

# **Staffordshire Local Government Association**

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAFFORDSHIRE AND STOKE-ON-TRENT JOINT WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD HELD ON MONDAY 2 DECEMBER 2019 AT COUNCIL OFFICES, CODSALL**

Present:

### **Cannock Chase District Council**

Cllr. J. Preece  
Mr. J. Presland

### **Stafford Borough Council**

Mr. P. Gammon  
Cllr. J. Price (Chairman)

### **East Staffordshire Borough Council**

Mr. P. Farrer  
Cllr. R. Faulkner

### **Staffordshire County Council**

Cllr. P.E.B. Atkins  
Mr. T. Cooper  
Mrs. S. Lamour  
Mr. C. Thomson

### **Lichfield District Council**

Mr. N. Harris  
Cllr. Mrs. L. Little

### **Staffordshire Moorlands District Council**

Mrs. N. Kemp

### **Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council**

Mr. A. Bird

### **Stoke-on-Trent City Council**

Mrs. C. Gibbs  
Mr. R. Vernon

### **South Staffordshire District Council**

Cllr. L. Bates  
Mr. D. Roberts

**Also in attendance:** Mrs. K. Buck (Waste Partnership Manager) and Mr. J. Lindop (Staffordshire County Council).

**Apologies:** Cllr. J. Chesworth (Tamworth Borough Council), Cllr. M. Deaville (Staffordshire County Council), Cllr. C. Edwards (Stoke-on-Trent City Council), Mr. M. Jenkinson (South Staffordshire District Council), Cllr. T. Johnson (Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council), Mr. S. Khan (East Staffordshire Borough Council) and, Cllr. S. Scalice (Staffordshire Moorlands District Council).

## **PART ONE**

### **Declarations of Interest**

13. Cllr. Mrs. L. Little (Lichfield District Council) declared an interest in the matters included on the Agenda owing to her position as an employee of Veolia.

### **Minutes**

14. **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 August 2019 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

### **Matters Arising**

15. There were no Matters Arising raised.

### **Strategic Waste Management Plan – Performance Report Quarter 1 2019/20**

16. The Board considered a report of the Chairman of the Staffordshire Waste Officers' Group regarding progress made towards delivery of the Strategic Waste Management Action Plan during Quarter 1 2019/20 (Appendix 1 to the signed minutes of the meeting).

The Board noted that with regard to NI191: Residual Household Waste Collected per household, the majority of Partner Authorities had achieved reductions when compared to the previous quarter (Q4 2018/19. The best performing Authority in this respect was Staffordshire Moorland District Council with a reduction of 22.88 kg. In addition, a comparison with the corresponding quarter in 2018/19 also revealed that the majority of Councils had experienced reductions. The best performing Authority in this respect was Staffordshire Moorlands District Council with a reduction of 9.35 kg.

With regard to NI192: % Household Waste Sent for Reuse, Recycling or Composting the overall picture was mixed with all Partner Authorities having experienced increases in Quarter 1 when compared to the previous quarter. However, all Councils had significantly experienced small reductions in their figures when compared to the corresponding quarter in 2018/19.

With regard to NI193: % of Municipal Waste Landfilled, they noted that whilst Staffordshire County Council had experienced a small reduction when compared to the corresponding quarter in 2018/19 (0.2%) a comparison with the previous quarter revealed that it had increased by 1.5%. The Quarter 1 2019/20 figures for Stoke-on-Trent City Council were not yet available.

17. **RESOLVED** – That the report be received and noted.

## **Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Waste Partnership Strategy**

### **(a) Partnership Letter to Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

18. The County Council's Director of Economy Infrastructure and Skills circulated a draft letter addressed to the Secretary of State for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs from the Chairman of the Staffordshire Waste Officers' Group (Appendix 2 to the signed minutes) (i) giving a position statement on the Partnership's efforts to minimise waste and increase recycling in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent and; (ii) seeking his views on a proposed delay in the Partnership's adoption of a new Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for 2020 and beyond in order to ensure that it aligned with the policies contained in the forthcoming National Resources and Waste Strategy and adopting any changes in relation to implications of leaving the European Union.

The Director confirmed that the draft letter had been sent to Local Partnership's (John Enright) for comment and he had expressed support for the proposed approach.

In response to a question from the Member representative of East Staffordshire Borough Council, the Director said that the typographical error which he had highlighted, would be corrected prior to its despatch. The Member also stressed the importance of effective communication of the Partnership's position once the views of the Secretary of State had been made known.

