



South Tyneside Council



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

Friday, 11 March 2022 at 1.30 pm via Teams

From the Chief Executive, Sheena Ramsey

Item	Business
1.	Apologies
2.	Minutes (Pages 3 - 6) The JEC are asked to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 10 December 2021, as a correct record.
3.	Declarations of Interest Members of the JEC are invited to declare interests in any agenda items.
4.	Contracts Update Report 2021/2022 (Pages 7 - 20) Report attached
5.	Waste Sector News Update Presentation
6.	Date and Time of Next Meeting Friday 10 June 2022 at 1.30 pm

Contact: Helen Conway Email: helenconway@gateshead.gov.uk, Tel: 433 3993,
Date: Friday, 4 March 2022

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GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

SOUTH TYNE AND WEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, 10 December 2021

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

Gateshead Council Councillor Angela Douglas

South Tyneside Council Absent

Sunderland Council Councillor Claire Rowntree (Vice Chair)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Gateshead Council Colin Huntington, Marc Morley, Helen Conway

South Tyneside Council John Tindle

Sunderland Council Anthony Alder

South Tyne and Wear Management Partnership Gary Smith, Fiona Swinburne, Anna Harrison

123 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

124 CONTRACTS UPDATE

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

Section 2 of the report provided background information and an update on the procurement contracts across the partnership. 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.

Section 3 of the report outlined to the JEC the residual waste treatment contract (RWTC), the joint insurance cost review (JICR) and 2020/21 & 2021/22 Insurance Premiums.

Paragraphs 3.11 – 3.18 updated the JEC on the works to repair Campground WTS following on from the fire which occurred on 28 February 2021. It should be noted that all works have now been completed and Campground WTS remained fully operational and continued to accept all partner authority waste while the works were taking place.

Both Middlefields and Jack Crawford House WTS also remained fully operational during this period.

The JEC were advised that recycling outputs from all sites include segregated street sweepings, wood, and scrap metals. Routine maintenance of buildings, plant and control systems have also been undertaken as scheduled, across all sites, during this period.

Paragraphs 3.22 – 3.25 updated the JEC on the work underway with communications colleagues to support the prevention of any further fires within STWWMP facilities and/or vehicles.

Tables A and B at the appendix highlights the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) Contracts and highlighted the impact of the pandemic on residual waste levels.

Table A at Appendix C highlights the latest HWRC recycling performance for 2021/22 (Quarter 1 and 2)

The JEC also received an update on the introduction of new advance booking systems at Gateshead sites.

The JEC received an update on the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Contract and the Kerbside WEEE project continues to be delivered in partnership areas and the WEEE behavioural change officer is looking at progressing some roadshows in public areas.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted

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WASTE SECTOR NEWS UPDATE

The JEC received a presentation outlining details of an update on the Environment Bill, and the potential implications to the partner authorities.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted

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DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be advised

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South Tyneside Council



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

11 MARCH 2022

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

SUBJECT: Contracts Update 2021/22

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 A full STWWMP procurement exercise leading to the award of the MRF contract(s) from 1 April 2022 has been concluded. The new contracts are for a period of 36 months with an option to extend for 2 x 12 month periods. The Partner Authority contracts shall be implemented by Gateshead Council as Lead Authority for the Partner Authorities under the Contract for and on behalf of itself and the Partner Authorities. Gateshead Council shall enter into back-to-back contractual arrangements with its Partner Authorities to pass down the relevant provisions of the Contracts.

- 2.4 The successful Bidders for these contracts are as follows:
- Cumbria Waste Group Ltd– Gateshead and South Tyneside
 - J & B Recycling Ltd – Sunderland
- 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 Following a full procurement exercise, the contract for the management of the new Sunderland HWRC, located at Pallion, was awarded to SUEZ. The contract commenced on 1 February 2022 when the site opened and is for a period of 14 months with an option to extend for a further three 12 month periods.
- 2.7 A full joint procurement exercise leading to the award of the Green waste contract(s) from 1 April 2022 has also been concluded. The new contracts are for a period of 48 months with the option to extend for a further 2 x 12 month periods. The Partner Authority contracts shall be implemented by Gateshead Council as Lead Authority in the same way as the MRF contract.
- 2.8 The successful Bidders for these contracts are as follows:
- Remondis Ltd – Gateshead and Sunderland
 - Suez Recycling and Recovery UK Ltd – South Tyneside
- 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)**

