



Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	OVERVIEW AND SCURTINY COMMITTEE 4 NOVEMBER 2024
Subject	WASTE SERVICES UPDATE
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Cllr Mike Evely Deputy Leader - Cabinet Member for Finance Email: mike.evely@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Bill Oddy, Assistant Director - Commercial Development Email: bill.oddy@publicagroup.uk
Report author	Simon Anthony, Business Manager – Environmental Services. Email: simon.anthony@publicagroup.uk
Summary/Purpose	To provide the Committee with a Waste Services Update including greening the waste fleet, efficiency of collections and data behind service changes.
Annexes	Annex A Fleet Drive Liaison Manager Report
Recommendation(s)	That Overview and Scrutiny Committee: I. Note the contents of the report.
Corporate priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delivering Good Services• Responding to the Climate Emergency
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Ubico colleagues were consulted in preparation for this report and will be present at Committee to answer questions: Rob Heath – Ubico Operations Director, and Marc Osment – Ubico Head of Operations.



1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report covers a series of questions posed by members in June 2024 regarding the environmental performance of waste services. This report provides responses to the specific questions, officers, including officers from Ubico will be present to answer additional related questions at the Scrutiny session.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Questions and responses are provided in the section below.

3. **Question 1: Given the cost of fuel and carbon impacts, is transporting waste from the north Cotswolds back to a central location the best option? Are there opportunities to use a waste transfer station or facilities outside of Gloucestershire to reduce the overall mileage of vehicles in addition to the round/route reorganisation that is already planned?**

- 3.1 Ubico are tasked with reducing their mileage and fuel consumption year on year with an important Key Performance Indicator (KPI) tracking CO₂e of the service. Sharing depots can be useful where the opportunities arise, and indeed we do use a 3rd party depot to tip recycling. The waste service works closely with other Gloucestershire Councils through the Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership where options, including depot sharing are discussed.
- 3.2 Greening the fleet would potentially be an easier method of reducing fossil fuel usage and carbon impact compared with attempting to utilise or build satellite depots or facilities. The Council, Publica and Ubico have a series of vehicle workshop meetings to develop a strategy for alternative fuel usage in the Waste fleet. Annex A gives background to the driver efficiency measures Ubico have introduced to manage fuel consumption and improve driver behaviour generally.

4. **Question 2. Greening the fleet. Are options being reviewed in a green hierarchy (Battery electric vehicle, range extended battery electric vehicle, hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicle, plug-in or mild hybrid and bio-fuel only if supply chain sustainability is certain)? While BEV solutions may not work today, if a suitable option is available in 5+ years, is this being planned in? Are options being considered in terms of whole life cost (capital/maintenance/lifetime energy cost, assigning HMT "Green Book" values to Greenhouse Gas/kWh/air quality benefits)? Are there any feasibility studies/discussions around installing solar at depot, when BEVs become a viable option. Are there any opportunities to store vehicles in alternative locations overnight to facilitate a transition to**



BEV (i.e. so fewer miles are needed before they start collection in the areas furthest from the current depot).

- 4.1 This work on this important topic have been started by Cllr Evely and Cllr McKeown with the waste team, Ubico and Climate Colleagues heavily engaged. Cotswold District Council is in a fortunate position as most vehicles are currently mid-life and the intention is that Electric Vehicle (EV) alternatives will be fully tried and tested, and affordable, once Cotswold needs to replace these vehicles. This work includes a replacement programme which considers the best available technology, infrastructure demands (for example charge points), funding and energy generation opportunities.
 - 4.2 As an interim measure the service is looking to introduce fuel bunkering at the depot as this initially this will reduce fuel costs as currently pump prices are paid to refuel vehicles.
 - 4.3 The Council's waste service has 1 x electric workshop van. There is very strong evidence that replacing smaller fossil fuel-based vehicles with alternative fuel options in a waste service can be affordable with the vehicles themselves being reliable.
 - 4.4 Publica, across other partner authorities have trialled a full size eHGV and have introduced fully electric recycling vehicles which are performing well on a neighbouring service.
 - 4.5 As covered in the section above waste fleet workshops are being arranged to determine options for greening the fleet as vehicles become end of life.
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5. **Question 3. Are there any changes to the way CDC will collect waste, with the introduction of consistency in recycling collections policies (March 2026).**
 - 5.1 Cotswold District Council is compliant with Consistency Policy objectives as it already recycles food waste weekly and has delivered separate food waste collections since 2020. The regulations also require local authorities to collect a common set of dry recyclables including paper, card, plastic, glass, metal and garden waste, again the Council is compliant in this regard too.
 - 5.2 The government recently released funding to those local authorities not compliant with Consistency regulations to buy food waste collection vehicles, collection containers and other necessary items to encourage compliance. Those local authorities already compliant with the regulations were unable to apply for this funding.
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6. **Question4. The deposit return scheme (DRS) anticipated in 2025 may divert significant quantities of high value recyclate (steel and aluminium cans and PET bottles up to 3 litres) from household kerbside collections. Will this decrease the revenue to CDC from the sale of recyclate (to what extent is this income passed through to CDC?) or increase the costs of disposal (if a less valuable "basket" of materials collected kerbside are being disposed of).**



- 6.1 Generally waste disposal costs are picked up by County, this includes refuse, garden and food waste. For recycling disposal and income Cotswold Council manages this waste stream and it is correct that any drop in tonnage of valuable material would negatively impact on revenue to the council. Should DRS be introduced it is challenging to model the likely income in terms of lost revenue, however the Council could potentially lobby government to ensure new burdens costs are covered as part of this new legislation.
- 6.2 It is unclear whether DRS will be introduced although current information reports a start date of 1 October 2027. The DRS is scheduled to cover single use PET (plastic), steel and aluminium drinks cans only in England, with single use glass bottles excluded from DRS.
7. **Question 5. Similarly, when other elements of Extended Producer Responsibility are in place such as the packaging fees (anticipated October 2025) how will that benefit CDC as the collection authority?**
- 7.1 Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations aim to apply the 'polluter pays' principal with manufactures being charged for their responsibilities for waste collection and street cleansing of packaging items. So rather than citizens paying for disposal of certain packaging items through general taxation manufactures will compensate waste collection and street cleansing budgets. It is important to note that DEFRA have already started to gather income from manufactures prior to distribution to local authorities.
- 7.2 In November 2024 Local Authorities are expected to be notified as to how much they will receive. The scheme will formally start in April 2025 with actual funding expected to arrive in local authorities in late 2025.
8. **Question 6. What efforts, if any, are being made to move waste/resources through the waste hierarchy (i.e. re-use and repair being preferable to recycling/reprocessing, which is preferable to incineration which is marginally preferable to landfill but takes material/resource out of the economy)? Do we have re-use initiatives and how does this relationship work with CDC/Ubico/GCC (as disposal authority).**
- 8.1 We currently restrict both the size of general waste bins and how frequently these bins are collected, this has moved waste away from end point disposal significantly and into recycling streams. Cotswold Council is already one of the best performing recycling local authorities in England and is in the top 20 recycling local authorities.
- 8.2 The Council regularly produces seasonal communications including press releases on reuse of Halloween costumes and more sustainable options other than pumpkins.
9. **Question 7. What is CDC's relationship to the Javelin Park incinerator? How much of what is collected on behalf of CDC is disposed through this route? Do we have any control over this? Are we contractually obliged to contribute a certain tonnage toward the feedstock**



either directly, or indirectly through GCC commitments? Will there be an impact on CDC financially if a carbon tax is introduced (i.e. are gate fee costs passed through to CDC or do they sit only with the disposal authority).

- 9.1 The Council does not have any relationship with the Javelin Park Energy from Waste facility (EfW) beyond tipping of waste at the facility which is an instruction given to ourselves from the County Council who are the waste disposal authority. The contractual subtleties, in terms of a guaranteed minimum tonnage are not known and would be agreed between the County Council and facility itself.
- 9.2 All black bag waste collected by the council is treated through the Energy from Waste facility.
- 9.3 It is unclear what impact a carbon tax may have as the details around this are to be determined. The government will shortly introduce the Emissions Trading Scheme which is essentially a tax on certain waste materials being treated at energy from waste facilities. This scheme will add financial pressure to the County Council principally in terms of disposal costs, whether and how the County Council wishes to engage with districts to manage these costs is unknown.

10. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 10.1 N/A

11. CONCLUSIONS

- 11.1 Responses to questions are covered in the body of the report and officers welcome questions from Committee members as part of the meeting.

12. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 These have been covered in the main body of the report.

13. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 These have been covered in the main body of the report.

14. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 14.1 Risks have been covered in the main body of the report.

15. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 15.1 N/A

16. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS

- 16.1 These have been covered in the main body of the report.



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17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

17.1 None submitted.

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