19. **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the draft letter to the Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs from the Chairman of the Staffordshire Waste Officers' Group regarding a proposed delay in adopting a new Partnership Strategic Waste Management Plan be noted.

### **(b) Residual Waste Composition Analysis**

20. The Board received an oral report of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council's Head of Recycling and Fleet Services (HRFS) updating them on progress with regard to the Residual Waste Composition Analysis currently being undertaken by Keele University on behalf of the Partnership.

The analysis had commenced in January 2019 and was being carried out in three tranches ie (i), (ii), (iii). Whilst the study was almost complete, some initial findings had been made available, for example noting the relatively high percentage of food waste present in the waste stream in the Tamworth area and the relatively low percentage of garden waste present despite the implementation of a charging regime. However, it was hoped the final report would be presented to the Partnership in the New Year whereupon plans could be developed for inclusion into their new Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for 2020 and beyond.

In response to a question from the Officer representative of Lichfield District Council, the HRFS gave them an outline explanation of the methodology being used to carry out the analysis.

During the discussion which ensued, the Chairman asked whether any Partner Authority intended implementing a green waste composting scheme for residents' garden waste in the near future. In reply the HRFS informed them that his Authority were currently investigating the viability of such a scheme in their area which might also provide an opportunity for the Partnership going forward.

21. **RESOLVED** – That the oral report be received and noted.

### **National Waste Strategy and Environmental Bill**

22. The Board received a PowerPoint presentation from Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council's Head of Recycling and Fleet Services (HRFS) updating them on progress with regard to the National Waste and Resource Strategy and Environmental Bill.

During his presentation the HRFS highlighted:- (i) the background to the National Strategy; (ii) the contents of the Bill; (iii) likely implications for the Partnership from the various proposals contained in the Bill; (iv) Extended Producer Responsibility Powers (EPR); (v) Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) proposals; (vi) separation of waste proposals; (vii) initial thoughts having regard to the current volatility of markets for dry recyclables; (viii) the Responsibility Loop and; (ix) challenges and opportunities for the Partnership.

During the full and wide-ranging discussion which ensued, the Chairman sought clarification of the arrangements for disposal of Lithium-ion car batteries under the proposals. In reply the HRFS said that it was likely local Authorities would have a future role to play. However, the EPR powers set out in the Bill would enable the cost of managing this waste to be recovered from producers. In addition, existing legislation, principally the Waste Electric and Electronic Equipment (WEE) Regulations 2013, conferred duties on various public and private bodies relating to the treatment and disposal of such material.

In response to a question from the Member representative of East Staffordshire Borough Council regarding possible funding available to the Partnership from the EPR proposals, the HRFS said that it was likely a method of calculating costs would be employed to produce national rates within various bandings. Local Authorities (LAs) would then be required to submit claims using the appropriate rate for the material collected. However, it was highly likely that producers would require LAs to provide strong evidence of the quality and quantity of the waste collected for their claims to be successful. Continuing he spoke of the benefits of partnership working in order to maximise the benefits of the proposed EPR scheme for the residents of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

The Officer representative of South Staffordshire District Council added that following conversations with the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRPAP) further information on the EPR arrangements was expected to be available in May 2020. He agreed that decisions made locally would likely impact on the level of funding available. However, many other factors outside their control would ultimately determine the operation of the system.

In response to a request for clarification from the Waste Partnership Manager, the HRFS said that as a consequence of the proposals, Local Authorities were unlikely to receive new recycling targets in the foreseeable future.

23. **RESOLVED** – That the presentation be received and noted.

### **Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting**

24. **RESOLVED** – That a further meeting of the Board be held in March 2020 on a date and at a time to be arranged at Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council.

### **Exclusion of the Public**

25. **RESOLVED** – That the public be excluded for the following items of business which involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Local Government Act 1972, indicated below.

---

## **PART TWO**

### **Dry Recycling Disposal** (exemption paragraph 3)

26. and 27. The Board were informed of Partners' future arrangements in respect of dry recycling in their areas and took a decision thereon.

### **Staffordshire Waste Partnership Manager's Post** (exemption paragraph 1)

28. and 29. The Board noted recent developments regarding the Staffordshire Waste Manager's Post.

### **Partners' Waste Collection and Disposal Operations** (exemption paragraph 3)

30. There were no matters raised under this item.

**CHAIRMAN**