receive further updates on the progress of the Environment Bill through Parliament, as appropriate.

Contacts:

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