Veolia takeover

- 3.1 In December 2021, the European Commission approved under its merger regulation process the proposed acquisition of Suez by Veolia. The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) is still to rule on the ‘merger’ in the UK. The CMA are currently in phase two of their investigation and have granted both Suez and Veolia an extension, for an unnamed amount of time, to provide the relevant documents. As part of their investigations, the CMA have issued two questionnaires, to which the STWWMP have responded to both, on behalf of all partner authorities. In the meantime, SUEZ will continue to operate as normal in the UK.

COVID-19 update

3.2 As the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic continues, household waste levels have come down slightly from the peak of the pandemic in 2020 but remain higher than pre-pandemic levels. Despite this, all partner authorities continue to maintain normal residual waste collections from households across STWWMP and have done so without interruption and all facilities are operating normally and processing the material. COVID-19 contingency measures remain in place across all SUEZ RWTC sites for now and no significant staffing issues have arisen. The measures remain under constant review due to ongoing changes in guidance.

EfW Service Update

3.3 Appendix A highlights the 2021/22 contract performance for the period April 2021 – January 2022. During this period, the overall plant and turbine availability of the EfW was 92.9% and 96.7% respectively. This includes the annual maintenance shutdown which took place in Quarter 1.

3.4 Both contractual recycling and recovery performance continue to operate above target at 96.6% and 2.7% respectively with only 0.8% going to landfill.

3.5 Throughout the April-October period, no emissions breaches were reported and all Incinerator Bottom Ash samples returned compliant results.

Line 4 Update

3.6 Line 4 lost 0.58 hours of availability on 18 January as a consequence of temporary power loss which occurred during turbine testing. Outside of this issue no significant unplanned losses of availability were encountered during this period.

Line 5 Update

3.7 Line 5 lost 6 hours of availability on 7 November due to the waste crane breaking down and temporarily blocking the waste feed into the furnace. A further 27.75 hours of availability were lost between 29 and 30 November as a consequence of a bottom ash chute blockage. Finally, on 18 January Line 5 was unavailable for 0.17 hours as a consequence of temporary power loss which occurred during turbine testing. Outside of these issues no significant unplanned losses of availability were encountered during this period.

Turbine availability

3.8 The Turbine was offline for one hour on 23 November during plant island mode testing. Another hour of availability was lost on 9 December during turbine overspeed testing. Finally, 6.33 hours of turbine availability were lost on 18 January during further routine turbine testing. The root cause of this is still under investigation.

Joint Insurance Cost Review (JICR)

3.9 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.

3.10 STWER previously indicated that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant increases to insurance costs. The fourth JICR was

submitted during the period, and it has highlighted a nil sharing. This is being reviewed currently and a response drafted.

2020/21 & 2021/22 Insurance Premiums

- 3.11 The waiver requests have been reviewed by STWWMP legal advisors working with colleagues from Defra and a response is being drafted.

Waste Transfer Stations (WTS)

- 3.12 As previously reported, the Campground WTS suffered a serious fire within the transfer hall on 28 February 2021. Meldrum Engineering Civil and Structural Engineering Ltd have carried out the repair works. Fairhurst Engineering Consultants acted on behalf of SUEZ as project manager taking responsibility for Health and Safety under the Construction Design and Management Regulations. This included carrying out inspections and sign-off for the construction works at key stages of completion.
- 3.13 All works are now completed. SUEZ have received the sign off report from Fairhurst Engineering Consultants following their inspection of the works. The STWWMP have also received a copy and are making arrangements for internal expertise from Sunderland City Council to inspect the work before final sign off will be agreed.
- 3.14 Campground WTS remained fully operational and continued to accept all partner authority waste while the above works were taking place.
- 3.15 Both Middlefields and Jack Crawford House WTS also remained fully operational during this period.
- 3.16 Recycling outputs from all sites include segregated street sweepings, wood, and scrap metals. Routine maintenance of buildings, plant and control systems have also been undertaken as scheduled, across all sites, during this period.
- 3.17 Working with communications colleagues in each partner authority, a joint communications plan has been developed to support the prevention of any further fires within STWWMP facilities and/or vehicles.
- 3.18 As part of the communications plan, all partner authorities agreed to design and produce a sticker to put on both the Recycling and Residual bins (Please see Appendix D). STWER provided £25,000 towards this activity which covered the purchase of the stickers and some social media. Each partner authority has been continuing the process of stickering the bins and social media posts on each of the partner authorities accounts have been used to support this activity. The stickers will act as a reminder to residents to NEVER put batteries or small electrical appliances in ANY of their bins.
- 3.19 Signs have been produced and are now in place at HWRC's across the partner authority areas, replicating the artwork from the bin stickers, to further reinforce this message.
- 3.20 A photoshoot at the Waste and Recycling Visitor and Education Centre at Campground was arranged with Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service for a press release as part of the communications plan. The photographs featured in

