



South Tyneside Council



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

Friday, 11 June 2021 at 1.30 pm in the Bridges Room - Civic Centre

From the Chief Executive, Sheena Ramsey

Item Business

1. **Election of Chair**

2. **Election of Deputy Chairs**

3. **Apologies**

4. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 12)

The Joint Executive Committee is asked to approve the minutes of the last meeting, held on 30 April 2021.

5. **Declarations of Interests**

6. **Contracts Update** (Pages 13 - 22)

Report attached

7. **Communications Update**

Presentation

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

The next meeting of the Joint Executive Committee will be held on Friday 10 September 2021 at 1.30 pm

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

Friday, 30 April 2021

PRESENT: Councillor Linda Green (Gateshead Council) (Chair)
Gateshead Council Councillor Angela Douglas,
South Tyneside Council Councillor Mark Walsh and Councillor Jim Foreman
Sunderland Council Councillor Paul Stewart

IN ATTENDANCE:

Gateshead Council Marc Morley, Helen Conway
South Tyneside Council Stuart Wright, John Tindale
Sunderland Council Graham Scanlon, Anthony Alder
South Tyne & Wear
Waste Management
Partnership Chris Wilson, Fiona Swinburne

105 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2020 were agreed as a true record.

106 MATTERS ARISING

The Committee wished to place upon record their thanks and appreciation to Andy Whittaker who had recently retired from South Tyneside Council.

The Committee thanked Andy for his work on the Joint Executive Committee and wished him well for the future.

107 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

108 CONTRACTS UPDATE

The Joint Executive Committee received a report which advised 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).

The joint partnership team continues to undertake several waste management functions on behalf of the partner authorities, including reviewing and verifying monthly contract reports, which detail materials processed and service issues. Once approved, invoices are processed and, where appropriate, apportioned between partner authorities within contractual timescales.

This is enabling, amongst other things, a proactive and timely approach to management of the RWTC which is operated under strict timescales. Similar benefits are also afforded to the procurement and management of other ancillary contracts, such as MRF, HWRC, and green waste composting.

Residual Waste Treatment Contract (RWTC)

During the ongoing COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic restrictions, household waste levels have continued to remain high. All partner authorities have been able to maintain normal residual waste collections from households across STWWMP without interruption.

The JEC were advised that in recent months, the EfW has become a key facility for the management of waste arising from the new COVID-19 lateral flow test centres located in Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland. Guidance issued by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) confirmed that the waste should be classified as chemical, not clinical waste. This enabled the separately collected material to be directly delivered to the EfW by the partner authorities on a weekly basis following temporarily permission from the Environment Agency (EA) for the facility to accept such waste, which must be processed within 24 hours of delivery.

The reopening of schools following the publication of the lockdown roadmap and easing of COVID-19 restrictions resulted in a change to the disposal guidance for lateral flow tests waste arising from schools and businesses, which can now be disposed within the general residual waste stream. However, such material produced by universities and official COVID-19 lateral flow test centres must still be managed as per the original DHSC guidance.

The JEC received an update on the EfW Service Update including appendices attached to the main report highlighting contract performance for the period April 2020 to February 2021 and average plant availability.

The JEC were advised that the third JICR was previously submitted by Willis Towers Watson and has been reviewed by STWWMP and support from colleagues at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) a response from STWER is still awaited.

STWWMP continue to review the previous request received from STWER for

changes to the insurance cover.

STWER had already indicated that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant increases to insurance costs. Any potential issue around additional costs will be raised at the Liaison Committee meeting as further information from STWER is required.

The JEC were advised that all three of the WTS were fully operational between November and January. Recycling outputs from the sites include segregated street sweepings, wood and scrap metals. Routine maintenance of buildings, plant and control systems was undertaken as scheduled during this period.

However, unfortunately, in recent months incidents of fires have become an increasing risk within all aspects of waste-related operations. The most serious incident occurred at the Campground WTS when an alarm was raised by the fire detection and monitoring company of 0225 on Sunday 28 February. The exact cause of the fire may never be known, but initial feedback suggests that the fire broke out in some general waste that had been delivered to the WTS from the HWRC sites.

At the time of writing this report, JEC were advised that the WTS remains closed and the contingency arrangements are operating effectively. Tipping away costs will continue to be met by SUEZ for all vehicles diverted to the contingency sites during the closure of the Campground WTS.

