

North Somerset Council

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE ORGANISATION POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE OF MEETING: 5 NOVEMBER 2019

SUBJECT OF REPORT: RECYCLING & WASTE SERVICES CONTRACT

TOWN OR PARISH: DISTRICT WIDE

OFFICER/MEMBER PRESENTING: COLIN RUSSELL, RECYCLING & WASTE SERVICE MANAGER

KEY DECISION: NO

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Panel notes the contents of this report which provides an update on the recycling and waste contract which has been in operation for two and a half years. The report further details the overall performance of the contract to date, provides a summary of the West of England joint procurement for a non-landfill residual waste contract post 1 April 2020 and provides an overview of the matters considered by the Waste Steering Group on 1 October 2019.

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report provides an overview of the recycling and waste contract since the last CCO Scrutiny Panel in January 2019

The report details the high-level of performance achieved by North Somerset Council through a reduction in residual waste collected, less waste sent to landfill and an improving recycling rate at the recycling centres.

The report provides an update on the WoE non-landfill residual waste contract which commences on 1 April 2020.

Finally, the report provides an overview of other matters considered by the Waste Steering Group on 1 October 2019

2. POLICY

- 2.1 One of the aims of the Council's Corporate Plan is to protect and improve the environment. A key priority included within this is to reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill
- 2.2 The Municipal Waste Strategy 2013-17 was approved and adopted by Council in February 2013. This Strategy is in the process of being updated.
- 2.3 One of the shared priorities in North Somerset Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy is 'living within environmental limits'. One of the aims of this priority is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and reducing landfill is a key component of this.
- 2.4 The Climate Change Emergency declaration will require further carbon reduction measures to be introduced for recycling and waste collection and this will form an integral part within the emerging policy. This will include the need to further reduce waste, improve reuse and recycling, and to divert any residual waste from landfill.
- 2.5 The Corporate Plan is in the process of being updated and reference to this will be provided in future reports.

3. DETAILS

- 3.1 The new recycling and waste contract commenced on 1st March 2017. There have been some performance issues, notably during the summer of 2019 for this reporting period. The service to residents has now settled down and is providing a consistently good performance albeit, there are still improvements to be made.
- 3.2 The headline improvements to the service since summer, has seen a huge reduction in missed collections, a reduction in the level of escalations and less calls and complaints to the contact centre and waste management.
Although there has been a measurable improvement, it is recognised there is still a lot of work to be done to get the service to the level both North Somerset and Biffa expect and there is a program in place to ensure that these improvements continue.

3.4 Other headline figures, which are measured against national indicators, also show the service is on or exceeding targets for residual household waste per household (NI 191), percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting and percentage of municipal waste sent to landfill. The indicators are shown below:

NI191: Residual Household Waste per Household

This figure shows the residual waste collected per household and is a good indicator to show if residents are reducing the amount of waste produced and placed out for collection. Prevention is at the top of the waste hierarchy which sets out to ensure efficient use of resources. This figure shows improvement compared to last year.

Q1 2018/19	Q2 2018/19	Q3 2018/19	Q4 2018/19	Total For 2018/19	Target 2018/19	Q1 2019/20	Q2 2019/20	Q3 2019/20	Total 2019/20
10,928.70	9,890.63	9,917.92	10,295.94	41,033.20		9,760.73	9,805.55	-	19,566.29
95,400.00	95,400.00	95,400.00	95,400.00	95,400.00		96,130.00	96,130.00	96,130.00	96,130.00
114.56	103.68	103.96	107.92	430.12	460.00	101.54	102.00	-	203.54

NI192: Percentage HH waste sent for Reuse, Recycling or Composting

This figure shows the percentage recycling achieved and is an improvement over the same period for last year. This includes garden waste so the quarterly figure will reduce for the next two periods.

The 63% for the first 6 months places North Somerset as third best Unitary Authority for recycling in England.

Q1 2018/19	Q2 2018/19	Q3 2018/19	Q4 2018/19	Total For 2018/19	Target 2018/19	Q1 2019/20	Q2 2019/20	Q3 2019/20	Total 2019/20
17,662.85	14,944.03	13,200.93	12,387.67	58,195.47		16,720.73	16,650.41	-	33,371.13
28,591.55	24,834.66	23,118.85	22,658.96	99,204.02		26,481.46	26,455.96	-	52,937.42
61.78%	60.17%	57.10%	54.7%	58.66%	58%	63.14%	62.94%	-	63.04%

NI193: Percentage of Municipal Waste Sent to Landfill

There has been a reduction in waste sent to landfill, primarily due to the increased use of New Earth Solutions in Avonmouth, who treat this waste using a process known as Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT). This mechanically separates some metals from the waste and then biologically treats the organic fraction, through a composting process, making a compost like output. The remainder of the waste (which is the largest percentage of input) is turned into refuse derived fuel and exported for use in Energy from Waste plants.

This contract ends on 31 March 2020 and all kerbside collected waste will be sent to Energy from Waste facilities in Avonmouth resulting in zero waste to landfill for these collections.

Q1 2018/19	Q2 2018/19	Q3 2018/19	Q4 2018/19	Total For 2018/19	Target 2018/19	Q1 2019/20	Q2 2019/20	Q3 2019/20	Total 2019/20
6,488.77	6,251.27	5,847.45	6,048.44	24,635.93		4,275.79	4,565.97	-	8,841.77
29,385.18	25,675.75	23,679.64	23,385.14	102,125.71		27,465.19	27,140.51	-	54,605.70
22.1%	24.3%	24.7%	25.9%	24.1%	24%	15.57%	16.82%	-	16.19%

3.5 Carbon Saving Index

The 2017/18 recycling carbon saving index report, produced by Eunomia, has just been released. The measure calculates the embedded carbon within the recycling material collected divided by the population and is a good alternative indicator, rather than recycling rate. The report shows North Somerset as a 'high flyer' being the 5th highest English Authority.

