

SOUTH LONDON WASTE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE  
18 JUNE 2019

(6.30 pm - 7.05 pm)

PRESENT

**London Borough of Croydon**

Councillor Stuart Collins – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member  
for Clean Green Croydon

Councillor Stuart King – Cabinet Member for Environment,  
Transport and Regeneration

**Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames**

Councillor Hilary Gander – Portfolio Holder for Environment and  
Sustainable Transport

**London Borough of Merton**

Councillor Mark Allison – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member  
for Finance

**London Borough of Sutton**

Councillor Ben Andrew – Vice-Chair of the Environment and  
Neighbourhood Committee

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR 2019/20 (Agenda Item 1)

Councillor Hilary Gander motioned that Councillor Stuart Collins be nominated as  
Chair of the Committee for 2019/20.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Mark Allison.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Stuart Collins be elected as Chair of the South London  
Waste Partnership for 2019/20.

Councillor Mark Allison motioned that Councillor Hilary Gander be nominated as  
Vice-Chair of the Committee for 2019/20.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Andrew.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Hilary Gander be elected as the Vice-Chair of the South  
London Waste Partnership for 2019/20.

2 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (Agenda Item 2)

The Chair welcomed all those present.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 3)

Apologies were received from Councillors Tobin Byers, Manuel Abellan and Liz  
Green. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Stuart King.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda Item 4)

There were no declarations of interest.

## 5 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 5)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 April 2019 were signed and agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

## 6 SLWP CONTRACT MANAGEMENT REPORT (Agenda Item 6)

The Contract Manager presented the report.

It was highlighted under Contract 1:

- 118,000 tonnes of residual waste had been managed through Contract 1 with 90,000 tonnes managed through Phase B.
- There had been a 3.88% reduction in residual waste compared to the previous year, giving the Partnership a combined saving of £900,000.

Contract 2:

- All HRRCs were currently achieving an above 80% satisfaction rate.
- There had been an increase in visitors over the Easter holiday period however 84% had experienced a wait of less than 5 minutes to enter their site.
- The contract is operating effectively.
- All sites are experiencing a reduction in recycling rates and a review has recently been completed assessing this. The main issue remains with mattresses and rigid plastics.
- The Contractor is currently looking at ways to improve recycling including separation of soil from aggregates.

Contract 3 was operating well with no issues.

In relation to the ERF (Energy Recovery Facility) this had now passed all acceptance tests and as of March 2019 the partnership had moved into full services. Viridor would now continue to undertake wider takeover tests. The forecasted takeover date was now Summer 2019, although this was later than originally forecast there were no technical or process issues to report.

The Contract Manager advised that over the financial year 2018/19, the partnership saved £4.5million in disposal costs through the original ERF commissioning phase, £2million in the extended commissioning phase and £900,000 from waste reduction measures implemented at the kerbside. This gave the partnership a combined saving of £7.4million compared to the previous year.

Members advised that they had undertaken a workshop session prior to the committee meeting and that they would be undertaking a further workshop to look at re-use shops at HRRCs (Household Re-Use and Recycling Centres) including re-use of items collected through the bulky waste collection services.

In response to a question from a member, the Contract Manager advised that currently rigid plastics and mattresses from the HRRCs were segregated so tonnages could be monitored. These two materials are currently being processed through the 2012 residual waste treatment contract through the ERF.

RESOLVED: That the Committee noted the contents of the report and commented on any aspects of the performance of the Partnership's Phase A and B contracts.

## 7 COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT (Agenda Item 7)

The Communications Advisor presented the report which gave an overview of the activity from April to June 2019. Good progress was being made on the Destination Recycling Film which aimed to inform and reassure residents about what happened to recycling once it was collected. The film was expected to be complete within the following 2-3 weeks after the meeting and would be shown to the members at the next meeting in September 2019. A targeted social media campaign, that will raise awareness of the film and drive traffic to it, is planned for the summer 2019.

A number of work streams were ongoing including the promotion of the garden waste collection service and continuation of Household Reuse and Recycling Centre customer satisfaction surveys, the results of which were published on the SLWP website.

