

Staffordshire Local Government Association

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAFFORDSHIRE AND STOKE-ON-TRENT JOINT WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD HELD ON 6 AUGUST 2020, VIRTUAL/ONLINE

Present:

Cannock Chase District Council

Mr. M. Edmonds
Cllr. J. Newbury
Mr. J. Presland

East Staffordshire Borough Council

Mr. P. Farrer
Mr. S. Kahn
Cllr. Mrs. S. McGarry

Lichfield District Council

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

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council

Mr. A. Bird

South Staffordshire District Council

Cllr. L. Bates
Mr. M. Jenkinson
Mr. D. Roberts

Stafford Borough Council

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

Staffordshire County Council

Mr. T. Cooper
Cllr. Mrs. J. Jessel
Mrs. S. Lamour
Miss. R. Melvin
Mr. C. Thomson

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Mrs. N. Kemp
Cllr. S. Scalise

Stoke-on-Trent City Council

Mrs. C. Gibbs
Mr. R. Vernon

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

Apologies: Mr. A. Barratt (Tamworth Borough Council); Cllr. C. Edwards (Stoke-on-Trent City Council) and; Cllr. R. Faulkner (Staffordshire Moorlands District Council)

PART ONE

Quorum

1. The Chairman verified that the meeting was quorate.

Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

2. **RESOLVED** – (a) That Mr. Jonathan Price (Stafford Borough Council) be appointed Chairman for the ensuing year up to the Annual meeting in June 2021.

(b) That Mr. Sav Scalise (Staffordshire Moorlands District Council) be appointed Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year up to the Annual meeting in June 2021.

Minutes

3. **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2019 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

4. There were no Matters Arising raised.

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

5. The Board considered a report of the Chairman of the Staffordshire Waste Officers' Group (Appendix A to the signed minutes) regarding progress made towards delivery of the Strategic Waste Management Action Plan during Quarter 4 2019/20 (Appendix A to the signed minutes of the meeting).
6. **RESOLVED** – That the report be received and noted.

Partnership Response to 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic

7. The Board considered a report/presentation (slides attached at Appendix B to the signed minutes) of the Chairman of Staffordshire Waste Officers' Group (SWOG) informing them of the Partnership's response to the 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic.

During his presentation, the Chairman highlighted:- (i) the effect of the March 2020 lockdown restrictions on Partners' waste operations; (ii) the communication arrangements implemented by SWOG at the start of the lockdown period; (iii) a reduction in Partners' employee levels of attendance since the start of lockdown; (iv) service changes which had been implemented by Partners; (v) the increase in waste arisings in the County since the start of lockdown; (vi) the closure of all House Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) in England under the national lockdown restrictions; (vii) the effect of the HWRC closures on capacity and contracts; (viii) additional Health and Safety considerations for Partners' waste operations; (ix) various on-going issues for Partners since the lockdown restrictions had been eased.

During the full and wide-ranging discussion which ensued Members paid tribute to staff for their efforts in maintaining Partner waste operations, where possible, since the lockdown restrictions had been imposed. To date, no major problems had arisen and at this stage, new policies eg Green Waste charging scheme, were expected to be implemented as originally planned.

The Waste Partnership Manager referred to the effective communication links with the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC) which had been maintained during lockdown and the valuable advice and guidance received. Continuing she said that the temporary redeployment of staff from closed HWRCs to Partners' collection teams had worked well and demonstrated the value of Partnership working for the benefit of residents of Staffordshire.

In response to a question from the County Council's Member representative regarding a possible increase in the incidence of illegal 'fly' tipping as a result of HWRC being unavailable to the public and the action taken by District/Borough Councils, the Chairman referred to recent cases on Cannock Chase and at St Bertelin's Church, Stafford which had caused great concern. Whilst these matters were being dealt with appropriately, delays had been encountered in the Court system arising from the need to implement of social distancing measures. In reply, the County Council's Member representative spoke of the importance of publicity in helping to increase public awareness and reduce fly tipping.

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

National and Local Waste Strategies Update

9. The Board considered an oral report/presentation from the Waste Partnership Manager (Appendix C to the signed minutes) updating them on progress with regard to the National and Local Waste Strategies.

During her presentation the Waste Partnership Manager highlighted:- (i) the four main areas of focus in the "" document ie greater consistency in household recycling, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), Deposit Return Schemes (DRS), and plastic tax together with relevant parts of the Environment Bill; (ii) the second stage consultation phase on the National Strategy which had now been re-scheduled to early 2021; (iii) an indicative timeframe for implementation of the proposals contained in the National Strategy; (iv) background to the preparation of the new Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Waste Strategy; (v) the results of the Waste Composition Analysis (WCA) which had been undertaken by Keele University on behalf of the Partnership and; (vi) various recommendations following publication of the results of the (WCA).

In addition, the Board received a further report/presentation from the County Council's Director for Economy, Infrastructure & Skills updating them on recent communication initiatives with Staffordshire residents on waste matters.

During his presentation the Director highlighted:- (i) 'Metal Matters; (ii) "Plastic Bottles: Recycle One and All"; (iii) additional engagement undertaken following the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic; (iv) the discounted price 220 litre and 330 litre compost bins, their take-up and effect on the waste stream; (v) "Waste Savvy Staffs" and; (v) various forthcoming initiatives planned for 2020 and beyond.

In response to a request for clarification from the Chairman, the Director outlined the publicity measures which had been undertaken in support of Waste Savvy Staffs. The Chairman also asked for further information on how the County Council intended to engage with those District and Borough Councils who had recently declared 'Climate Emergencies'. He urged the Authority to adopt a Partnership approach to this important issue for the benefit of all residents in the County and looked forward to receiving further details in due course.

In response to another question from the Chairman, the Waste Partnership Manager gave further details of the methodology adopted for the above-mentioned WCA. She also undertook to ensure that comparisons were made with the results of previous analyses to enable an evaluation of the success of Partnership policies over time, where appropriate. The Officer representatives of South Staffordshire District and Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Councils both referred to observed changes in waste composition at Mixed Recycling Facilities in the County and informed them that the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs now used data collected in Staffordshire owing to being recognised as robust.

10. **RESOLVED** - That the report be received and noted.

Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

11. **RESOLVED** – That a further meeting of the Board be held in December 2020 on a date and at a time and venue to be arranged.

Exclusion of the Public

12. **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

Exempt Minutes (exemption paragraph 3)

13. That exempt minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2020 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Key Projects Update - Dry Recyclable Material Processing
(exemption paragraph 3)

14. and 15. The Board received a report/presentation by the Waste Partnership Manager updating them on progress with regard to their key project – Future Dry Recyclable Material Processing in the County and took decisions thereon.

CHAIRMAN