

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	12 February 2019
Subject:	Trade Waste Report
Report of:	Head of Community Services
Corporate Lead:	Deputy Chief Executive
Lead Member:	Lead Member for Clean and Green Environment
Number of Appendices:	2

Executive Summary:

The Council currently provides a limited trade waste service to the businesses across the borough. The commercial trade waste service is operated by Ubico and currently employs two operational staff - one driver and one loader working over a four day week. Administration of the service is absorbed into the existing administration service provided for all waste collection services, whilst invoicing, taking receipts and the processing of payments remains with the Council. Appendix 1 sets out the current position and operation of the Council's Trade Waste Service and Appendix 2 provides an action plan for further developing the service.

Recommendation:

To CONSIDER the current position in respect of trade waste and to DETERMINE monitoring arrangements of the action plan for further developing the service.

Reasons for Recommendation:

To ensure Member involvement in the implementation of the Trade Waste Action Plan.

Resource Implications:

The Council's trade waste service currently operates at a deficit, estimated to be £36,100 for 2019/20. This level of deficit only reflects the direct costs of delivery and does not include Council overheads in terms of management and administration. Given the Council's drive to act with a more commercial focus, it is important that existing commercial services are delivered at a cost neutral position as a minimum, with the intention to deliver a surplus in future years. This report sets out a number of options to start this journey.

It should be noted that there is currently no dedicated marketing resource to further develop the service, although this requirement is currently being met from existing Council budgets. A small budget may be needed for marketing the service which, again, will be met from existing Council resources in the new year but may require an ongoing budget in future years.

If the Council wishes to further develop the service to delivering a trade recycling service then additional resource, both in terms of vehicle and staffing, would be necessary. This opportunity would be subject to the development of a business case which would detail all aspects of the proposal.

Legal Implications:

Under Sections 33-34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, all businesses have a responsibility to ensure that their waste is stored securely and disposed of properly. This responsibility requires that a business must ensure that its waste is only transported and disposed of by a person licensed for waste transport and disposal.

Under Section 45(1)(b) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (“the Act”) the Council has a duty to collect commercial waste from any premises where the occupier has requested it.

Section 45(4) of the Act makes any person who has made such a request liable to pay a reasonable charge to the Council for the collection and disposal of the waste. The Council has a specific duty to recover the charge, unless it considers it inappropriate to do so.

The term “reasonable charge” is not defined in the Act or elsewhere. In this context it should be taken as meaning comparable with charges made by waste collection authorities performing the same service. There is no prohibition on making a profit from the service but the requirement for charges to be reasonable may act as a constraint on the level of income that can be obtained.

Risk Management Implications:

Gaining too many additional customers is a risk as there is limited capacity to further significantly expand the service.

Performance Management Follow-up:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee may wish to monitor progress of the action plan and further service developments.

Environmental Implications:

None arising directly from this report.

1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council currently provides a limited trade waste service to business within the Borough – the current number of customers is approximately 450.
- 1.2 The Council currently offers no commercial waste recycling service to any of its commercial customers, although it will facilitate this type of collection via a third party on request. Current trade waste collections are based on a once weekly collection with customers able to choose from a variety of container sizes including a pay as you throw sack system.
- 1.3 The service currently runs at a loss and in 2017/18 cost £298,000 to deliver and generated an income of £267,000, meaning a loss of £31,000.
- 1.4 There is some capacity within the service to facilitate additional customers, this capacity equates to about 3-4 days per month.

2.0 SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

2.1 There are a number of options for further development of the service including:

- Tewkesbury Borough Council direct marketing;
- working more closely with neighbouring authorities within the county; or,
- working more closely with Ubico to further develop the service.

2.2 Direct marketing to our local businesses is already underway and a Trade Waste promotional leaflet will accompany all Council Tax bills going out in March.

2.3 Environmental Health staff currently promote the service whenever they have dealings with a local business and the Growth Hub is promoting the service to businesses that are seeking advice or start-up information.

2.4 Any expansion of the service needs to be undertaken with the current service capacity in mind. Marketing of the service needs to be targeted to geographic areas where we already have a customer base.

2.5 Further work is currently underway alongside our neighbouring local authorities and Ubico to further develop the service to explore expanding the service with the potential of delivering a trade recycling service.

3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

3.1 N/A

4.0 CONSULTATION

4.1 N/A

5.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

5.1 N/A

6.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES

6.1 N/A

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)

7.1 N/A

8.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/ Environment)

8.1 N/A

9.0 IMPACT UPON (Value For Money/Equalities/E-Government/Human Rights/Health And Safety)

9.1 N/A

10.0 RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS

10.1 N/A

Background Papers: None

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Appendices: Appendix 1 – Trade Waste – Current Position Report
Appendix 2 – Trade Waste Action Plan