



Somerset Waste Partnership Annual Report & Business Plan Update

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Purpose of the Report

1. The Somerset Waste Board is required to annually approve a rolling five-year business plan and this report seeks approval to the draft business plan.
2. It also informs members about the changes to how garden waste payments will be taken in future and provides information about delegations that SWP will be seeking from partner authorities to underpin their enforcement capabilities.

Forward Plan

3. This report appeared on the District Executive Forward Plan with an anticipated Committee date of 7th January 2021.

Public Interest

4. This report is to inform the Council of the work that is proposed to develop the waste and recycling functions across the area managed by the Somerset Waste Partnership which includes South Somerset and to seek agreement to the proposals.

Recommendations

5. That the District Executive:
 - a) Approves the draft Business Plan 2020-2021
 - b) Notes the changes to how garden waste payments will be made in 2021, as agreed by the Somerset Waste Board
 - c) Approves the renewal of the delegation of powers required to underpin the SWP's advice, support and enforcement policy.

Background

6. The Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) is responsible for providing waste and recycling services on behalf of all six local authorities in Somerset. The partnership is governed through a Joint Committee known as the Somerset Waste Board (SWB). The SWB Constitution requires the preparation of a Business Plan on an



annual basis. The plan has a five year horizon with particular focus on the next 12 months, and it provides a framework within which the board can make decisions and steer the delivery of waste partnership services. The Board has delegated authority for decision making across all services and therefore must make proposals to the partners on how savings can be made, taking into account any requirements to make savings and proposals on how this can be achieved.

7. The Board's business planning cycle usually requires a draft report to be approved by the Board in December / January and is circulated to partners for comment prior to the adoption of the Board's Annual Budget the following February. Once approved or noted by all partners, the plan will be formally adopted by the Board to provide a framework within which the Board can make decisions and steer the delivery of Waste Partnership services.
8. The update of the business plan focusses on the progress that has been made, and continues to be made, following the procurement of a new collections contractor, the change in waste disposal methodology from landfill to an energy from waste facility and the subsequent implementation of Recycle More, which is planned for introduction in South Somerset in 2020 - 2021.
9. A verbal update / presentation will be made to the cabinet on this aspect of the business.

Report

10. This report introduces the SWP business plan which focusses on delivering the following main outcomes:
 - Delivering excellent services
 - Changing behaviours
 - Tackling climate change
11. These are delivered by the following activities;
 - Waste reduction
 - Promoting Reuse
 - Recycling
 - De-carbonising residual waste
 - De-carbonising operations
 - Tackling non-household waste
 - Working with others
 - Improving the customer experience
 - Supporting wider goals in Somerset
 - And, through enabling activities
12. The business plan also identifies the main challenges and key risks which may impact on the business plan delivery, these include:

- The ongoing impact of Covid-19
 - Resource pressures on the SWP due to introducing the first phase of 'Recycle More'
 - Central Government policy changes in the Resources and Waste strategy
 - Brexit
 - Funding and financial pressures on local authorities
 - The future of local government in Somerset
13. This year the SWP set out to centralise garden waste payments in order to improve customers' experience of the scheme and to remove the need for garden waste stickers – and the work associated around this activity.
14. The change in how the payments are handled will not result in any increase in income to district councils, as demonstrated by the SWP's experience of delivering this for Mendip D.C. in 2020.
15. The change will also retain the customer channels available at present, whilst also enabling customers to sign up via the SWP website at any time, all year round.
16. Although this project has risks, the SWP will oversee this project over the coming months with input from partner I.T. and customer service teams. Section 151 officers have been consulted on the financial changes involved.
17. The SWP are also refreshing the policy on Advice, Support and Enforcement, and look to overcome the technicality currently existing which means that the SWP are unable to issue fixed penalty notices. This is not indicating a change in approach of working with customers to change behaviours, but to offer the alternative approach of being able to take enforcement action against the very small minority who persistently refuse to engage or cooperate with the service.
18. To enable this change to happen, the delegation of these powers by districts is needed.
19. The business plan gives detail on its focus of operations in the action plan contained within the document which is laid out in order of the associated activities.

