

The Local Waste Review

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

It is proposed that the LGA will lead a review of commercial and domestic waste to enable local government to proactively lead the future direction of waste policy and set the agenda for reducing waste, increasing and mainstreaming reuse and increasing recycling and waste management whilst reducing cost pressures.

The findings of the review will be published in a report at a national event in 2013 which will champion local innovation and best practise in waste management and provide evidence lobbying positions on future funding gaps and more local decision making on waste.

Recommendations

That the Board:

1. **comment** on the proposals for the LGA's Local Waste Review; and
2. **confirm** the representatives to be appointed to the Challenge Group.

Action

As directed by the Board.

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The Local Waste Review

Background

1. This paper provides an overview of the Local Waste Review project proposed by the Board. Lead Members have already commented on these proposals and those comments have been incorporated into the project scope below. Members are invited to comment on the proposals and to nominate representatives to the Challenge Group (paragraph 15).

Summary

2. The LGA will lead a review of commercial and domestic waste to enable local government to proactively lead the future direction of waste policy and set the agenda for reducing waste, increasing and mainstreaming reuse and increasing recycling and waste management whilst reducing cost pressures. The findings of the review will be published in a report at a national event in 2013 which will champion local innovation and best practise in waste management and provide evidence lobbying positions on future funding gaps and more local decision making on waste.
3. The LGA will gather evidence from councils to model cost-drivers beyond councils' control and forecast councils' future expenditure on waste. The research work will identify key challenges and innovations in service delivery, make recommendations for reducing cost pressures on waste management including de-regulation and regulatory change, and develop proposals that will help councils meet the evidenced funding constraints - whilst improving and delivering better outcomes in this field.

Structure

4. Direction of travel on waste management:
 - 4.1 Increasing pressure and challenges for waste management;
 - 4.2 Record and role of local government in driving change;
 - 4.3 Waste's impact on the wider economy – jobs and growth;
 - 4.4 Community needs and expectations of waste services; and
 - 4.5 Driving behaviour change on reducing waste, increasing recycling and reuse.
5. Funding waste services:
 - 5.1 Evidencing current and future cost pressures for councils on waste through financial modelling.
6. Potential for maximising income:
 - 6.1 Increasing the ability of councils to secure greater value from the recyclable material they collect;
 - 6.2 Potential of re-use;

- 6.3 Levering in funding from packaging producers;
 - 6.4 Charging residents and businesses; and
 - 6.5 Local taxes/ licences on waste generation and generators.
7. Regulation and removing restrictions:
- 7.1 Improving EU regulation and UK transposition – e.g. Judicial Review of the Waste Regulations;
 - 7.2 Landfill tax;
 - 7.3 Making existing regulation better including wider producer pays principals covering more items;
 - 7.4 Maintaining local flexibility in delivery of service;
 - 7.5 Increasing the number of household products/ items/ materials banned from landfill.
8. Reducing cost pressure:
- 8.1 From regulation;
 - 8.2 Making the case for de-regulation where possible;
 - 8.3 Reducing unnecessary monitoring requirements; and
 - 8.4 Setting out the case for local flexibility to help councils drive down costs
9. Enforcement:
- 9.1 Making the case for retaining and strengthening powers for environmental protection relating to waste.
10. Infrastructure:
- 10.1 Planning;
 - 10.2 Waste disposal and recycling facilities;
 - 10.3 Energy from waste; and
 - 10.4 Minimisation of waste miles and impact on the environment.

Good practice case studies

- 11. The report will include case studies from member councils, looking at successful examples of where councils have:
 - 11.1 Made efficiency savings;
 - 11.2 Used technology effectively;
 - 11.3 Changed behaviour and attitude to waste;
 - 11.4 Successful communication strategies on waste and recycling;
 - 11.5 Created an income stream from waste and recycling; and
 - 11.6 Used their enforcement powers effectively.

Partner organisations

12. The work will be led for the LGA by the programmes team but will involve other parts of the organisation including the productivity and leadership teams.
13. There are a number of professional networks and organisations which have a wealth of data, information and case studies and could help resource and secure buy-in to the review, including:
 - WRAP
 - A representative from one of the large Waste Disposal Authorities
 - National Association of Waste Disposal Officers (NAWDO)
 - Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC)
 - ADEPT
 - CIWM
 - London Reuse Network
 - POS/ Regional Technology Advisory Boards
 - Waste Network Chairs
 - Advisory Committee on Packaging (ACP)
 - Environment Agency / DEFRA/ CLG
 - Local Economic Partnerships
 - Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)
 - European Commission
 - iESE
 - National Flytipping Prevention Group (NFTPG)
 - Environmental Services Association (ESA)
 - Combined Heat and Power Association (CHPA)

Process and timetable

14. The scope of the Local Waste Review was discussed and agreed with lead members of the Environment and Housing Board. The financial modelling work referenced above is now underway.
15. The review could invite submissions from local government, the wider waste sector and partner organisations listed above. The call for evidence could begin following the Board meeting in November and close just before Christmas.
16. We propose that a 'Challenge Group' is established with representation from the Board and some of the partner organisations set out above. Lead Members have agreed that Cllr Loakes will chair the challenge group and each of the groups will appoint a representative to sit on the group. The purpose of the

group will be to identify evidence and input to inform the review and to critique the report. To a large extent, input from the group could be done virtually, but we envisage it would meet twice, once at the start of December and once in the New Year.

17. It is envisaged that initial findings of the review will be presented to the Board in March 2013 and the review would be complete by the end of May 2013. Findings and results from the work will be used as they emerge to inform LGA input and responses to developments in waste policy which occur before the review is completed. For example, to develop an evidenced position on the rate and destination of Landfill Tax post-2014, an issue that will shortly be considered by the Government.