

## **South Yorkshire Waste Partnership Board**

**Thursday 14 March 2024**

Present: Councillor James Higginbotton (Chair), Councillor David Sheppard, Councillor Mark Houlbrook. Also in attendance were Paul Castle, Lisbeth Baxter, Paul Hutchinson, Rhonda Fleetwood. And Neil Townrow

Apologies for absence had been received from Paul Woodcock, Dan Swaine, Matt O'Neill, Sam Barstow, Kellie Hopkins and Huw Russell.

Apologies for Cllr Otten were obtained during the meeting via email from his PA.

### **102. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest made at this meeting.

### **103. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 26 JUNE 2023 AND MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising to consider.

Resolved - That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 June 2023 be approved as a true and correct record of proceedings.

### **104. SOUTH YORKSHIRE MUNICIPAL WASTE STRATEGY**

#### **SYWP Strategy Review**

**Resolved** - That the report be noted.

#### **Timeline of Legislation Changes**

**Resolved** - That the report be noted.

#### **Level or position of Strategy**

Cllr Houlbrook wanted it acknowledged that due to Covid the SYWPS was not able to be progressed during this time.

BB gave a brief overview of the current SYWPS, and work related to the KSP's:

- Impacts on the ability to deliver various KSP's due to the pandemic but acknowledged that a lot of work has been done on education campaigns for food waste minimisation,
- School visits could not be carried out during the pandemic.
- The South Yorkshire customer charter commenced but was then put on hold due to new legislation.
- Councils looked collaboratively at HWRC and the possibility of "super sites", as well as the potential of an MRF across BDRS. Due to factors including a lack of staff resources and funding availability,

coupled with no direction from central government, this was put on hold.

- Looked at a knowledge bank and we have a SharePoint system where information can be accessed by the councils
- BDRS JWT meetings every 6 weeks.
- Looked at a joint commercial plan, but due to each council having their own no progress was made.
- Looked at a joint calendar of events but finding more education through webinars since the pandemic.
- Did not support any SMEs due to the pandemic as a lot of businesses closed down and some did not reopen.
- Looked at waste technology to increase recycling and IT services, but contracts have changed over this time.
- Procurement of vehicles was an issue as no direction on collections so put on hold.
- Digital services, RMBC has done a lot of work on this and, hopefully, should be delivering next few months.
- Looked to deliver VFM but some differences were seen around this. Successfully retendered the HWRC contract and investment made as part of this.
- Site tours were conducted at the site for CIWM and EA.

Discussions were held around the agreement needed on the direction of how the SYMWS should be reviewed and updated going forward, considering that legislation has been delayed i.e. Environment Act and the current strategy is out of date due to considerable changes in the waste environment since the original version was created. Many councils are changing the way they deliver waste services, with an emphasis on reducing waste, increasing recycling, and sustainability, but it needs to be acknowledged that each council has differences around its own service needs, so the ability to standardise these has proved to be difficult.

All acknowledged the fact we are waiting for legislation from the government and that elections are coming up, but that we do have common ground around environmental and sustainability plans and have waste embedded in these, but it is not helpful when councils are unable to make decisions as a partnership.

Cllr Houlbrook suggested drafting a letter to Defra lobbying the government on issues with legislation changes delayed.

BB – Will review all the council's climate change actions and what is specific to waste to then present a report to the Steering Committee. Agreed that a letter to Defra is pertinent and timely as having attended a recent network group meeting with Defra there are a lot of challenges for councils and Defra have asked councils to email them any questions they may have, but we can also formalise in a letter to the current secretary of state for environment and again after the election.

All agreed SYWSP should be updated using the council's environmental and climate change plans, and how these plans aspirations can be by the SYMWS. Using principles of these plans rather than specific actions will, for each council allow them to then be able to shape their service to meet

these corporate plans. Will also prevent a specific SYMWP from requiring constant updating as waste legislation changes.

**Action** – The 4 councils are to look at developing a South Yorkshire Waste Strategy with guiding principles based on existing KSP's along with each council's environmental and climate change plans.

**Action** – Letter drafted to Defra lobbying legislation delayed.

**Action** – BB to review all the council's climate change and sustainability action plans and collate what is specific/pertinent to waste to create a new supporting SYMWS and present a report to the Steering Committee for further development.

#### **105. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business to consider.

#### **106. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on 2 July 2024 at 9.30am at Rotherham Town Hall.