3.6 Kerbside collections

Despite housing growth, there has been a slight reduction in residual waste and an increase in recycling and food waste so far this year when compared to 2018/19.

KERBSIDE - Month 6 (September)	2018/19	2019/20	2019/20 - 2018/19	2019/20 - 2018/19 %
Garden	9,098	10,382	1,284	14.1%
Green box				
Glass	2,632	2,805	172	6.5%
Paper & Cardboard	4,304	4,226	-78	-1.8%
Aluminium	384	391	6	1.7%
Plastics	1,199	1,499	300	25.0%
Textiles	55	36	-19	-34.8%
Batteries & Small WEEE	25	26	0	1.5%
Recycling	8,601	8,983	382	4.4%
Food	3,295	3,354	59	1.8%
Residual	14,402	14,397	-5	0.0%
% recycled	59.3%	61.2%		
% recycled (exc. Green)	45.2%	46.1%		

3.7 Household waste recycling centres

Residual waste to these sites has substantially reduced when compared to previous year. The recycling rate has also reduced.

HWRC - Month 6 (September)	2018/19	2019/20	2019/20 - 2018/19	2019/20 - 2018/19 %
Garden	2,951	2,908	-43	-1.5%
HWRC Dry Recycling				
Scrap Metal	903	938	35	3.9%
Wood	3,578	2,950	-629	-17.6%
WEEE Items	647	647	0	0.0%
Fridges & Freezers	143	131	-12	-8.3%
Paper & Cardboard	682	659	-23	-3.3%
Other HWRC	342	220	-121	-35.5%
Recycling	6,294	5,545	-750	-11.9%
Residual	6,304	4,792	-1,511	-24.0%
% recycled	59.5%	63.8%		
% recycled (exc. Green)	50.0%	53.6%		

3.8 The award of contracts for the West of England non-landfill residual waste have now been made and commence on 1 April 2020.

The contracts will see kerbside collected residual waste being delivered to one of two Energy from Waste plants in Avonmouth resulting in zero kerbside collected waste being sent to landfill from that time.

The departure from the New Earth Solutions MBT plant in Avonmouth may have a negative impact on the overall recycling rate collected at kerbside, as some material is presently recycled through this MBT process either as individual streams or from 'compost like output' which is the output from the biological treatment of the organic waste. This output material is used for landfill or quarry restoration. The use of Avonmouth will greatly reduce carbon output as the MBT plant currently exports refuse derived fuel

Residual waste from one of the three North Somerset Household Recycling Centres will be delivered to a newly refurbished treatment site at Ashton Gate where 80% of the material will either be recycled or converted into a refuse derived fuel. Traditionally waste from recycling centres has been difficult to recycle or treat due to the bulky nature of the material. At the present time there is no recycling from this residual waste. The will change with the new arrangement and will help counteract any recycling percentage reductions seen from kerbside.

The departure

Subject to approval, the new contracts will commence on 1 April 2020 and will include residual (black bag) waste from kerbside collections together with waste from

the household waste recycling centres. The arrangement will significantly reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill.

3.9 Other items discussed at the Waste Steering Group

In addition to the items above, the group met on 1 October and discussed the following:

- **Campaigns** for engagement with residents and to continue encouraging residents to separate recycling and assist speed of the crew. Trials have taken place at Haywood Village and has resulted in increased kerb side sorting of boxes and a reduction in time for the crew to empty them. There was good use of nudge techniques, social media and engagement with residents and Cllrs., and further work is required on how future campaigns can be facilitated through increased communications.
- **Waste analysis** is being undertaken at kerbside collections and communal properties to understand the demographics and to assist movement with increasing recycling and food waste collection rates. The results will be reported back at the next meeting.
- **Planning process**, which requires greater consideration to be made of recycling and waste collections during the planning process. A planning colleague will be invited to the next meeting and discussions will include:
 - Ensuring sufficient width of road for large vehicles to pass and manoeuvre.
 - Condition of roads when collections commence as some are unfinished and have raised covers.
 - Policy review regarding developer requirements at planning stage for holding a supply of containers and service leaflets for residents at new developments.
- **Fly-tipping** and an update on the work being carried out to deal with fly-tipping was noted. This work included:
 - 30 investigations, 9 interviews under caution, Fixed penalty notices and warning letters issued.
 - The purchase of 4 portable covert cameras.
- **Visits by Cllrs** will be arranged to:
 - Biffa transfer station
 - West of England new contract site visits
 - Recycling crew visits within Cllrs own Ward.

4. CONSULTATION

The Waste Management Team has worked in close consultation with the Waste Scrutiny Steering Group and the CCO Policy and Scrutiny Panel and will continue to do so throughout the term of this contract.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The contract includes mechanisms to increase reuse and recycling and reduce waste.

6. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

An equality impact assessment was completed prior to approval of the North Somerset Municipal Waste Strategy.

7. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

The reduction in waste sent to landfill will have significant implications for the council's service delivery, both in terms of reputation and mitigation of financial penalties.

AUTHOR

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Award of Contract for Recycling and Waste collection and Household Waste Recycling Centres – report to Council on 19th July 2016
- Briefing to Councillors from the Executive Member for Environment on 21st February 2017