

## **Current issues on Waste**

### **Purpose of Report**

To inform members of three current issue areas on waste policy and practice and seek direction on the LGA role and next steps.

### **Summary**

This paper is divided into two parts and provides a summary of current issues on: improving efficiency of waste services and waste and recycling; collection including the collection of kerbside recycling; and new funding to encourage weekly waste collection.

Members will receive presentations from the Chartered Institute of Waste Management (CIWM) and Improvement and Efficiency South East (iESE).

### **Recommendations**

The Board is recommended to use the information in **Part 1** to inform their discussion with the invited presenters.

In **Part 2** the Board is asked to take a position on:

1. Whether the LGA should seek a coordinating role on a support offer for the sector to facilitate the successful delivery of the £250 million weekly collection fund?
2. Whether, and in what form, LGA officers should undertake any additional work to help councils to access these funds?
3. Identify the possible risks associated with new regulations on the collection of recycling
4. The impact of the new emphasis on ensuring the quality of the recycling councils collect

### **Action**

Officers will take forward any actions agreed by the Board.

**Contact officer:** Dan McCartney  
**Position:** Adviser  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3238  
**E-mail:** [Dan.mccartney@local.gov.uk](mailto:Dan.mccartney@local.gov.uk)

## **Current issues on Waste**

### **Background**

1. At the previous Board meeting, members expressed a wish to discuss some of the key issues emerging on the Waste agenda. This reports sets out three emerging key issues: improving efficiency of waste services; the collection of kerbside recycling; and new funding to encourage weekly waste collection.

### **Part 1**

#### **Improving Efficiency in the Delivery of Waste Management: Procurement and Partnership**

2. Waste collection and disposal together are the third largest local government service, in terms of spend, after education and social care. Costs excluding capital investment are likely to increase from £3.4 billion in 2010/11 to £4.3 billion by 2014/15. The rising cost of landfill tax is one of the major drivers of cost pressures in waste disposal which is currently at £56 per tonne rising to £80 in 2014/15.
3. With local authorities facing strict funding constraints based on the spending review settlement many councils have been investigating means of delivering financial efficiencies. The DEFRA Waste Review acknowledged that better procurement, and forms of combined working present the key means of achieving efficiencies in waste management. These opportunities include:
  - 3.1. **Better value procurement of waste equipment and services** by creating procurement frameworks and achieving economies of scale through joint working. iESE have developed a Waste Management Services Framework for use by councils in London, the South East and the West Midlands.
  - 3.2. **Forming waste partnerships** which can deliver savings of between 5 and 15 percent (DEFRA figures) by bringing waste services together across two or more councils. The partnerships include:
    - 3.2.1. **Collection partnerships** where two or more waste collection authorities (districts) come together.
    - 3.2.2. **Joint Disposal Authorities** (of which there are 6) to provide the necessary economies of scale for waste infrastructure investments. At a larger scale the South East 7 top tier councils led by Kent are jointly

**Item 1**

planning waste infrastructure with a target of recovering value from 90 percent of household waste streams.

3.2.3. **Collection and disposal partnerships** involving integrating services across district and county. At present only Somerset has a fully integrated service across the county and all its districts which has demonstrated savings of £1.7million per year.

4. Despite the efficiency gains there are significant **challenges in setting up waste partnerships** including the need to:
  - 4.1. Develop the officer skills and capacity;
  - 4.2. Build trust between waste collection and disposal authorities;
  - 4.3. Achieve agreement from each councils' Cabinet;
  - 4.4. Allow a sufficient timescale to align collection services;
  - 4.5. Align revised collection services with existing disposal arrangements and contracts;
  - 4.6. Establish a legal status for the partnership in order for it employ staff and procure services (the DEFRA programme of establishing Joint Waste Authorities (JWA) for this purpose was closed earlier this year due to the failure to set up any JWAs).
5. The LGA recognises the important role carried out by iESE as the lead organisation providing efficiency support to local government on waste management (see Appendix 1b for a summary of support provided). iESE will be presenting to the Board.
6. **Building on the presentation from iESE and CIWM, Members may wish to discuss:**
  - 6.1. Whether access to procurement frameworks for councils is sufficiently widespread?
  - 6.2. Whether the formation of waste partnerships is desirable and achievable by a broader number of councils?
  - 6.3. Whether the support for the sector on the efficiency agenda is sufficiently comprehensive?
  - 6.4. Is there scope for further work on the waste efficiency agenda by iESE, CIWM and LGA?

## **Part 2**

### **Waste and Recycling collection**

#### DCLG £250 million Waste Collection Support Scheme

7. On 30 September the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) announced a £250 million 'Weekly Collections Support Scheme' fund for councils, individually or in groups, to apply for if they want to increase the frequency of their bin collection service. The full details of the bidding criteria will be announced when the prospectus for the fund is launched in February which will frame the sorts of proposals that DCLG are inviting councils to put forward.
8. The LGA submitted a constructive proposal to DCLG that covered the principles underpinning the scheme including value for money, increased recycling rates, reduction in associated carbon emissions and an equitable spread of funding across different tiers and regions. The proposal also suggested that an organic (including food and garden) waste be included in the criteria for weekly collection.
9. DCLG have been holding officer level meetings with stakeholders, a number of which have included the LGA. The process for **bidding is likely to be run in two stages** with an initial expression of interest stage run from February with a relatively short timescale. The second round of shortlisted bids will have a longer lead time to produce a full business case for submission in the Summer 2012. Winning bids are likely to be announced in the late summer or autumn. DCLG will be convening a **technical advisory panel** to inform the assessment and implementation of bids which the LGA will be invited to take part in.
10. There is an acknowledgment by DCLG that significant staff time and expertise will be required to bid for the fund and that support and guidance will be required. There is therefore an opportunity for the LGA with partner organisations (that could include iESE, CIWM, WRAP, Local Partnerships) to coordinate a **sector led support offer**. This could include support on bidding, various components of implementation and drawing out the good practice and lessons learned.

#### **11. Decisions Required:**

- 11.1. Should the LGA seek a coordinating role on a support offer for the sector to facilitate the successful delivery of the £250 million?
- 11.2. Should officers undertake additional work to help councils to access these funds?