

<h1>BRIEFING</h1>	TO:	South Yorkshire Joint Waste Board
	DATE:	04 December 2023
	LEAD OFFICER:	Lisbeth Baxter BDR Manager Regeneration and Environment 07706796226
	TITLE:	South Yorkshire Municipal Waste Strategy (SYMWS) Review

1. Background

- 1.1** In 2016 the four South Yorkshire authorities worked together to develop a South Yorkshire Municipal Waste Management Strategy that was based on the ambitions of a circular economy. Table 1 below provides a high-level summary of the Key Strategic Priorities (KSP) the actions taken and performance. The baseline performance year of the SYMWS was set as the financial year April 2017 to March 2018.

Table 1

Key strategic priority (KSP)	Action	Outcome
We aim to encourage and inspire children and adults across South Yorkshire to make less waste by reducing, re-using and recycling more.	Increase recycling by 10kg per household by 2021 – end date March 2021	On average this target was achieved in South Yorkshire however as discussed in key issues the pandemic did impact on this.
	Reduce household waste by 2kg per household each year – year on year until December 2021	The pandemic resulted in more waste being generated per household so this target was not achieved
	Deliver a targeted reduce, re-use recycle campaign to at least 100,000 households across South Yorkshire each year – end date December 2021	Several campaigns were delivered during the period of the SYMWS. Many of them focussed on reducing food waste. The majority of these campaigns were delivered online to minimise waste production and due to restrictions on gatherings
	Make available waste education resources for all Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 children in South Yorkshire by October 2018	School resources relevant to each Barnsley Doncaster and Rotherham Council is available on Homepage – BDR Waste

		Partnership (bdronline.co.uk)
	All of our actions, practices, policies, and communications will be reviewed and written to uphold the principles of the waste hierarchy by December 2019	The waste hierarchy principles continue to be at the heart of all communication work and all new contracts require a commitment to apply the waste hierarchy
We will work hard to deliver and maintain a dependable and reliable service to all our customers	Implement, publish, and promote South Yorkshire Waste Customer Charter (SYWCC) by December 2018	
	Have a plan for how South Yorkshire can deliver a standardised service including materials, containers, and collection frequency.	Progress of this was halted until details of new legislative requirements were known.
	Produce and make available a commercial waste guide for businesses across South Yorkshire by March 2019.	Progress of this was halted until details of new legislative requirements were known
	Look at the possibility of a shared waste asset and resource plan by April 2019 to maintain a reliable and user-friendly service for residents	No progress was made on this due to lack of resources.
Our vision is that all four councils will work together more closely to deliver value for money services	Develop and annually review a knowledge bank capturing local and national best practice by December 2018	Knowledge and best practice is disseminated through the Joint Waste Team that meet every six weeks
	Deliver and implement a joint commercial plan which will save the Councils £2 million	No progress was made on a joint commercial plan although the councils have

		their own internal commercial plans.
	Develop a joint calendar of events annually to ensure coverage of emerging best practice and developments in the sector with the least cost.	During the term of the SYMWS events moved from in person to online and many were called at short notice. The BDR team and others in the waste services attended a series of webinars.
	Support an additional 300 Small Medium Enterprises SMEs across South Yorkshire to access appropriate and cost-effective waste services by December 2021,	The pandemic impacted on the delivery of this outcome.
Our vision is to continue exploring how waste technology can be used to improve recycling and waste services.	Real time collection information to be available to customers online	The complexities of integration of IT systems have resulted in this work continuing post the end of the SYMWS
	On-going installation of GPS tracking, state of the art camera systems in-cab technology in 100% of all new and replacement collection vehicles	Procurement of new vehicles has been impacted by uncertainty of legislative requirements. This work is ongoing
	Invest in resources to drive improved use of new and existing technology for both staff and customers e.g., more online support	Digital transformation is ongoing in all authorities with webforms in place for waste management services.
Our vision is to be proactive to influence decision making on waste at a European, national, and local level and to drive investment in infrastructure within South Yorkshire	Lobby central government on emerging waste policies and legislation	The BDRS teams have responded to several key consultation and BDR successfully lobbied government to allow transitional arrangements for food waste collection to the end of the contract term.
	Seek to secure £5 million of external funding and investment for South Yorkshire by 2021 for use in infrastructure projects e.g., Household Waste Recycling Centres	There were no funding streams available to bid for during the term of the SYMWS.

		Provide resources for continuing professional development (CPD) for industry recognised bodies	The BDR Community Liaison and Education Officer (CELO) has provided site tours for Chartered Institute of Waste Management delegates, Environmental Health Officers and Environment Agency Officers that count towards CPD
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2. Key Issues

2.1	<p>Pandemic</p> <p>On 23rd March 2020 the UK Government put the country into lockdown due to the Coronavirus pandemic. UK Citizens were told to work from home where possible, only leave home for essential journeys for example for food, exercise or to collect medicines. Social distancing requirements impacted on the delivery of waste services with some such as garden waste being suspended at various points between March 2020 and 24 February 2022.</p> <p>The requirement for children to be home schooled and the increase in people working from home resulted in a greater level of waste being generated in the home.</p> <p>Resource and Waste Strategy for England 2018</p> <p>The focus on health during this period impacted on the progress of the Resource and Waste Strategy for England. This resulted in uncertainty of what materials would be required to be collected by law, how the introduction of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Deposit Return Schemes (DRS) would interact and what the resulting impact on collections would be.</p> <p>Environment Act 2021</p> <p>The Environment Bill 2019-21 was considered during 22 sittings of the Public Bill Committee between 10 March and 26 November 2020. There was a pause in the Committee's sittings during this period due to Coronavirus pandemic related restrictions. Delays to the progress of the Bill had an adverse impact on the ability to deliver the SYMWS outcomes.</p> <p>Climate Emergency</p> <p>In Autumn 2019 all of the South Yorkshire Councils declared Climate emergencies, delivering waste services that prioritise the waste hierarchy will contribute towards the carbon reduction targets across the region.</p> <p>Service changes</p> <p>Improvement to services were put on hold until the pandemic restrictions were lifted and there was a better understanding of the legislative requirements that would be mandated and funding sources were described. This impacted on the ability of the South Yorkshire Councils to deliver the outcomes as described in the SYMWS.</p>
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Governance

The development and progress of the SYMWS was governed through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and there were regular meetings of the South Yorkshire Waste Program Board (SYWPB), South Yorkshire Waste Steering Group (SYWSG) and working groups of officers.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that Members note the contents of this briefing.