

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Recycling and Waste Partnership Board held at Online via Teams on 28 January 2026

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 10.00 am and ended at 10.45 am

52 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2025 were agreed as a true record.

53 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

54 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

55 Green waste accounts

The accountant was welcomed to the meeting and thanked for producing the green waste accounts, which were presented to the Board. The accountant explained to the Board the accruals and forecasting process. It was noted that the service was doing well and the accrual income position was £1,186,615. Expenses were £685,682 and the predicted profit for the year was £500,933.

In response to a question about non-renewals for the green waste service the Recycling and Waste Contract Manager explained the non-renewals process, which had 3 renewal notifications over 21, 14 and 7 days, followed by a 30-day grace period once the renewal had passed. After this the green bin would be collected by SUEZ. The crews only collected what was on their devices and were very good at reporting anomalies. It was noted that the number of green bin subscriptions remained consistent despite house moves and non-renewals.

The report was noted.

56 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 third quarter of 2025 – 26. The contract continued to perform very well with crews consistently completing their daily rounds. Crews responded well to increased demand, the operational planning proved effective, and service standards were maintained at a high level during one of the most challenging times of year for the service. As expected, recycling and waste tonnages increased significantly in the lead-up to and over the Christmas period, placing the expected additional pressure on the service. Resources were prioritised and managed effectively with no significant service disruption.

There had been no RIDDOR reportable injuries in 2025. Quarter three saw increased near miss reporting, and a reduction in personal injuries and road traffic accidents. In

response to a question about this it was reported that the increase in near misses reported was due to a SUEZ push on this. Near miss reporting was an important metric as it helped to drive down accidents and allowed hazards to be quickly addressed.

The number of properties in the district continued to grow, with an increase of around 550 households. Complaints remained under threshold, which was a reflection of SUEZ's efforts. Recruitment remained steady with overall staffing numbers maintained. There was still support from agency staff, who gradually converted to full time SUEZ employees. Sickness absence had improved over the last quarter (1% for November and December), with the return to work of long-term absence employees. Within the EDDC team the vacant Operations and Projects Officer role was currently being advertised, with a closing date of 1 February 2026.

Material prices remained consistent, with the exception of textiles. The Recycling and Waste Manager explained that the global second textile market was facing challenges and that the contract was not expecting a return from textiles over the next couple of months. The return was generally small so this would have a low impact on the overall material income.

Maintenance activity continued to play a key role in keeping the materials recycling facility (MRF) fully operational and managing the waste flows into the site. Overall performance remained good, with the plant continuing to function. Progress was being made on the adjacent depot lease. One half of the site was now leased and operational, with the second half expected to be completed by 1 March. Following this traffic management plans would be revised, vehicle parking relocated and necessary operational adjustments would be made to the site. These changes would be particularly important in supporting the upcoming Local Authority Trading Company (LATCo) transition.

On behalf of the Board the Chair thanked the Recycling and Waste Manager and the SUEZ Contract Manager for their report.

The report was noted.

57 **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.

In response to a question relating to the number of complaints received about container returns it was reported that all crews received toolbox talks and individual crews could be targeted from complaints. Agency staff were often not as diligent as crew.

The report was noted.

58 **SUEZ demobilisation updates**

The Recycling and Waste Contract Manager gave the Board a brief update on the SUEZ demobilisation. SUEZ had an experienced and dedicated demobilisation manager and continued to be constructive and helpful. Fortnightly demobilisation meetings were in

place. The key workstreams were HR, finance and IT, and various subgroups had been set up.

An important milestone in the process was the TUPE process, which had now commenced. SUEZ had five representatives. A new Managing Director of the LATCo had been appointed and was due to start in February.

The Assistant Director – Streetscene reiterated that SUEZ continued to be great partners and thanked the Contract Manager and his team. He responded in saying that SUEZ were committed to making the LATCo a success once it took the contract on. It was noted that the role of the Recycling and Waste Partnership Board was client management, reviewing performance statistics and service performance. The SUEZ demobilisation would take place through ELT, Cabinet and the Shareholder Committee. Timescales were tight but there was a fantastic team in place.

The update was noted.

59 **Additional discussion point**

The Chair of the Recycling and Waste Partnership Board thanked the crews and those involved in the service for the fantastic recovery efforts during the previous day's flooding. There were initial challenges in getting staff into the depot, but all the rounds were deployed and the crews did everything they could to collect from the properties that they could access. There were around 1000 collections not made, but recollections from these properties had been balanced out where possible. Information was on the Council's website and App messaging was used. Officers were asked to monitor social media and do communications where necessary.

Attendance List

Board Members:

Councillors present:

P Fernley
G Jung (Chair)
M Rixson
T Olive
M Goodman

Officers present:

A Hancock, Assistant Director StreetScene
L Hodges, Recycling & Waste - Service Manager

Suez present:

M Canning

Councillors also present (for some or all the meeting)

R Collins
P Faithfull

Officers in attendance:

John Hudson, Accountant
Alethea Thompson, Democratic Services Officer

Chair

Date: