

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Recycling and Waste Partnership Board held at Online via Teams on 12 November 2025

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and ended at 2.59 pm

44 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 July 2025 were agreed as a true record.

45 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

46 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

47 Joint operations and contract report

The Recycling and Waste Service Manager and the SUEZ Contract Manager gave the Board a joint contract and operational update for the second quarter of 2025-26. The contract continued to perform very well over the summer, with crews consistently completing their daily rounds within contractual working hours. As a result, overtime levels remained low, delivering valuable cost savings for EDDC and helping to maintain positive staff morale.

Service performance remained strong, with missed collections and complaints both well within agreed thresholds for the second consecutive quarter. Operationally container delivery requests and assisted missed collections peaked in June and July before returning to normal levels by the end of the quarter. Sickness levels had increased monthly but had been well managed with no impact on collection rounds.

It was reported that James Gatter, Contract Manager had moved elsewhere in SUEZ and was no longer working directly on the contract. Nigel Hinton, Assistant Contract Manager was providing day-to-day support with Matt Canning providing overall contract oversight. Within the EDDC Recycling Team there had also been a departure, resulting in the team working at 50% capacity. The recruitment process was being actively progressed to restore some of the team capacity.

The Board considered material prices, sales revenue and waste flow. It was noted that the recycling rate in quarter one was 61% and in quarter two it was 59.6% (figure not yet validated). There had been a breakdown in the material recycling facility (MRF) during August which resulted in mixed plastics/metals being sent to Avonmouth for processing. This affected income levels. The Environment Agency sampling was running smoothly with recently updated sampling equipment.

The Suez Contract Director, Matt Canning, provided an update on health and safety figures across the period. The number of Safety in Mind conversations had reduced during the summer which was to be expected, however, quality was more important than

quantity of conversations. Sickness rates had risen slightly but were expected to reduce during the next period.

Discussion and responses to questions included the following points:

- Maintaining good staff morale was important during the uncertainty created by local Government reorganisation [LGR];
- Performance thresholds were set at the start of the contract and did not take account of the increase in households, the only exception being the rates for missed collections which were formula based and did take account of the number of households;
- Moving forwards, it was crucial to maintain good rates for materials as this could have a big impact on the budget;
- It would be helpful to have previous years' figures for comparison of rates for materials going forwards;
- Shipping materials to Avonmouth, on occasions when the Greendale plant breaks down, is costly to the Council. An annual capital bid is submitted to support the running of the plant;
- Separation of materials could be improved, particularly following events such as Ottery Tar Barrels which produced a lot of aluminium waste (Streetscene related).

The report was noted.

48 **Performance framework**

The Board noted the performance report which showed performance across the contract. It highlighted eight parts of the contract that officers focused on and allowed officers to look for areas of improvement and put plans in place if necessary. The Recycling and Waste Service Manager highlighted the overall good performance and reported that the contract had never invoked a penalty.

The Chair noted that a neighbour had been complimentary about the service.

It was noted that the partnership working clause in the contract takes precedence over the option for financial penalties.

The report was noted.

49 **Green waste accounts**

The Recycling and Waste Service Manager presented the green waste accounts for quarter 2, 2025-26 to the Board and thanked the accountant for producing them.

It was noted that the service was doing well and the predicted accrual income position for the year was £505,000.

The Recycling and Waste Service Manager agreed to ask the accountant for a detailed breakdown and explanation of the figures, and it was agreed to invite the accountant to attend the next meeting and explain the accruals and forecasting process.

It was also agreed to provide details of the cancellation rates and budgeted figures for comparison going forwards.

It was noted that it was important to celebrate success stories and to feedback positive aspects to ELT, Councillors, residents and the LATCo shareholder committee.

There was discussion regarding the information hangers which would be distributed before Christmas and noted that these would include details of how to recycle batteries.

The report was noted.

50 **Simpler Recycling**

The Recycling and Waste Service Manager updated the Board regarding Simpler Recycling. Green waste narrow access was the largest project and the new vehicle was on order with anticipated delivery in approximately a month. A new web-based interest form for residents would be launched shortly, together with appropriately directed communications. It was hoped to launch the service itself in February.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending.

51 **Additional discussion points**

The Assistant Director Streetscene suggested that future agendas should include an item on demobilisation moving towards the end of the contract in order to monitor the impact to ensure that service performance is not negatively impacted.

The Chair asked Matthew Canning to pass on the Board's thanks to James Gatter for his work.

Regarding the recent trial of recycling nappies, the Recycling and Waste Operations and Projects Officer advised that a funding proposal for submission to Devon County Council was in course of preparation. Use of re-usable nappies should also be encouraged. Participants in the trial had been kept informed at the end of the trial period.

Attendance List

Board Members:

Councillors present:

P Fernley

G Jung (Chair)

M Rixson

M Goodman

Officers present:

Mark Barrow, Interim Director Place

A Hancock, Assistant Director StreetScene

L Hodges, Recycling & Waste - Service Manager

Suez present:
M Canning

Councillors also present (for some or all the meeting)
I Barlow
R Collins
P Faithfull
J Loudoun
E Rylance

Officers in attendance:
Sarah Jenkins, Democratic Services Officer
Steve Maclure, Recycling & Waste - Operations and Projects Officer

Board Member apologies:
John Wrigley
Vincent Masseri
Councillor Richard Jefferies

Chair

Date: