

Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Monday, 16th September 2019

Report of the Director of the Environment and Operations.

Waste and Recycling.

1. Background

Members have agreed to focus on the Corporate Priorities as the work programme for the year with Members seeking to add value to the work of the Executive and work with them on the delivery of these. This report sets out progress on the Kerbside Recycling Project and the Waste Disposal Contract which as members will appreciate is one of the key areas of service delivery to residents of the borough and contributes to the corporate priorities.

The report also sets proposed developments of the recycling service and the Government strategy with regard to waste and recycling and work that is ongoing

2. Kerbside recycling contract

The Kerbside recycling contract with Biffa is due to end April 2020. A soft market testing exercise was undertaken with nine companies in October/November 2018. This helped to determine the tendering specification for the contract.

The tendering process was a two stage process, three bidders responded to the tender at stage 1, with two companies being progressed to stage 2 of the process.

Unfortunately neither of these two companies submitted a bid at stage 2 of the tendering process. One company cited that they had decided to focus their efforts on two other contracts that they had recently won in the south of England. The other company cited their inability to secure a waste transfer station facility close to the borough in time for the commencement of the contract.

As a result, the Council has decided to take on the collection of recyclates which will include the TUPE transfer of the Biffa staff at the end of their contract and the provision of a new fleet of refuse collection vehicles for the delivery of the service. An initial meeting with the Biffa staff was undertaken on Friday 6th September 2019.

A tender for the receipt, haulage and processing of the recyclates once they have been collected is being advertised in September 2019 with bids to be returned in October 2019.

3. Waste disposal contract

The current waste disposal contract on behalf of the Council ends in April 2020. This contract has recently been tendered and two companies have submitted bids to

dispose of the Council's household waste. A report is being prepared for Executive Board to award the contract.

The new contract will see a target of at least 70% of the general waste sent to energy from waste facilities rather than landfill, with financial penalties in place should the contractor's performance go below 65% diversion from landfill for a sustained period for each of the 3 minimum years of the contract. There is also an option to extend the three-year contract for up to a further three years.

Pending award, the contract will not see costs for the disposal of waste increase next year, as would have been the case with the existing contract, which is increased by inflation and landfill tax rises each year.

Officers from Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and Lancashire County Council have been discussing the option of a joint procurement between the two Councils for the disposal of waste from 2025 when the County Council's current contract comes to an end. A joint procurement process could realise efficiency savings for both Councils.

4. Waste and recycling performance

It is important that the Council raises awareness and actively engages with and supports residents to enable them to better manage and minimise their waste and improve their understanding and participation in recycling.

In order to assist with this, the council has established a new role of Environmental Education Officer, with funding identified from within the existing service. The Environmental Education Officer will work with schools, community groups and residents to increase awareness and participation in waste avoidance, waste minimisation and recycling. The post holder will also manage and support the volunteering programme for the community litter pickers, of which there are over 1,150 registered volunteers and the 'Your Call' clean up events.

An A to Z of recycling items has been produced that is also very shortly to be placed on the council's website, please see appendix 1.

5. Government Consultation - Waste Strategy

The Government has undertaken a consultation with Councils across England on its Resources and Waste Strategy (2018) for Local Authorities.

The council along with all other councils in England is awaiting clarity on the future direction of waste and recycling, as there are expected to be developments with recycling, such as the Extended Producers Responsibility scheme and also the Deposit Return Scheme, which will help develop collection requirements for waste and recycling into the future.

A summary of the impact of some of the elements of the consultation is appended to this briefing note (appendix 2).

6. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended

- To note the report and the information presented to members
- Consider how they wish to work with the Executive Member to ensure that the Corporate Priorities are worked towards and achieved.
- Consider what further information they wish to see before the Committee and how they can add value to the process.

Martin Eden
Director of Environment and Operations
September 2019