On 9 March, the Middlefields WTS also experienced a fire within the waste in the tipping hall. Fortunately, the fire started in late afternoon when the site was still operational and could be dealt with by the staff on site. In moving waste during routine operations, friction from the loading shovel vehicle bucket damaged a battery that had been disposed within the residual waste stream, which exploded and caused the surrounding waste materials to ignite.

Once extinguished, the small amount of waste was placed in the quarantine area over night in a bucket of water. An inspection of the material the following day revealed a mobile phone battery and charger.

Targeted Recruitment and Training (TR&T)

The JEC were advised that following an interview process for the vacant role of EfW Operations Manager an internal appointment has now been made.

Community Education and Engagement

The JEC were advised that whilst both onsite and outreach activities remain suspended because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the visitor and education centre co-ordinator has designed a page to promote the community education and engagement programme on the North East Services for Schools website, which details a range of services that schools across the partner authority can access.

The first of a series of newsletters was issued in January 2021 with the second being circulated in April 2021.

Work is ongoing to develop a programme of online activities that can take place whilst the current pandemic restrictions remain in place, which included a programme of Easter related activities in which several schools participated. To further support the preparation of future engagement activities, a survey has been issued to seek views from local schools and community groups about the most effective methods of engagement as the route map to lift COVID-19 restrictions progresses. This will ascertain their future plans for recycling, waste management and sustainability education.

The JEC were also advised that the ongoing pandemic restrictions continue to impact both the Campground and Jack Crawford House Community Liaison Groups and no meetings have been able to be held.

Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) Contracts

The JEC were advised that the risk of fires within household recycling loads is also a significant issue and a small fire occurred in a Gateshead Council recycling collection vehicle (RCV) on 17 March. Fortunately the crew were able to act swiftly and an onboard fire extinguisher prevented a more serious situation from occurring, but the actual cause of the fire could not be subsequently identified.

Table A at Appendix B advised the JEC of the latest 2020/21 performance for blue bin recycling (April 2020 – February 2021). All partner authorities have continued to maintain the blue bin recycling collection service to households throughout the COVID-19 pandemic without interruption to service.

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. This has been compounded by the usual seasonal rise in recyclable materials that are presented over the festive period.

The MRF contracts continue to be monitored closely by the joint partnership team, 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 MRF's does not become an issue and that the sites are still able to process the additional tonnage that is being received.

The JEC were advised that 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. 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.

Having entered into short term MRF household recycling contract with Ward Recycling Ltd and Riverdale PLC, the STWWMP received reports on 19 February 2021 that Ward Recycling were experiencing financial difficulties and would cease

trading imminently. Following urgent consultation, a 13 month contract until 31 March 2022 with Re-Gen Waste has now been arranged and these interim arrangements do not impact on the ongoing preparations of a full STWWMP tendering exercise leading to the award of longer-term MRF contract(s) from 1 April 2022.

Household Waste and Recycling Centres Contracts

The JEC were advised that the Campground WTS also impacted on the availability of the HWRC, which is located at the same site. This meant that, unfortunately, access to the HWRC was unavailable and the site was close to service users on both 28 February and 1 March.

Access to the HWRC reopened on 2 March and to prevent future occurrences of fires arising from the disposal of electrical and electronic materials at the HWRC, a number of site improvements were agreed and implemented with immediate effect. All HWRCs reintroduced summer opening hours on 1 April 2021. However, to manage the significant queues that were being experienced at both Campground and Cowen Road HWRCs, which were disrupting the public highway, Gateshead Council extended the opening hours at both sites ahead of schedule and from 24 March residents were able to access the HWRCs from 0800 to 2000.

To address increased queuing at the Recycling Village, South Tyneside, additional traffic management staff have been employed on a temporary basis and opening hours have also been increased (from 0800 each morning).

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 the new HWRC located at Pallion. The joint partnership team is continuing to support Sunderland City Council in the procurement of a new contract for the management of the new site.

Green Waste Composting Contracts

The 2021 garden waste kerbside collection services commenced for households that have subscribed to the service in late March/early April

The 2021 collection season is the final year of the previously agreed extension period to the current green waste composting contracts. Therefore, new contracts are required from 1 April 2022 and the joint partnership team will lead in the delivery of a full procurement exercise later this year.

