

Report to:

SHAREHOLDER COMMITTEE

Relevant Company

John Hawkin, Managing Director

Representative:

Blackpool Waste Services Ltd

Relevant Cabinet Member:

Councillor Ivan Taylor, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Partnerships and Performance

Date of Meeting:

23 September 2022

BLACKPOOL WASTE SERVICES LIMITED STRATEGIC UPDATE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To provide an update on the strategic issues for the development of Blackpool Waste Services Ltd (BWS).

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To note the strategic issues outlined which will require significant planning between Blackpool Waste Services Ltd (BWS) and Blackpool Council.

2.2 Continue to support the ongoing work of BWS.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 Planning for the strategic issues outlined will ensure that BWS meets its statutory obligations and delivers an excellent service to the communities of Blackpool

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 None associated with this report.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is

- The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool.

6.0 Strategic Developments

6.1 Waste and Resources Policy

Committee members will be aware that the focus on waste and environmental issues has increased significantly over the last few years with the government publishing the Environment Plan (2018), closely followed by the Waste and Resources Strategy - Our waste, our resources: a strategy for England 2018.

More recently, the government passed the Environment Act 2021, which passes into UK law legislative powers, following the exit from European Union, to implement the targets that were included in the above plan and strategy.

Though the pandemic has delayed the consultation programme, and ultimately the implementation targets, for many of the ambitions laid out, some clarity is now emerging on the issues which will impact BWS in the next few years.

The key actions emerging from the Waste and Resources Strategy for to note;

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

Intended to encourage the use of sustainable packing by charging producers to pay for the net cost of managing materials once they become waste.

A scheme administrator will be established and mobilise in 2023, to be fully operational by 2024, with responsibility for distribution of funding to local authorities for processing of waste streams.

Defra have published revised recycling targets for packaging in scope for EPR.

Impact:

The waste disposal authority (Blackpool Council) will carry most of the burden to process waste streams in line with the updated recycling targets – though this may result in changes to the collection methodology to encourage ‘cleaner’ waste streams.

Blackpool Council has a 12.5% share of the waste processing operation, Lancashire Renewables, and is redeveloping plants at Leyland and Thornton to meet future demand.

Food Waste

The collection of household food waste 2023 implementation date has now moved to commence mid-2025.

Impact:

The government pledged to fully fund local authorities for the additional burden of collecting household food waste, though details have not been released regarding the funding formulae. Collection methodology will need to be clarified to allow service design, including

vehicle procurement, container provision and staffing.

Carrier, Broker, Dealer (CBD) Registration

Proposed change from a registration to a permit for individuals and business involved in transport, buying and selling of waste.

Impact:

Consultation on levels of permit not yet released though a competency framework is proposed – likely to require re-registration of current licence and skills training audit in 2023.

Digital Waste Tracking

Proposed scheme to replace current systems for recording transportation, management and description of waste in 2023.

Impact:

Possible replacement of Waste Data Flow (national waste recording database) requiring registration, training and upskilling of a range of staff. Clarification of waste streams may require redesign of HWRC to ensure appropriate segregation.

Deposit Return Scheme

Proposal for consumers to return drink containers for a 'refund' from retailers, via reverse vending machine technology, to cover containers 50ml-3l PET, steel and aluminium cans. Glass has been excluded as in scope for EPR.

Impact:

Kerbside collection of co-mingled materials and street bin waste volumes likely to reduce as residents return for refunds rather than dispose requiring a review of routes.

DIY Waste

Government have proposed that HWRC facilities accept 'DIY' waste free of charge.

Impact:

HWRC facilities will see an increase of inert waste, rubble, tiles, sanitary wares etc, that have a higher disposal cost. May significantly increase volume of traffic to HWRC.

Green Waste

Proposal for local authorities to collect green [garden] waste, free of charge, as part of kerbside collection.

Impact:

As currently only 9,500 residents subscribe to the green waste collection service there would be a significant increase in demand, requiring additional vehicles and crews, along with a potential loss of income for client if not funded by government.

Ultimately, Blackpool Council as the statutory body for collection and disposal of waste will set local policy to meet the obligations of national policy and will be the recipient of associated funding.

To ensure we work closely and align operations with emerging policy a Blackpool Council corporate working group, reporting to the Climate Change Board, is to be established and BWS will attend.

6.2 **Training and Development**

The government introduced an apprenticeship levy in 2017, requiring larger organisations, with a wage bill exceeding £3m per annum, to pay a contribution into a digital apprenticeship levy account. This account is ring-fenced for the provision of training.

Blackpool Waste Services employs over 220 staff, with a wage bill in excess of £3m [per annum], therefore are required to pay 0.5% of the total annual wage bill into an apprenticeship levy account.

BWS has sought a training provider for delivery of driver training and front-line operational staff training via soft market testing within the waste and environmental services sector. Recommendations were sought from CIWM and APSE.

Through research, and recommendation, Acorn Environmental Solutions were identified as a suitable provider for both the Urban Driver Apprenticeship and Waste Resource Operative Apprenticeship (Level 2 qualifications).

Acorn Environmental Solutions have a contract with Learning Curves Group for the delivery of apprenticeship training programmes in the waste sector.

The Urban Driver Apprenticeship qualification upskills existing drivers to a class 2 licence, giving ability to drive a rigid-body vehicle up to 32 tonnes (suitable for refuse and street sweeping vehicles). The first course is due to commence in September 2022 with 12 staff registered.

The Waste Resource Operative Apprenticeship has been developed by WAMITAB to upskill refuse collection, recycling and street cleansing operatives. Both training courses can be delivered on-site at Layton Depot and fully funded through our apprenticeship levy account.

6.3 Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 None.

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 Further detailed planning will be required to consider impact on contract value dependant on national funding formulae.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 Delivery of the objectives will ensure statutory obligations are met.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None associated with this report.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 None associated with this report.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None associated with this report.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 None associated with this report.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

ONLY APPLICABLE FOR REPORTS WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE EXECUTIVE/CABINET MEMBER

15.0 Key decision information:

15.1 Is this a key decision?

No

15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number:

15.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No

15.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

16.0 Call-in information:

16.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

16.2 If **yes**, please give reason: