

## **The Local Waste Review**

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 discuss arrangements for the challenge group (paragraph 15) and appropriate timescales for the project (paragraph 16).

### **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. 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 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
  - 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
- 6.5 Local taxes/ licences on waste generation and generators
- 7. Regulation and removing restrictions:
  - 7.1 Improving EU regulation and UK transposition – EG Judicial Review of the Waste Regulations
  - 7.2 Landfill tax
  - 7.3 Making existing regulation better incl. 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. Enforcement:
  - 8.1 Making the case for retaining and strengthening powers for environmental protection relating to waste.
- 9. Infrastructure:
  - 9.1 Planning
  - 9.2 Waste disposal and recycling facilities
  - 9.3 Energy from waste
  - 9.4 Minimisation of waste miles and impact on the environment

#### **Good practice case studies**

- 10. The report will include case studies from member councils, looking at successful examples of where councils have:
  - 10.1 Made efficiency savings
  - 10.2 Used technology effectively
  - 10.3 Changed behaviour and attitude to waste
  - 10.4 Successful communication strategies on waste and recycling
  - 10.5 Created an income stream from waste and recycling
  - 10.6 Used their enforcement powers effectively

#### **Partner organisations**

- 11. 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.
- 12. 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:

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- WRAP
- Representative from one of the large Waste Disposal Authorities
- National Association of Waste Disposal Officers
- Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee
- 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)

#### **Process and timetable**

13. The scope of the Local Waste Review will be discussed and agreed with lead members of the Environment and Housing Board. The financial modelling work is already underway and will be completed in October. The proposals for the waste review and findings from the modelling work will be presented to the Board at the meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November.
14. 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.
15. We propose that a ‘Challenge Group’ is established with representation from the Board and some of the partner organisations set out above. 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 at the beginning of February. Members are invited to comment on arrangements for the group.
16. It is envisaged that the review would be complete by March 2012, but views are invited from lead members on appropriate timescales for reporting findings to the Board and publication of the review.

#### **Opportunities to influence**

17. As the Manifesto is being developed and our key proposals emerge, there are opportunities for us to influence the development of national policy and direction.

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18. In particular, the Autumn Statement on 5<sup>th</sup> December is expected to lay the ground for the 2013 Budget. The financial modelling work will be complete by October and will provide an opportunity for us to set out the cost pressures facing councils on waste and highlight the need for local flexibility over service decisions.
19. The purpose of the waste review is to proactively lead the debate on future of waste rather than to respond on technical issues to a timetable set in Whitehall and Brussels. However, where we identify that a consultation process would provide the opportunity to influence national policy, the review will provide a consistent set of messages and an evidence base with which to respond.