

# **TAMWORTH AND LICHFIELD JOINT WASTE COMMITTEE**

**5 NOVEMBER 2019**

**PRESENT:**

Councillors Chesworth and E Little

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Pullen and Cook

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interests.

**3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record.

**4 PRESENTATION FROM FRITH RESOURCE MANAGEMENT - JOINT WASTE SERVICE REVIEW HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTIONS**

The Committee received a presentation from Frith Resource Management on their findings following a Fit for the Future review of the Joint waste Service (JWS).

The benchmarking used for the review was reported and it was noted that 9 other authorities were engaged with that used different delivery models. It was reported that the JWS rated average to good with low service costs. It was recognised that recycling rates for those areas that were outsourced were either in the top ten performing authorities or at the bottom ten.

It was then reported that after evaluating the service delivery options against costs and risks, there was insufficient evidence to show one model would achieve significantly greater performance.

Other considerations for improving performance were then reported which included the current high use of agency staff. It was noted that there was a national shortage of drivers as well as difficulty to retain and so it was suggested to consider the employment package offered to see if this could help. It was noted that the pay rates offered were comparative to other authorities but not the private sector. It was also suggested that hours and the number of drivers per round could be considered and reduced to ease pressures however it was reported that this was already happening.

It was then discussed if a change or additional depot location could be beneficial as it could allow for less wasted travel time for vehicles and allow for housing growth and potential for more vehicles if food waste collection was introduced. It was noted it had been investigated that there would be an unlikely saving from the number of vehicles required if the depot was relocated due to need.

Other challenges were discussed including outcomes from the Government's Resources and Waste Strategy and it was noted that the vehicle lease and the MRF agreement with Biffa were scheduled to end at a similar time as the strategy. It was noted that regardless of the strategy, issues including greater gate fees and transfer costs could have an impact. It was

agreed that engagement with the County Council should begin at the earliest opportunity to mitigate this.

The Committee concluded that as the service was already running well with no evidence of greater advantages of changing how the service was delivered before truly knowing the impact of the Government's Resources and Waste Strategy.

**RESOLVED:** That the information be noted and Frith Resource Management be thanked for their work on the review.

## **5 FIT FOR THE FUTURE REVIEW JOINT WASTE SERVICE - REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER**

The Committee received a report on the proposed direction of the Joint Waste Service (JWS) for the short to medium term following the fundamental review of the service. It was reported that this supplemented the previous report and value to any cost pressures of making changes.

It was identified that there were three work streams to be progressed and a business plan developed.

It was again agreed that any change should be delayed until the national strategy was released as well as the Environmental Bill.

It was also reiterated that dry recycling needed to be considered sooner rather than later as the contract with Biffa was coming to an end.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted and endorsed.

## **6 PRESENTATION FROM FRITH RESOURCE MANAGEMENT - TRADE WASTE SERVICE REVIEW**

The Committee received a presentation from Frith Resource Management reviewing the Trade Waste collection service and potentials to enhance it if desired.

It was reported that there was a good management of the service and a good level of operator experience however there was a lack of marketing and ongoing customer care or cross-selling or maximisation of opportunities through other services including environmental health or health & safety. It was also reported that currently vehicles were not returning from collections full and there could be opportunity to combine with household waste collections.

Other options that could be considered included

A brokerage arrangement

Zonal contracts to help with environmental impact as only one provider in each area

Flexible and/or variable pricing considering economies of scale.

A dedicated Business Development Manager.

It was noted that a high level business plan was being developed which would require much consideration from both local authorities. It was noted at this point that there was a lot of competition for this service in Tamworth compounded by nature of the area being densely populated.

**RESOLVED:** That the information received be noted.

(The Meeting closed at 7.25 pm)

CHAIRMAN