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Contract

The JEC were advised that the WEEE Reduce and Reuse project delivery team were furloughed on a part time basis in February and returned full-time on 12 April. The team is reviewing methods of engagement to identify new methods to collect materials for redistribution to vulnerable residents. This now includes the provision of packs of working small WEEE for redistribution throughout STWWMP area by the Changing Lives Charity and to young adults coming out of care and into their new

homes.

The kerbside WEEE project Behavioural Change Officer began the delivery of project activities in early November 2020. Using the Material Focus artwork, project stickers and bags have been designed to support the commencement of kerbside collections of SDA and batteries from households in key areas across Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland.

The project will link to the Reduce and Reuse Project by providing working small WEEE appliances that have been collected and maximise reuse opportunities.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

109 STW WMP JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2021-2025

The JEC's approval was sought for the publication of the refreshed South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

The previous review of the JMWMS was undertaken during 2012 for publication at the beginning of 2013. Therefore, the current JMWMS can now be considered as significantly out of date, largely due to the significant successes that have been achieved in recent years.

The JMWMS 2021-2025 was attached at Appendix A for information and 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.

The structure for the refreshed JMWMS was agreed by the JEC on 16 March 2018. This also confirmed a new approach to the strategy's presentation which retained, yet simplified, the previous strategic objectives, and replaced commitments to specific actions and activities with over-arching service delivery themes. This approach is aimed at ensuring that the partner authorities can still achieve STWWMP's aims and aspirations with flexibility in how services are delivered and within the resources that are available.

The JEC were advised that the previously agreed refreshed JMWMS structure was initially intended to provide strategic direction for the period 2018-2022, but it is now

proposed that the refreshed JMWMS will cover the period 2021-2025.

- RESOLVED -
- i) That the information be noted
 - ii) The JEC agreed the final design and content of the South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2021-2025 as attached at Appendix A; and
 - iii) The JEC agreed that each partner authority publish online the South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2021-2025.

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WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ENGLAND

The JEC received an update following the publication of the Waste Management Plan for England.

Published on 27 January 2021 by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Plan's core aim – as specified in the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 – is to bring together all current waste management policies within a single, national document. The legislation dictates that the Plan must be updated every 6 years.

The Plan draws on a number of plans and strategies that are issued across a range of government departments, such as the:

- Clean Growth Strategy;
- Industrial Strategy;
- Litter Strategy;
- UK Plan for Shipments of Wastes;
- National Policy Statements for Hazardous Waste and for Renewable Energy Infrastructure; and
- Resources and Waste Strategy (RaWS)

The JEC were informed that the plan does not contain any new requirements or policy changes. However, it does update government thinking on key issues, including Energy from Waste, Recycling, and Extended Producer Responsibility. The Plan also confirms that Defra is currently considering five other waste streams where EPR could be introduced to improve waste management i.e. Textiles, Bulky Waste, Certain materials in the construction and demolition sector; vehicle tyres, and fishing gear.

The JEC were also advised that the Environment Bill will now not receive Royal Assent until autumn 2021, indicating that the delay is due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The JEC were advised that there are no immediate implications for local authorities arising from its publication.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

RESOURCES AND WASTE STRATEGY CONSULTATIONS

The JEC were updated following the publication of the latest consultation exercises arising from the national resources and waste strategy proposals.

The JEC previously received reports regarding the first consultation exercises:

- On 14 June 2019, highlighting the STWWMP responses to the three consultation exercises; and
- On 13 September 2019, providing an overview of the consultation outcomes that were published by Defra.

On 25 March 2021, government published the next series of consultation exercises, which covered two topics:

- Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland; and
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging

However, the anticipated third consultation exercise updating the previous proposals regarding the introduction of consistent recycling collections for all households and businesses remains delayed, with government recently announcing that its publication has been held back until after the local elections that are taking place in May. No additional details for the further delay have been provided.

This is a particularly significant consultation exercise for local authorities as further clarification is expected around key proposals, such as the provision of free-of-charge garden waste collections to all households with gardens and mandatory separate collection of food waste.

DRS Consultation

The JEC were advised that whilst government remains committed to delivering on its commitments to introduce a DRS, it also recognises that the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the economy and society. This has resulted in many people reassessing their values, decisions, and priorities in both the immediate and longer term. Therefore, it is now anticipated that the introduction of a DRS in England, Wales and Northern Ireland will now be delayed until later 2024 at the earliest.

EPR Consultation

The joint EPR consultation has been issued by all four United Kingdom governments and contains 104 questions in total.

In 2019, approximately 11.7 million tonnes of packaging was placed on the UK market. The proposals being covered in this consultation are concerned with reforms to the packaging waste regulations, which have been in place since 1997. Initial

reforms were outlined in the first consultation, which seek to transform the current PRN (packaging waste recovery note) system to ensure packaging manufacture pay for the full costs of managing the disposal of their packaging waste at its end of life, with higher fees being levelled if packaging is harder to reuse or recycle.

One of the key principles for extending producer responsibility for packaging is to enable fair and transparent payments to local authorities for the cost of collecting and disposing packaging waste from both the residual and recycling waste streams.

The JEC were advised that stakeholders are invited to respond to the consultation exercises within a ten and a half week period, with both consultation exercises closing at 23.45 on 4 June 2021.

The joint partnership team will now develop a series of internal consultation exercises aimed at developing a joint partnership response to each consultation. This will include direct discussions with elected members/portfolio holders and senior service managers in each of the partner authorities.

The process will also involve close working with all current external waste service providers, and public sector waste organisations, such as the LARAC and the National Association of Waste Disposal Officers (NAWDO).

- RESOLVED -
- i) That the information be noted
 - ii) The JEC agreed to receive further updates on the South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership submissions to the Deposit Return Scheme and Extended Producer Responsibility consultation exercises, as appropriate.

112 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday 11 June 2021 at 1.30 pm venue to be advised in due course.

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South Tyneside Council



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

11 JUNE 2021

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 The previously agreed extension periods for both of the Materials Recovery Facility contracts (with Palm Recycling Ltd and J&B Recycling) expired at the end of March 2021. However, the unexpected disruption in 2020 resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency impacted on STWWMP's ability to move forward with the planned procurement exercise for replacement MRF contracts. This required STWWMP to consider alternative options and issue new, short-term contracts under urgent direct award provisions.

2.4 In October 2020, Sunderland City Council entered into a short-term MRF household recycling contract with the contractor J&B Recycling using the

negotiated procedure without prior publication of an OJEU Notice under regulation 32 (2) (c) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The contract is scheduled to end on 31 March 2022.

- 2.5 However, a similar arrangement for Gateshead and South Tyneside MRF materials was unable to proceed as planned when the existing sub-contractor, Ward Recycling Ltd (who had been issued with a short-term MRF household recycling contract under the same arrangements), ceased trading unexpectedly in February 2021.
- 2.6 Subsequently, the STWWMP Project Director was authorised by Gateshead and South Tyneside councils to enter into a replacement 13-month contract until 31 March 2022 with Re-Gen Waste under urgency delegation provisions of the councils' constitutions. The same arrangements were utilised to enter into a separate 12-month contract for the provision of a delivery point for Gateshead Council only, which was awarded to Riverdale Paper Plc until 31 March 2022.
- 2.7 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.
- 2.8 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.
- 2.9 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
- 2.10 Following the expiry of the above contracts, all three partner authorities agreed to 24-month extensions from 1 April 2020.
- 2.11 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.
- 2.12 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. All partner authorities have been able to maintain normal residual waste collections from households across STWWMP without interruption.

EfW Service Update

3.2 Both Lines 4 and 5 experienced no significant unplanned losses and reported 100% availability during March 2021.

3.3 Turbine performance was also 100%, with no issues or problems reported.

3.4 Appendix A highlights the 2020/21 year-end contract performance. Average plant availability remained strong throughout the year at 98.11% with turbine availability of 89.80%.

3.5 Both contractual recycling and recovery performance continued to operate above target.

3.6 No emissions breaches were reported during March 2021 and all incinerator bottom ash (IBA) samples returned compliant results. However, discussions are ongoing with the Environment Agency (EA) regarding the compliance classification score that was issued as a result of the Campground WTS fire.

Joint Insurance Cost Review (JICR)

3.7 The third JICR was previously submitted by Willis Towers Watson and has been reviewed by STWWMP with support from colleagues at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). A response from STWER is still awaited.

3.8 STWER previously indicated that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant increases to insurance costs. The changes will be reflected in the next scheduled JICR.

2020/21 Insurance Premium

3.9 STWWMP continue to review the previous request received from STWER for changes to the insurance cover.

Waste Transfer Stations (WTS)

3.10 As previously reported, the Campground WTS suffered a serious fire within the transfer hall on 28 February 2021 and the facility was unable to fully operate throughout March 2021 as investigations into the structural integrity of the building took place and a repairs programme identified.