Financial Implications

20. The SWP's budget will, for the first time, show the costs and income, together, from garden waste subscriptions – although as highlighted earlier this will not affect the partner district's income from this service.
21. The roll out of 'Recycle More' is also scheduled for completion in February 2022. No savings resulting from the new contract will be taken from the SWP by any partner until the roll out costs are fully funded, this offers all partners equality of

return, regardless of their place in the roll out. Savings are expected in 2022/23 with overall savings anticipated at £2m per annum.

22. All partners agreed the capital borrowing to purchase vehicles at a cost of approx. £18m with a further £7m used to fund depot works, equipment and purchasing additional containers. Each partner borrowed £5m on behalf of the SWP at the Public Works Loan Board rate plus 1%, resulting in a £1.8m discount per annum on the collection contract from SUEZ.

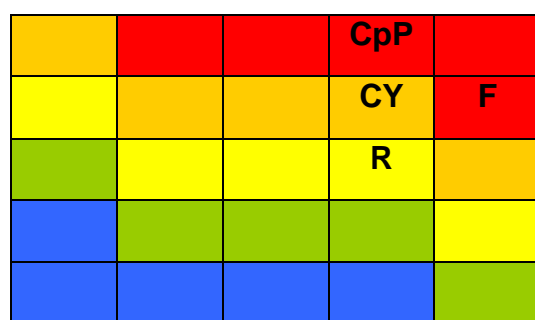
Legal implications and details of Statutory Powers

23. Delegation of statutory powers under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 would provide Somerset County Council (as the administering authority) the power to act on behalf of the SWP on issues relating to domestic and commercial waste offences relating to kerbside collections, recycling centres and duty of care.

Risk Matrix

The risk matrix shows risk relating to the Corporate Plan headings.

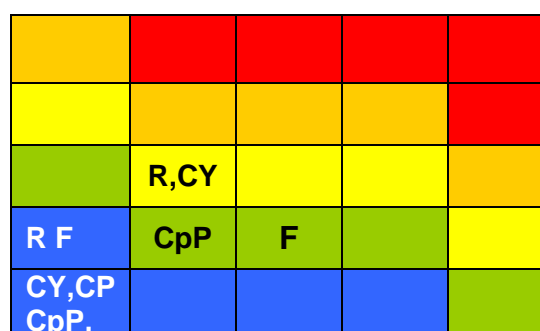
Risk Profile before officer recommendations



Likelihood



Risk Profile after officer recommendations



Likelihood



Key

Categories	Colours (for further detail please refer to Risk management strategy)
R - Reputation	High impact and high probability
CpP - Corporate Plan Priorities	Major impact and major probability
CP - Community Priorities	Moderate impact and moderate probability
CY - Capacity	Minor impact and minor probability
F - Financial	Insignificant impact and insignificant probability



Council Plan Implications

24. The business plan plays a central point in working towards the Councils' aim to keep South Somerset clean, green and attractive and respond to the climate emergency and working in partnership to:

- Promote recycling and minimise waste

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

25. The Business Plan contains a key outcome of 'Tackling Climate Change' under which the actions contained in the plan all contribute towards tackling "greenhouse gas emissions from our own estate and operations and the wider carbon implications.

Equality and Diversity Implications

26. Many of the actions in the business plan relate to the implementation of decisions already taken by the Somerset Waste Board and Equalities Impact Assessments were undertaken at the time.

27. EIA's will be carried out as appropriate as future review and actions arise.

28. The decision to carry out an EIA in most cases will be delegated to the SWP's Managing Director, or if significant, then they will be returned to the Somerset Waste Board prior to commencing development.

Privacy Impact Assessment

29. Personal Data held by the SWP is fundamentally the same as currently managed and used. As technology is developed and used to assess customer behaviour to reduce waste and improve recycling, then impact assessments will need to be carried out by the SWP to ensure compliance with data protection regulations.

Background Papers

- SWP Annual Report and Draft Business Plan – District Executive 20th Jan 2020
 - SWP Business Plan 2019 - 2024
 - SWP Business Plan 2021 – 2026
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