

Staffordshire Local Government Association

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAFFORDSHIRE AND STOKE-ON-TRENT JOINT WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD HELD ON 17 MARCH 2021, VIRTUAL/ONLINE

Present:

Cannock Chase District Council

Cllr. J. Newbury
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

Mr. N. Bentley
Mr. T. Cooper
Cllr. Mrs. J. Jessel
Mrs. S. Larmour
Mr. C. Thomson

Lichfield District Council

Cllr. R. Cox
Mr. N. Harris
Mr. B. Percival

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Mrs. N. Kemp

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council

Mr. A. Bird

Stoke-on-Trent City Council

Cllr. C. Edwards
Mr. R. Vernon

South Staffordshire District Council

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

Tamworth Borough Council

Mr. A. Barratt

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

Apologies: Cllr. J. Chesworth (Tamworth Borough Council); Cllr. T. Johnson (Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council); Cllr. S. Scalise (Staffordshire Moorlands District Council)

PART ONE

Quorum

32. The Chairman verified that the meeting was quorate.

Minutes

33. **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2020 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

33. With regard to Minute No. 21, The County Council's Member representative circulated a draft revised Terms of Reference (schedule 1 to the signed minutes) expanding the remit of the Board in order to facilitate further progress in the wider environmental arena in Staffordshire. She requested Partner Authorities' submit their views/comments on the document to the Group Manager: Sustainability and Waste Management, Staffordshire County Council, as soon as possible.

Strategic Waste Management Plan – Performance Report Quarter 2 2019/20

34. The Board considered a report of the Waste Partnership Manager regarding progress made towards delivery of the Strategic Waste Management Action Plan during Quarter 2 2019/20 (schedule 1 to the signed minutes).

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

Consultations Updates

36. The Board considered an oral report of the Head of Recycling and Fleet Services, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, updating them on the publication of formal second stage consultations by Central Government on three areas of waste and recycling legislation, as part of the development of a National Resources and Waste Strategy (NRWS):- (i) a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for drinks packaging in England; (ii) Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging and; (iii) measures for consistency in recycling collections in 2023.

Although the consultations were expected by early March 2021, none had yet emerged. However, the officer representative of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council stressed the importance of the Board submitting a comprehensive Staffordshire response at the appropriate time having regard to the likely implications for waste operations in the County including:- (i) food waste collections; (ii) collections of packaging films and cartons not currently included in recycling waste streams; (iii) the need for additional publicity campaigns required and; (iv) reductions in waste tonnages and impact on existing waste contracts. The Waste Partnership Manager added that the consultation period was likely to be for 12 weeks and arrangements had already been made by officers to provide co-ordinated support to the Board at the appropriate time.

In the discussion which ensued the Member representative of East Staffordshire Borough Council sought clarification of the impact of the delay on progress with the new Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Waste Strategy. In reply an officer representative of the County Council undertook to seek confirmation/views from the Department for Environment Food and Rural affairs over the continued delay in the Partnership's adoption of a new Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for 2020 and beyond and report back to the Board as necessary. The officer representative of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council added that it was important the Strategy aligned with national policies and reflected any changes made arising from the forthcoming consultations. He went on to outline the Government's likely requirements in respect of Food Waste Collections together with the financial implications for his Authority. The Member representative of Cannock Chase District Council also expressed concerns over the cost of new arrangements in this respect.

The Member representative of Lichfield District Council cited possible negative consequences from the imposition of mandatory food waste collections in relation to land use planning and infrastructure provision particularly in rural areas of the County. In reply the Waste Partnership Manager said that a large proportion of food waste currently generated in the County could be avoided and spoke of the importance of publicity campaigns in achieving target reductions. The Member representative of the County Council highlighted concerns regarding the potential for increased carbon dioxide emissions particularly new arrangements could not be accommodated within existing operations. She agreed with the views expressed by the Waste Partnership Manager regarding the importance of waste minimisation and communication and went to express her view that behavioural change was key to success in achieving net carbon reductions.

Discussion turned to the likely impact of mandatory food waste collections on the Partnership's existing contracts for waste incineration at the Hanford and Four Ashes sites having regard to reductions in tonnages and changes in the calorific value of the waste stream. An officer representative of Staffordshire County Council re-assured the Board over the flexibility of the Four Ashes contract although these changes might be more significant for Hanford.

In response to a comment from the Member representative of Stoke-on-Trent City Council, the Board agreed that the experiences of other areas within the UK and beyond would provide valuable learning for the Partnership in the event mandatory food waste collections emerged from the Governments' NRWS.

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

(b) That an update on the above-mentioned consultations be provided at their next meeting.

Exclusion of the Public

38. **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)

39. 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 1 and 3)

40. and 41. The Board received an exempt oral report 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