3.11 Throughout March, orders for key pieces of infrastructure (such as doors, odour suppression, lighting, fire alarm systems, and CCTV) were placed. SUEZ also advised that a construction programme manager will be procured to manage the structural repairs.

- 3.12 During March 2021, the ad hoc area and sweepings bay were able to be re-opened to Gateshead and Sunderland vehicles. Following a further review of site, material streams, and discussion with the EA, the site also began to accept deliveries from Gateshead bulky waste, void clearance, and fly tipping vehicles.
- 3.13 Both Middlefields and Jack Crawford House WTS were fully operational during March and, as part of the business continuity plans that were enacted following the Campground fire, they accepted and managed material from Gateshead and Sunderland waste collection vehicles. Recycling outputs from the sites include segregated street sweepings, wood, and scrap metals and routine maintenance of buildings, plant and control systems was undertaken as scheduled during this period.
- 3.14 As a result of the fire, 374 tonnes of waste required disposal by landfill although this had a minimal impact on the annual unprocessed landfill diversion rate.

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 No further vacancies were made available in March.

Community Education and Engagement

- 3.17 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.
- 3.18 The physical delivery of both onsite and outreach activities remained suspended during March because of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.
- 3.19 However, an interactive online event to support Global Recycling Day (GRD) was launched in March which allowed students to promote their actions in supporting GRD and encourage them to share their thoughts about why recycling is beneficial.
- 3.20 Work continues to develop a new structure for hosting activity days at the visitor and education centre, which can be adjusted to cater for COVID-19 restrictions and enable specific groups to be targeted.
- 3.21 This also includes preparations to revamp the raised planting beds in the centre's garden area, which have been unable to be maintained since the first pandemic lockdown in March 2020.

Community Liaison Groups

- 3.22 The ongoing pandemic restrictions continue to impact both the Campground and Jack Crawford House Community Liaison Groups and no further meetings have been able to be held.

4. MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY (MRF) CONTRACTS

- 4.1 All partner authorities have continued to maintain the kerbside recycling collection service to households throughout the COVID-19 pandemic without interruption.
- 4.2 Tables A(i)-A(iii) at Appendix B highlight the 2020/21 year-end performance for each partner authority for the materials collected in the kerbside 'blue bin' recycling service, in comparison to service results since 2014/15. The results are also broken down into tonnages and percentage content to demonstrate the levels of paper collected separately in the inner box and the comingled materials collected in the main section of the bin.
- 4.3 This highlights that commingled recycling tonnages in each partner authority have fluctuated over recent years but demonstrate that paper tonnages collected separately in the inner caddy have continued to fall year-on-year.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 Appendix B also contains Table B, which highlights MRF recycling and recovery rates (for comingled materials only) since Quarter 1 2019/20. Recycling performance levels reduced in Gateshead and South Tyneside in Quarter 4. STWWMP continues to work with the contractors to identify how performance can be improved, including ensuring material sampling methodologies are robust.
- 4.6 Preparations for a full STWWMP tendering exercise leading to the award of longer-term MRF contract(s) from 1 April 2022 are ongoing and regular meetings are being held between the partner authorities and Lead Authority procurement officers to finalise requirements and timelines.

5. HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING CENTRE CONTRACTS

- 5.1 Table A at Appendix C highlights the 2020/21 year-end HWRC recycling performance for each site. The new requirements for calculating HWRC recycling performance now excludes not only inert materials (such as rubble), but also electrical waste, 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 The easing of some of the previous site restrictions, which were aimed at returning HWRC services to as near as normal as is possible, have remained in place throughout the current period. However, STWWMP continues to monitor the ongoing COVID-19 situation very closely to ensure the strict two-metre social distancing rules continue to be followed.
- 5.3 To help manage traffic flows and reduce queuing, the Gateshead and South Tyneside odd and even number plate system and advance booking system Sunderland, also remain in place.

5.4 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 the new HWRC located at Pallion. The joint partnership team is continuing to support Sunderland City Council in the procurement of a new contract for the management of the new site with contract award to the successful contractor expected in the near future.

6. GREEN WASTE COMPOSTING CONTRACTS

6.1 The 2021 garden waste kerbside collection services commenced for households that have subscribed to the service in late March/early April.

6.2 The 2021 collection season is the final year of the previously agreed extension period to the current contracts. Therefore, new contracts are required from 1 April 2022 and the joint partnership team will lead in the delivery of a full procurement exercise in the coming months.

7. WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (WEEE) CONTRACT

7.1 The WEEE Reduce and Reuse project delivery team remained on furlough on a part-time basis during March, scheduled to return full-time on 12 April 2021. The team continue to review methods of engagement and collections to maximise available material for redistribution to vulnerable residents through established mechanisms.

7.2 The kerbside WEEE project Behavioural Change Officer began long-term sickness absence in March 2021. Options to continue the project are being reviewed.

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

2020/21 year-end performance

Total contract waste	210,521 tonnes
Contract waste delivered to WTS:	
– Campground	Gateshead 63,050 tonnes South Tyneside 43 tonnes Sunderland 18,818 tonnes
– Middlefields	South Tyneside 53,978 tonnes Gateshead 2,084 tonnes Sunderland 71,688
– Jack Crawford House	Gateshead 880 tonnes Gateshead 2,791 tonnes
– Byker MBT	
Total contract waste delivered to EfW	203,300 tonnes
Line 4 availability	98.00%
Line 5 availability	98.22%
Overall EfW availability	98.11%
Average turbine availability	89.80%
Electricity generated	201,885 MWh
Electricity exported	178,949 MWh
Electricity imported	2,288 MWh
Recycling performance	Target 2.1% Performance 2.3%
Recovery performance	Target 95.5% Performance 97.6%
Unprocessed landfill diversion rate	99.998%
Health and safety:	
- RIDDOR	0
- Injuries and accidents	14
- Near misses	93
- Property damage	38
- Fires	1

MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY CONTRACTS

Table A(i): Gateshead year-end blue tonnage data 2014/15 – 2020/21

Year	Total recycling (tonnes)	Comingled materials (tonnes)	Comingled materials (percentage)	Separate paper (tonnes)	Separate paper (percentage)
2014/15	15,765	12,314	78.1%	3,451	21.9%
2015/16	16,260	13,101	80.6%	3,159	19.4%
2016/17	15,737	12,808	81.4%	2,929	18.6%
2017/18	15,299	12,757	83.4%	2,542	16.6%
2018/19	15,286	13,080	85.6%	2,206	14.4%
2019/20	15,403	13,416	87.1%	1,987	12.9%
2020/21	17,865	16,388	91.7%	1,477	8.3%

Table A(ii): South Tyneside year-end blue tonnage data 2014/15 – 2020/21

Year	Total recycling	Comingled materials	Comingled percentage	Separate paper	Paper percentage
2014/15	11,838	10,066	85.0%	1,772	15.0%
2015/16	12,220	10,749	87.9%	1,471	12.0%
2016/17	11,978	10,114	84.4%	1,863	15.6%
2017/18	11,216	9,516	84.8%	1,700	15.2%
2018/19	10,952	9,481	86.6%	1,471	13.4%
2019/20	11,154	9,768	87.6%	1,386	12.4%
2020/21	13,120	12,243	93.3%	877	6.7%

Table A(iii): Sunderland year-end blue tonnage data 2014/15 – 2020/21

Year	Total recycling	Comingled materials	Comingled percentage	Separate paper	Paper percentage
2014/15	19,026	14,798	77.8%	4,228	22.2%
2015/16	19,349	15,448	79.8%	3,902	20.2%
2016/17	18,798	15,552	82.7%	3,246	17.3%
2017/18	20,314	18,137	89.3%	2,177	10.7%
2018/19	21,080	19,054	90.4%	2,026	9.6%
2019/20	20,472	18,757	91.6%	1,715	8.4%
2020/21	24,478	23,288	95.1%	1,190	4.9%

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%
Q3 2020/21	86.6%	13.4%	86.6%	13.4%	84.3%	15.7%
Q4 2020/21	81.4%	18.6%	79.3%	20.7%	84.7%	15.3%

HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING CENTRE CONTRACTS

Table A: 2020/21 year-end recycling performance rates

HWRC	Annual Target	Quarter 1 2020/21	Quarter 2 2020/21	Quarter 3 2020/21	Quarter 4 2020/21
Campground	48%	53.2%	51.3%	47.3%	49.6%
Cowen Road	48%	59.4%	55.6%	50.3%	48.2%
Beach Street	N/A	52.1%	53.3%	45.4%	46.0%
Middlefields (Recycling Village)	50%	53.2%	50.6%	49.5%	54.4%