

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Recycling and Waste Partnership Board held at online via zoom on 19 October 2022

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 2.06 pm and ended at 3.42 pm

11 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous consultative meeting held on 20 July 2022 were received and noted.

12 Declarations of interest

Min 15. Joint operations and contract report.

Councillor Eleanor Rylance, Affects Non-registerable Interest, Ward member for Broadclyst which includes Hill Barton green waste treatment plant.

Min 15. Joint operations and contract report.

Councillor Geoff Jung, Affects Non-registerable Interest, Ward member for Woodbury and Lymptstone which includes Greendale Business Park.

13 Matters arising

Cllr Dan Ledger had submitted a question as to whether single use vape pens currently could be recycled. He said there were made primarily of plastic with small lithium batteries and asked were these classed in the same category as small electronics. These were becoming more and more popular especially amongst younger residents. If these were able to be recycled it could be worth a targeted communications effort on trying to push this.

The Recycling and Waste Contract Manager responded that currently we do take vape pens as small electricals. There was concern in the industry over the batteries which were seen by some as a fire risk. DCC was seeking some advice on this but at the moment the risk did not appear to be proven one way or the other.

14 Joint operations and contract report

The Recycling and Waste Manager and the SUEZ Contract Manager gave the Board a joint report on a contract and operational update for the period July to September 2022. During Q2 there had been a continuation of the on-going pressures of staff shortages, recruitment in a tight employment market and property growth. These difficulties continued to be dealt with in a positive manner which had enabled a good overall performance in a difficult environment.

The additional bank holiday increased the usual pressures but adjusted collections were delivered with minimal disruption due to flexibility from the crews, Supervisors and Recycling Officers and comprehensive resident communications. The summer produced some of the highest temperatures on record and crew welfare had been a prime consideration through this period. The adjustment of the start time to 6am had played a significant part in this. The weather had also an effect on performance with

green waste tonnages being lower than in previous summers which may have an effect on the overall recycling and composting rate by year end.

Overall Q2 had been another testing operational period due to a number of factors outside of anyone's control but this had been successfully navigated. In addition to the focus on day to day delivery the team has committed a large amount of time to the preparation of the mobilisation of Phase 1 of the 'Bridging Solution' to go-live in October.

The Portfolio Holder Finance thanks SUEZ for their excellent service in Seaton.

The Board noted the Joint operations and contract report.

15 **Performance framework**

The Board noted the performance framework which showed performance across the contract for the Board's review and information.

16 **Proposed changes to working times**

The Recycling and Waste Contract Manager and Contracts Manager SUEZ report explained that the South West of England had experienced exceptionally high temperatures over extended periods during the summers of 2021 and 2022. During these periods the contractual first collection time of 7am has been amended to 6am. This change had been made and kept in place, for the duration of the periods of high temperatures in the interests of the welfare and protection of frontline collections staff. The earlier start time allowed crews to complete the majority of their rounds in the cooler part of the day. This measure, along with an emphasis on constant hydration, had allowed collections to be maintained in periods of unusually high summer temperatures.

Resident feedback on the change had been very positive during the hot spells as the need to look after the crews was widely recognised. A very small number of noise complaints had been received.

The proposed changes were due to the effects of climate change increasing the high summer temperatures. It is proposed that from 1 January 2023 the first collection time was changed permanently to 6am as an adjustment to changing climatic conditions.

The change in first collection time would apply to recycling, waste and green waste collections. A 6am first collection was common with other teams across Devon and therefore this was another step towards convergence in working practises.

RECOMMENDED: that Cabinet agree the new start time for first collections be 6am.

17 **Phase 1 (Growth Zone) mobilisation update**

The Recycling and Waste Contract Manager gave a verbal update on Phase 1 (Growth Zone) mobilisation. Through the temporary Recycling Advisor on the ground feedback from residents was very positive. With the Phase 2 implementation next year the team had drawn up 'lessons learnt' in order to improve the service. Phase 2 would have less day changes and have more of a rebalance between crews and crew morale was up.

18 **Recycling and Waste web-site proposal**

The Board received a report and presentation on the potential for an improved website for recycling and waste allowing better digital communications with residents to enable to push the recycling rate higher. The Board very much supported the need for this, with the ability to display our various communications leaflets digitally and use videos to drive up participation and engagement.

The Board agreed with the need for an improved website presence and the principles set out in the report.

RECOMMENDED to Cabinet that;

the delivery be built into service planning and scoped out with the communications team and Strata.

19 **East Devon video**

Jess Prosser from SUEZ presented a video on what happens to the collected recycling once it reach the recycling depo. It was agreed that the Recycling and Waste Contract Manager would email the video to all Members.

20 **Green waste accounts**

The Recycling and Waste Contract Manager gave the Board a verbal update on the draft green waste accounts.

21 **Composition analysis - verbal update**

The Recycling and Waste Contract Manager gave the Board a verbal update on the Composition analysis. This was a county wide undertaking of composition analysis of what was thrown out in the waste stream (black bins). This was last done in 2017 and gave valuable data. It helped to target materials as the council looked ahead in its service delivery to focus on what could be additionally recycled etc. The data collected would be used in communications with residents.

Attendance List

Board Members:

Councillors present:

G Jung (Chair)

D Bickley

E Rylance (Vice-Chair)

T Wright

M Rixson

Officers present:

G Bourton, Recycling and Waste Contract Manager

A Hancock, Service Lead StreetScene

Suez present:

N Tandy, Principal Commercial Manager

J Gatter, Contract Manager

Councillors also present (for some or all the meeting)

P Arnott

P Faithfull

D Ledger

P Millar

J Rowland

Officers in attendance:

Lou Hodges, Waste Management Officer

Amanda Coombes, Democratic Services Officer

Steve Maclure, Waste Management Officer

Lorraine Tolman, Waste Management Officer

Steve Joyce, Waste Management Officer

Suez representatives in attendance:

Jess Prosser, Recycling Officer

Board Member apologies:

James Pike, Regional Director

John Golding, Strategic Lead Housing, Health and Environment

Chair

Date: