

South Yorkshire Waste Partnership Board
Tuesday 24 June 2025

Present: Councillor James Higginbottom (Chair), Councillor Lynda Marshall, Councillor James Church and Councillor Joe Otten. Also in attendance were Paul Castle, Sam Barstow, Kellie Hopkins, Paul Hutchinson, Rhonda Fletcher, Carl Hewlett, Neil Townrow and Huw Russell.

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Glynn Jones, Matt O'Neill and Dan Swaine.

102. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made at this meeting.

103. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON AND MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising to consider.

Resolved - That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 March 2025 be approved as a true and correct record of proceedings.

104. Meeting Frequency New 2025/26

PH previously reported the rationale for reviewing frequency of all BDR meetings to align frequencies and prevent log-jams. New timetable brought in for 25/26 financial year. SY/BDR JWB meetings now take place three times a year, and in the afternoons to meet needs of participants.

Resolved - All agree that the new frequency of meetings is a more effective and efficient method of working.

105. SY Joint Working
South Yorkshire Municipal Waste Strategy

Consideration was given to the report presented by the BDR Manager, which had been circulated as part of the agenda. PH gave a brief overview of the SYMWS.

Cllr JH thanked PH for the work that has gone into the waste strategy and asked if there were any comments.

SB has discussed with Cllr LM and current version is now more helpful in supporting the council objectives. They will now need to take it back internally to have further political discussions to confirm if it aligns to RMBC's ambitions and report back before future meeting. If adopted, it would be taken through the relevant cabinet processes.

Cllr JO happy in principle to work with the other councils, due to upcoming changes with waste collections so sees this as an opportunity to mark that occasion with a statement or vision of how this might be done across the wider S Y, i.e. plastics/tetra paks.

Cllr JH, in his opinion, the approach set out is the correct one for high-level strategic alignment, without tying individual Councils to specific actions that may not align fully or be contradictory to strategic aims. The document enables us to align/retain principles of waste management that should compliment council policies at a local

level. Taking SB's point, following on from further internal political discussions, the next step would be to take this back through each council's approval processes for feedback and direction that allows all to have input and sign up to the strategy.

Resolved – All are happy with the strategy, which will require further political discussion and input to then allow all to align and then PH will update draft for all to be able to agree, which will then be taken to Steering Committee and then through the council approvals process.

106 Portfolio Updates

- **BMBC**

Cllr JH continued to embed quality and safety standards for workforce and residents, not been straightforward but has made good progress and in terms of wider waste and recycling, recently through EPR removed charge for replacements for brown and blue bins to improve recycling rates and ties into the £3m investment put into the service.

- **CoDC**

KH has a fairly steady service.

In April 2025, they rolled out a collection service to include pots, tubs and trays, which has been well received locally. They don't know the impact on recycling rates as yet but should know by next quarter.

Also agreed 2-year extensions with Suez, so will be starting work on a contract procurement exercise ready for 2028.

- **RMBC**

SB 4 key issues to update on:

Have had delivery of all new vehicles off the line, and Cllr LM visited the factory in Worksop.

They are continuing their route optimisation and delivering these in the coming months.

Work on in-sourcing HWRC's by 2027 has begun.

A report has been taken to cabinet regarding changes to waste collection policies regarding contamination, based on CODC's campaign.

- **SCC**

NT has had ongoing strikes since August 2024, due to an inter-union dispute with Veolia, who have a longstanding agreement with GMB.

Bring sites remain closed, some disruption to service initially at the start of strikes but are now on schedule with weekend working and overtime.

In April Unite had mass protests at site, Veolia went to Court on Friday and have taken an injunction against Unite demonstrators, which Unite have taken to arbitration but has no case to answer. More dialogue is taking place between Veolia and the unions.

Going to their committee in September to approve new changes to introduce pots, tubs and trays and aerosols into the brown bin and looking to address the lack of capacity for paper/card bin.

Have the first underground bin systems set up and are sorting out the collection vehicles for this.

Waste strategy SCC not had input into this so far but will provide drafting of wording to PH to include.

107 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to consider.

108 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 7 October 2025 at 1.30pm in Rotherham Town Hall.