

Appendix A

Joint Waste Scrutiny Panel

Notes of initial meeting held on 1st December 2011

Present

Mendip District Council

Cllr Nick Cottle
Cllr Terry Napper (Substitute member)

Somerset County Council

Cllr John Dyke

South Somerset District Council

Cllr Sue Steele
Cllr Paul Maxwell

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Cllr Robert Bowrah

West Somerset Council

Cllr Jon Freeman
Cllr Richard Lillis
Cllr Martin Dewdney (substitute member)

Steve Read – Managing Director – Somerset Waste Partnership
Emily McGuinness – Scrutiny Manager, South Somerset District Council

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Peter Knibbs (MDC) and John Woodman (SCC)

Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

The members present agreed to appoint Councillor John Dyke as the Chair of the Scrutiny Panel and Richard Lillis as the Vice Chair.

Discussion on the role and remit of the Joint Scrutiny Panel

Members were informed that Sedgemoor District Council had decided not to take part in Joint Scrutiny Panel at this time.

Members were reminded that under current legislation, it is not possible for a formal joint scrutiny committee to be established and this panel is essentially meeting in an informal capacity. The panel was created with the aim of improving **pre-decision scrutiny** of the work of the Somerset Waste Board as well as improving communication amongst non-

board members. It is also anticipated that the panel will allow more effective use of the time of the Waste Partnership staff.

Members stressed that the panel was in no way intended to usurp the scrutiny functions of the individual councils and should be seen as a more effective way to hear the voice of non-board members. It was agreed that it was up to the panel to demonstrate the value they can add to the decision making process of the Somerset Waste Board.

It was agreed that in the first instance, the Joint Panel would look at the Somerset Waste Board's budget proposals for 2012/13. Members were informed that there is a Board meeting scheduled for 16 December, where initial budget proposals will be discussed. A further meeting of the Joint Scrutiny Panel has been arranged for 9 January for a wider consideration of these proposals.

Members of the Joint Scrutiny Panel were encouraged to attend the Board meeting on the 16 December and to use the time before the 9 January to seek the views of their fellow councillors and communities, thus informing the discussion at the next meeting of the Joint Panel.

Members agreed that Steve Read and Martin Gerrish from the Waste Partnership be asked to attend the next meeting on 9 January and that Councillor Derek Yeomans in his capacity as Chair of the Waste Board be invited to attend.

Through their discussions, members identified several issues that they requested be included in a work programme for the informal Scrutiny Panel (it is envisaged that unless needed for a specific issue, the Scrutiny Panel will meet on a 6 monthly basis). Members felt that they, and other members, would benefit from presentations / discussions on the following topics:

- alternatives to Landfill (e.g. Chemical/biological treatment)
- measures that can be taken to improve recycling levels
- the work of the Partnership with the retail sector in terms of reducing packaging
- Flytipping – the real costs involved and what pro-active measures can be taken to reduce levels.