

Staffordshire Local Government Association

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAFFORDSHIRE AND STOKE-ON-TRENT JOINT WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD HELD ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT CIVIC CENTRE, CANNOCK

Present:

Cannock Chase District Council

Cllr. J. Johnson
Mrs. Ysanne Williams

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Mrs. N. Kemp

East Staffordshire Borough Council

Mr. P. Farrer
Cllr. R. Faulkner

Stafford Borough Council

Cllr. J. Price (Chairman)
Mr. R. Simpson

Lichfield District Council

Mr. N. Harris
Mr. B. Percival

Staffordshire County Council

Mr. T. Cooper
Mrs. S. Mcfie-Hyland
Mr. C. Thomson
Cllr. S. Tagg

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council

Mr. A. Bird
Cllr. T. Johnson

Tamworth Borough Council

Mr. A. Barratt
Cllr. D. Cook

South Staffordshire District Council

Cllr. L. Bates
Miss. R. Melvin

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

Apologies: Cllr. C. Edwards (Stoke-on-Trent City Council); Mr. P. Gammon (Stafford Borough Council), Mrs. C. Gibbs (Stoke-on-Trent City Council); Mr. J. Presland (Cannock Chase District Council); Cllr. S. Scalise (Staffordshire Moorlands District Council) and; Cllr. A. Yeates (Lichfield District Council)

PART ONE

Minutes

14. **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2021 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Appointment of Vice-Chairman

15. **RESOLVED** – That the appointment of Vice-Chairman be deferred until their next meeting.

Strategic Waste Management Plan – Performance Report Quarter 4 2020/21

16. The Board considered a report of the Waste Partnership Manager setting out progress towards delivering the Strategic Waste Management Action Plan during Quarter 4 2020/21 (schedule 1 to the signed minutes).

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

Terms of Reference

18. The Board considered an oral report of the Waste Partnership Manager regarding draft revised Terms of Reference for the Board (schedule 2 to the signed minutes).

The Terms of Reference had been reviewed following work by Partners to establish a Staffordshire Sustainability Board.

During the discussion which ensued, Partners said that they were keen to continue working collaboratively in respect of waste collection and disposal matters in the County and Stoke-on-Trent.

The officer representative of Tamworth Borough Council expressed concern about paragraph No.2 under “Report and Decision Making” in that each Member Authority were to be bound by the decisions of the Board following approval by their respective Authorities. He requested further consideration be given to the text of the draft Terms of Reference to provide for Partners who might wish to depart from the majority view of the Board in the future and to better reflect the decision-making roles of individual Member Authority Cabinets.

The Officer representative of East Staffordshire Borough Council requested inclusion of a provision covering Quorum at meetings, in the draft revised Terms of Reference.

The Waste Partnership Manager requested Partners notify her of any further comments on the draft revised Terms of Reference, as soon as possible.

19. **RESOLVED** – (a) That the oral report be received and noted.

(b) That further consideration be given to the draft revised Terms of reference to take account of the above-mentioned points and a further revised draft be brought to their next meeting for consideration.

Joint Sustainability Board

20. The Board considered an oral report of the Waste Partnership Manager updating them on the establishment of a Staffordshire Sustainability Board (SSB) by the County Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Staffordshire District and Borough Councils.

A meeting of the 'shadow' SSB was to be held at the conclusion of the meeting of the Joint waste Management Board. Further consideration was to be given to Terms of Reference for the SSB by the Leaders and Chief Executives Group at their meeting on 7 October 2021.

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

Operational Update

22. The Board considered an oral report of the Waste Partnership Manager giving them an update of Partners' waste collection and disposal operations during the on-going Covid-19 pandemic.

Services were being maintained despite the effects of the pandemic on Staffordshire residents. Fuel supplies for waste vehicles were being monitored closely following recent issues.

Members expressed their concerns regarding the delay in publication of a finalised National Waste Strategy and its implication for renewal of the Partnership's own Strategic Waste Management Plan. In response to a request from the Board, the Chairman undertook to write to the Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs about this matter.

23. **RESOLVED** – (a) That the report be received and noted.

(b) That a letter be sent by the Chairman on behalf of the Partnership to the Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs seeking clarification of the timescales for publication of the outcome of the consultations on:- (i) Deposit Return scheme (DRS) for Drinks and packaging in England; (ii) Extended Producer responsibility (EPR) for Packaging and; (iii) Measures for Consistency in Recycling Collections in 2023 and expressing concern regarding the on-going delay and its implications for the Staffordshire Strategic Waste Management Plan.

Mandatory Food Waste Collections

24. The Board considered an oral report of the Waste Partnership Manager regarding the anticipated introduction of mandatory food waste collections in Staffordshire.

Although mandatory food waste collections had not yet been introduced by Central Government, it was necessary for the Board to start planning for these services at an early stage. Accordingly, arrangements had been made for Waste Officers to visit and observe existing operations of a neighbouring Authority (Warwickshire County Council). In addition, a soft market test exercise involving distribution of questionnaires to twelve potential contractors, setting out various options, had been undertaken and three responses received ie from:- Biogen; (ii) Biffa and; (ii) ReFood. However, all twelve potential contractors would be re-approached following an agreed Partnership specification for the service.

Members were also pleased to note that additional grant aid amounting to a maximum of £20k had recently been awarded by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to the Partnership for a Joint Food Waste Collection Project focussing on facilities and infrastructure.

During the discussion which ensued Members sought clarification of the timescales for publication of the Partnership's Food Waste processing tender specification. The Officer representative of Tamworth Borough Council highlighted potential additional burdens for Authorities arising from anticipated further legislation following the Government's various National Waste Strategy consultations. He also expressed his preference for a Staffordshire solution with collaborative working between Partners, supporting the Staffordshire economy, where possible.

The Member representative of Tamworth Borough Council highlighted the need for additional New Burdens Funding from Central Government to support the introduction of Food Waste Collections in Staffordshire, particularly in light of the uncertainty surrounding the future of Recycling Credits.

25. **RESOLVED** – (a) That the joint oral report be received and noted.

(b) That the award of grant aid from the Waste and Resources Action Programme to support a Staffordshire food waste collection project, focussing on facilities and infrastructure, be welcomed.

(c) That Authorities re-affirm their willingness to work collaboratively towards a Partnership solution for the introduction of mandatory food waste collections in Staffordshire.

(d) That a further update be given to the Board at their next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

26. **RESOLVED** – That a further meeting of the Board be held on a date and at a time to be arranged in January 2022, at County Buildings, Stafford.

Exclusion of the Public

27. **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 paragraphs 1 and 3)

28. The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2021 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Key Projects Update - Dry Recycling Material Processing

(exemption paragraph 1 and 3)

29. and 30. The Board received exempt oral reports by the Waste Partnership Manager and Head of Waste and Sustainability, Staffordshire County Council, updating them on progress with regard to their key project – Future Dry Recycling Material Processing ((i) Procurement and Funding and; (ii) Long Term Local Plans), in the County and took decisions thereon.

CHAIRMAN