an article in Gateshead's December edition of Council News and Sunderland City Council's recent E-newsletter. Free-to-air television and radio news channel GB news (launched in the UK, June 2021) picked up the press release and interviewed Marc Morley about the dangers of incorrectly disposing of batteries and small WEEE and where residents can safely dispose of these items. The interview was aired on 23 December 2021.

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 The Middlefields WTS Site Manager has recently moved onto a different position within Suez creating a vacant senior management role. Suez have appointed an internal applicant who lives locally to the facility in South Shields. This has in turn created a vacant post of Business Assistant whose role is to provide direct support to our RWTC. This position has been advertised and further updates will be provided in due course.

Community Education and Engagement

- 3.23 STWWMP remains committed to an ongoing programme of community education and engagement, managed by Groundwork North East & Cumbria (GNEC) at the visitor and education centre, the energy-from-waste facility, and through outreach activities held in local schools and community settings.
- 3.24 Both physical activity and outreach work have resumed within COVID-19 guidance and on-site procedures with 1,800 local resident's, children and young people having taken part in waste awareness events and activities between April 2021 and January 2022. This is still a reduced number of engagements and therefore this activity is still being supported by other electronic mechanisms.
- 3.25 Newsletters are still being used to highlight and promote forthcoming programme activities and opportunities to local schools, community organisations and both existing and potential future service users. The newsletters are also circulated to Joint Executive Committee members.
- 3.26 Following the renaming of the centre which is now the '*Waste and Recycling Visitor Education Centre*', SUEZ are progressing new signage for the outside of the building.
- 3.27 The raised planting beds in the centre's garden area have now been refurbished and will be available as part of programme activities once onsite sessions are able to resume in the warmer months.

Community Liaison Groups

- 3.28 The ongoing COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic arrangements have meant that no further Community Liaison Group meetings have been able to be held. This situation is being reviewed currently.

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

- 4.1 Table A at Appendix B provides the latest 2021/22 performance for blue bin recycling (April-January). Analysis highlights that comingled recycling tonnages have fallen when compared to the same period last year during the first year of the pandemic but the tonnages are still generally slightly higher than pre-pandemic levels.
- 4.2 Furthermore, separately collected paper tonnages continue to drop in each partner authority. Whilst newspaper consumption has declined rapidly in recent years, changing consumer habits as a result of the pandemic have likely further compounded the issue.
- 4.3 Appendix B also contains Table B, which highlights MRF recycling and recovery rates (for comingled materials only) since Quarter 1 2020/21 up to the latest quarter. The figure in the recovery column is effectively the level of residual waste or contamination within the recycling which cannot be recycled and has to be sent for energy recovery.
- 4.4 Sunderland's contamination levels continue to improve. However, the contamination levels for Gateshead and South Tyneside remain higher in the first three quarters of this financial year than in the previous year. STWWMP continues to work with both MRF contractors to identify how performance can be improved, how contamination issues can be assessed, and ensure that material sampling methodologies are robust. This will include communications campaigns to highlight the impact of contamination on the blue bin recycling service.
- 4.5 A full STWWMP procurement exercise leading to the award of the MRF contract(s) from 1 April 2022 has been concluded. The contracts are for a period of 36 months with an option to extend for 2 x 12 month periods. The Partner Authority contracts shall be implemented by Gateshead Council as Lead Authority for the Partner Authorities under the Contract for and on behalf of itself and the Partner Authorities. Gateshead Council shall enter back-to-back contractual arrangements with its Partner Authorities to pass down the relevant provisions of the Contracts.
- 4.6 The successful Bidders for these contracts are as follows:
- Cumbria Waste Group Ltd– Gateshead and South Tyneside
 - J & B Recycling Ltd – Sunderland
- 4.7 This will not impact on operations as the delivery points or transfer stations will remain the same under these contracts. South Tyneside Council have their own Recycling transfer station and therefore this will remain the same for them during future contracts also.
- 4.8 These contracts are based on a risk share mechanism to deal with fluctuating commodity prices and a pass-through payment on all contamination that is

