

Alliance Environmental Services Ltd (AES)
Minutes of Board Meeting
Monday 4th December, 11am, Via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Cllr Arthur Moran, Chairman	AM
Kevin Melling, Managing Director	KM
Melanie Henniker, Director HR & Corporate Services	MH
Mark Trillo, Executive Director AES	MT
Andrew Stokes, Chief Exec SM&HP/Director AES	AS

Other:

Martin Sollis, General Business Manager	MS
Dave Kearton, Transport Manager (Part)	DK
Jade Barber (Minutes)	JB

Apologies Received:

Jane Thomason, Deputy Managing Director	JT
Tracy Baldwin, Group Finance Manager	TB

Agenda Item	Notes	Action
1.	AM chaired the meeting throughout. AM reported that due notice of the meeting had been given and that a quorum was present. Accordingly, he declared the meeting open.	
2.	Declaration of Conflict of Interest None declared at this meeting.	
3.	3.1 Minutes of meeting held on 20th October 2023 and Matters Arising The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting. KM noted that nationally all Pay Awards have been settled and are in line with what was previously implemented by AES.	
4.	Transport Managers Presentation w/M Solis & D Kearton DK and MS reviewed the Fleet Presentation as previously circulated to Board. Since the last presentation in June, DK noted that; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All transport managers and relevant team have attended the annual Transport Manager conference, ran by Logistics UK • 9 new vehicles have been delivered. • 3 Care Link 4x4s have been ordered, no delivery date as yet. • Driving Licence Checks are in process. Most drivers are now signed up to the new Licence Bureau, down to the last small group of people to be signed up. All HGV License drivers must be checked every quarter, any other driver needs an annual check. At the Fowlchurch Depot, there has been; Q1 - HGV – 25 Service/Inspections + 1 MOT. LGV – 16 Service/Inspections	