Viridor were holding an open day at the Beddington Landfill site on Thursday 20 June 2019 and at the time of the Committee there had been 37 visitors registered to attend and 50 further who had expressed interest which would take the event over capacity. A further date would therefore be added for July to meet this demand. The focus of the open day would be on the restoration work to Beddington Farmlands. Information about the restoration would also be placed in the new bird hides around the site which would be accessible once the permissive footpath reopened in July 2019.

The Beddington Energy Recovery Facility Virtual Visitors Centre was now live and once takeover was complete, videos taken from within the Beddington facility would be added to the site.

Emissions monitoring data continued to be published on the Virtual Visitors Centre twice monthly. There had been no exceedance of any of the levels during May 2019.

The construction of the education centre was also nearing completion.

The Communications Lead noted that a statement had been published by the Partnership responding to questions about radioactive waste being treated at the Beddington ERF. The Communications Lead reiterated that the facility is not permitted to receive or treat radioactive waste.

In relation to social research to be undertaken, the 4<sup>th</sup> triennial residents survey was to be commissioned this year. The contract for this would be awarded by the end of

June, with surveys completed in July and the findings produced at the end of August 2019.

Since publication of the report, the Communications lead advised members that the Boroughs had submitted a funding bid for food recycling awareness activities which would take place in October 2019 should the bid be successful.

Members provided positive feedback on the Virtual Visitors Centre and requested further information to be provided in the future regarding the energy network provided through the ERF.

In response to a question regarding the incidences of exceedances of emissions limits values at the Beddington ERF, the Communications Lead advised that there had been two short-term exceedances of carbon monoxide which had been reported to the Environment Agency as is required within the permit. These exceedances had taken place in March and April respectively. The first in March had been a direct result of one of the commissioning tests and the one in April by inhomogeneous waste.

Members requested further emissions comparators; to help put the emissions produced by the ERF in some wider context. The Communications Lead provided some examples that he had developed in liaison with the National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (based on their 2017 estimates):

Bonfire Night celebrations (on and around 5th November) release 10 times more dioxins into the atmosphere than all the UK's 40 plus energy from waste (EfW) plants do during an entire year (EfW plants contribute 0.40% of the UK's total dioxin emissions compared with 3.8% from bonfire night celebrations alone\*)

Almost a third (32%) of the UK's Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) emissions are produced by us driving our cars, vans and lorries. In comparison, all the UK's 40+ energy from waste (EfW) facilities combined only produce 1.2% of the NOx emissions dealing with all our non-recyclable rubbish.\*

Domestic wood burning stoves and open fires produce 570 times more particulate emissions each year than all the UK's 40+ energy from waste (EfW) plants combined. EfW plants produce 0.04% of UK particulates (PM10 and PM2.5), compared with 23% from domestic wood burners\*

The Communications Lead explained that these were informed estimates that came from the National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory; a government-funded and highly respected source. The Communications Lead noted that the next stage was to develop emissions comparators specific to the Beddington ERF.

Members thanked the Communications lead for his hard work.

RESOLVED: That the Committee noted the contents of the report and commented on any aspects of communications and engagement activities relating to the Phase A and Phase B contracts.

8 SOUTH LONDON WASTE PARTNERSHIP BUDGET OUTTURN 2018/19  
(Agenda Item 8)

The Finance Lead presented the report and advised that the final outturn position for the year was for a £32,880 underspend, an increase of £10k from the position reported at the 2 April committee.

RESOLVED: That the report was noted.

9 SOUTH LONDON WASTE PARTNERSHIP BUDGET UPDATE MONTH 2  
2019/20 (Agenda Item 9)

The Finance Lead presented the report, advising that the Partnership's Budget forecast at month 2 was projecting an underspend of £30,350 for the year, which equated to £7,588 per Borough.

RESOLVED: That the report was noted.

10 RISK REPORT (Agenda Item 10)

The Strategic Partnership Manager presented the report and gave an overview of the main risks detailed within the report, advising that all risks were being closely monitored. The Committee noted that the potential impact of Brexit was also being assessed and closely monitored.

11 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING (Agenda Item 11)

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 17 September 2019 at 6.30pm at Croydon Council.