unable to be processed by the contractor. This allows the contractor to provide a more robust fixed processing cost as they do not factor in the risk associated with these uncertain elements. Therefore, monthly costs can vary based on tonnages, composition, commodity prices and contamination levels.

- 4.9 It is anticipated that the joint partnership team will review and verify the monthly contract reports including the payment mechanisms, which detail commodity composition and values, amounts payable to the contractor and service issues. Once approved, invoices will be processed and paid by the relevant Authority (based on agreements between the partner authorities) Then the relevant partner authorities will be recharged for the amounts payable each month under that contract.

5. HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING CENTRE CONTRACTS

- 5.1 Table A at Appendix C highlights the latest HWRC recycling performance for 2021/22 (Quarters 1 to 3). The new way of calculating HWRC recycling performance now excludes not only inert materials (such as rubble), but also electrical waste (WEEE), low grade wood, and dry mixed recyclables/textiles etc. This means that the performance of a site appears to be lower than that of previous years. The results highlight the performance of the incentivised recycling contracts for Gateshead and South Tyneside but the results for Sunderland are provided for comparison only as the contract is, technically, calculated differently.
- 5.2 Recycling performance is currently exceeding annual targets in the first three quarters of this year.
- 5.3 All three partner authorities now have an advanced booking system in place and these are working well. The systems provide more flexibility on when you can visit the site, enabling residents to get in and out quicker and safer than before, as queues and waiting times have been dramatically reduced at peak times.
- 5.4 Although booking systems were introduced by many local authorities during the pandemic to help manage demand and reduce queues at sites, these systems have proved to be an effective tool for managing queues at sites at peak times during normal operation of these sites and therefore a number of these local authorities will be retaining the booking systems in the long term. STWMMP partner authorities will also look to maintain these booking systems in the longer term but will regular review how they are operating and how effective they are and may make changes accordingly if any improvements can be identified. An important feature of these systems is the ability to restrict the use of these sites to residents of the borough only and therefore the Council are not meeting the costs of disposing of waste from neighbouring authorities
- 5.5 Following a full procurement exercise, the contract for the management of the new Sunderland HWRC, located at Pallion, was awarded to SUEZ. The contract commenced on 1 February 2022 when the site opened and is for a period of 14 months with an option to extend for a further three 12 month periods. The new site at Pallion replaces the old site at Beach Street and it is a modern purpose

built facility and has a greater capacity to deal with any future increases in waste arisings in Sunderland.

- 5.6 The HWRC management contracts for all of the partner authorities are co-terminus and, therefore, enable future joint procurement exercises to be delivered.

6. GREEN WASTE COMPOSTING CONTRACTS

- 6.1 For service subscribers, the household kerbside collections in all three partner authorities will commence in Spring 2022. The Household Waste and Recycling Centres have been accepting garden waste during the autumn/winter period including any real Christmas trees that need disposing after the festive period.

- 6.2 As 2021 is the final year of the previously agreed extension period to the current contracts, new replacement contracts will be required from 1 April 2022. Therefore, a full joint procurement exercise has also been concluded on these contracts. The new contracts are for a period of 48 months with the option to extend for a further 2 x 12 month periods. The Partner Authority contracts shall be implemented by Gateshead Council as Lead Authority for the Partner Authorities under the Contract for and on behalf of itself and the Partner Authorities. Gateshead Council shall enter back-to-back contractual arrangements with its Partner Authorities to pass down the relevant provisions of the Contracts.