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	<p>Q2 - HGV - 34 Service/Inspections + 4 MOT's, 2 MOT Failures, LGV – 20 Service/Inspections + 3 MOT's.</p> <p>At the Waterswallows Depot, there has been; Q1 – HGV – 30 Service/Inspections + 5 MOT's, LGV – 33 Service/Inspections + 4 MOT's Q2 - HGV – 32 Service/Inspections + 5 MOT's, LGV – 36 Service/Inspections + 9 MOT's</p>	
5.	<p>Operational Update <u>Operations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leek TFS Closure at end of October was a dress rehearsal for the longer closure planned for January to April. It identified a small number of operational issues which we have now put contingencies in place. • Christmas Light Switch On's went well in both SMDC & HPBC locations. The team received some very good positive coverage in Leek on Social Media. • The Mowers that caused a number of issues in the Glossop area have been returned to the dealer for assessment and necessary repairs etc. Hopefully this will resolve the issue in preparation for the start of next season. <p><u>Reviewed households in receipt of specialist waste collections:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 800 households no longer require assisted collections. 2. 150 households no longer require clinical waste service (High Peak) 3. 72 properties no longer require sack collections. 4. 50% of households surveyed in a pilot review of larger bins no longer qualified. AES swapped their bins for a standard bin. Authorised larger bins will be stickered – allowing easier visibility, reporting & review of others. <p><u>Best value review of Bulky Waste</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AES reviewed its bulky waste service to mitigate a potential cost increase. • AES will take this back in house from Q4 using staff freed up by the reviews, increasing efficiency, avoiding cost and offering best value. <p><u>Bereavement Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer of Bereavement Services to AES/Orbitas has gone smoothly with no major issues reported. • Memorial Testing – before testing can take place a Faculty Notice must be in place with the relevant Diocese (Derbyshire, Lichfield & Chester). Work is underway with applications being submitted and notices being placed in the Cemeteries. It is hope that inspections can start early in the New Year. • Replacement bench for Leek 'Old' Cemetery has been installed following a request from Cllr Atkins. <p><u>Depots</u> Fowlchurch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconfigure the Fowlchurch depot layout to support Simpler Recycling service changes & improve safety, efficiency & sustainability including increased parking & welfare provision for additional staff required for weekly food waste collections. • 5 commercial units to be added at the front of the site to deliver economic benefits & contribute towards costs. • Indicative costs of £6-7M with a business case to be developed for inclusion in the Medium-Term Financial Plan from 2024/25 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner and Assets to review if any funds can be repurposed to develop the project to Planning Approval stage (subject to supporting phased business case development) • Simpler Recycling may offer some supporting funding from central government if considered 'reasonable' as part of new burden funding. <p><u>High Peak Parabas Options (October 2023)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocate HPBC's depot from Surrey Street in Glossop to an industrial location within the town and realise the residential value of the site. • Consolidate HPBC's Waterswallows and Silverlands operations to a new site if it is not possible to either acquire the Waterswallows freehold or additional land to the north of the site. • Explore consolidation of HPBC's operations at Waterswallows if able to acquire the freehold interest in the depot site and acquire sufficient adjacent land. • Carry out feasibility study into integrating DCC 's operations with those of HPBC in a new (or extended) site at Waterswallows. <p><u>Communications</u> Contamination Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After identifying 4500 contaminated bins (April to August), new contamination tags & leaflets were developed. • AES doorstepping teams engaged with residents to tackle contamination distributing 13,000 leaflets & completing 200 surveys over 4 weeks. AS if it was still the case that contamination is higher in High Peak when compared to Staffordshire Moorlands – MS confirmed this was correct, and although only slightly higher, work is ongoing in order to tackle this. • Reduction of 41% in number of bins reported by crews in SM and 50% reduction in HP. • Team attended COP 28 two weeks ago which was very well attended, and the stand received a lot of attention due to a VR Headset which was an interactive video of an MRF. 	
6.	<p>Waste and Strategy Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 21 October 2023 DEFRA published its response to the 2021 consultation on consistency in household and business recycling in England. This is now referred to as Simpler Recycling. English local authorities must collect the same recyclable waste streams for recycling or composting from households. Recyclable waste streams include paper and card, plastic, glass, metal, food waste, and garden waste. Guidance to include expectation of fortnightly residual waste collections subject to further consultation. • English non-domestic premises (such as businesses, schools and hospitals) must arrange to have the same set of recyclable waste streams collected (except garden waste) for recycling or composting by 31/3/25. • By 31/3/25 Statutory Comingled Recycling & Separate Food Waste for businesses and non-domestic premises (where they employ over 10 FTEs) • By 31/3/26 Statutory Comingled Recycling • By 31/3/26 Statutory Separate Weekly Food Waste collections for all households 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 31/3/27 Statutory Plastic Film collection for all households and non-domestic premises. By 31/3/27 Statutory Comingled Recycling & Separate Food Waste for micros businesses • ‘New burdens’ funding will be provided by Central Government to cover capital, transitional and initial operating costs. The funding will be provided via Section 31 grants, with payment levels detailed in letters due to be sent to each Local Authority. Funding aims to cover reasonable costs however this may not be full reimbursement for all expenditures. There may therefore be a funding gap. • Significant opportunity for LA’s that currently do not charge for Garden waste to now do so. • Public and employee engagement around the changes will be needed including targeting of ‘hard to reach’ groups such as flats which may require significant planning and resources. • The government seeks the inclusion of plastic film in dry recycling collections from 31/3/2027. This is a challenge for many Material Recovery Facilities as film snags in their machines and causes breakdowns. AES &/or the Waste Disposal Authority will need to consult with its suppliers and consider this as part of future contract negotiations. • Potential commercial opportunities arise from the new duty for non-domestic premises, businesses and micro-businesses to recycle a standard set of materials, however the launch dates range from March 2025 to March 2027 and are not all aligned with domestic premises target dates. This may make it more difficult to capitalise on these opportunities as it may lose some economies of scale. • Potential lower basket of goods income as residents may be encouraged to return some items to retail sites as part of Deposit Return Scheme • Extended Producer Responsibilities still to be fully defined. • Further statutory guidance yet to be published – together with funding information. There will need to be a phased approach with SMDC and HPBC 	
7.	<p>Any Other Business No other business was reported at this meeting.</p>	

**The Meeting closed at 12.30.
Next Meeting TBC**