- 6.3 The successful Bidders for these contracts are as follows:

- Remondis Ltd – Gateshead and Sunderland
- Suez Recycling and Recovery Uk Ltd – South Tyneside

- 6.4 The delivery point will remain the same for Sunderland however Gateshead's delivery point will change with all vehicles tipping off at Birtley. South Tyneside's delivery point will now be Middlefields depot at the waste transfer station operated by Suez under the Residual waste contract.

7. WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (WEEE) CONTRACT

- 7.1 The WEEE Contractor has experienced driver availability issues due to national shortages during the period but to date it has not led to any issues on our sites.

- 7.2 Other funding mechanisms are being sought to extend this work but to date the two applications submitted during the period were unsuccessful.

- 7.3 The Kerbside WEEE project continues to be delivered in partnership areas until 31 March 2022.

8. RECOMMENDATION

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

Contacts:

Anna Harrison, Contract Manager (Policy), STWWMP Tel: 433 7422

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

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

RESIDUAL WASTE TREATMENT CONTRACT

2021/22 latest performance: April-January

Total contract waste	173,339 tonnes
Contract waste delivered to WTS: - Campground - Middlefields - Jack Crawford House	Gateshead 52,770 tonnes Sunderland 13,051 tonnes South Tyneside 44,328 tonnes Gateshead 2,017 tonnes Sunderland 61,173 tonnes
Total contract waste delivered to EfW	166,183 tonnes
Line 4 availability Line 5 availability Overall EfW availability	92.2 % 93.6 % 92.9 %
Average turbine availability	96.7 %
Electricity generated Electricity exported Electricity imported	163,065 MWh 144,253 MWh 269 MWh
Recycling performance	Target 2.2% Performance 2.7%
Recovery performance	Target 95.4% Performance 96.6%
Unprocessed landfill diversion rate	99.2%
Health and safety: - RIDDOR - Injuries and accidents - Near misses - Property damage - Fires	0 6 93 24 0

MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY CONTRACTS

Table A: 2021/22 latest blue bin tonnage data: April-January

	Gateshead	South Tyneside	Sunderland
Comingled tonnage	12,571	9,954	18,257
Paper tonnage	1079	680	806
Total tonnage	13,650	10,634	19,063
<i>Comparison to April-January</i> - comingled	<i>8.4% decrease</i>	<i>3.6% decrease</i>	<i>6.6% decrease</i>
<i>Comparison to April-January</i> - paper	<i>15% decrease</i>	<i>10.6% decrease</i>	<i>22.4% decrease</i>
<i>Comparison to April-January</i> - all materials	<i>8.9% decrease</i>	<i>4% decrease</i>	<i>7.4% decrease</i>

Table B: MRF recycling and recovery performance

Period	Gateshead		South Tyneside		Sunderland	
	Recycling	Recovery	Recycling	Recovery	Recycling	Recovery
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	82.0%	18.0%	82.0%	18.0%	84.7%	15.3%
Q1 2021/22	78.9%	21.1%	79.3%	20.7%	85.3%	14.7%
Q2 2021/22	79.1%	20.9%	78.4%	21.6%	85.4%	14.6%
Q3 2021/22	78.1%	21.9%	79.0%	21.0%	86.1%	13.9%

HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING CENTRE CONTRACTS

Table A: 2021/22 latest recycling performance (excluding inert materials, such as rubble, WEEE, low grade wood and dry mixed recycling/textiles):

HWRC	Annual Target	Quarter 1 2021/22	Quarter 2 2021/22	Quarter 3 2021/22
Campground	48%	55.9%	55.9%	49.5%*
Cowen Road	48%	53.1%	55.4%	50.4%*
Beach Street	N/A	53.6%	52.2%	46.2%*
Middlefields (Recycling Village)	50%	58.5%	56.6%	51.7%*

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

NEVER

PUT BATTERIES IN ANY OF YOUR BINS

Batteries, items containing batteries, or any electrical items can cause fires if damaged during waste and recycling processing.

Instead, recycle them at:

- Battery containers at supermarkets, shops, and community venues
- Local Household Waste and Recycling Centres.

Search 'batteries' on your local council website to find your nearest recycling location.

Gateshead Council **South Tyneside Council** **Sunderland City Council**

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