



environmental
services
association

ESA PRESS STATEMENT

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New ESA report shows the need for transparency in council decision making processes

LONDON, 29 April 2016: The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, today launched its new report '*Public Realm Services – Making the right choice*'.

Written by Ricardo Energy and Environment, and supported by LARAC, this new ESA report has been developed as an aid for local authorities when they are looking into service provision and procurement, to ensure that they can demonstrate 'best value', whether that be in-house or through a contractor.

ESA's Executive Director Jacob Hayler said:

"These are difficult times for local government with severe constraints on funding. It is therefore absolutely crucial that authorities are helped to secure the best possible value for their waste services. It is often too hard for authorities to benchmark accurately their services as costs are allocated to different departments, which makes like-for-like comparisons impossible.

We hope this research will help councils to improve their ability to benchmark their services against the market and realise the best possible value for their residents."

Key findings from the report show:

- In-sourcing is not necessarily a common theme. However, there have been some high profile authorities that have recently looked to bring services in-house and more authorities are at least considering it as an option when assessing their next contract. There may therefore be an upturn in the next year or two, but that really depends on the success of these authorities that have done so already and whether their evidence base is compelling – at the moment there is scepticism about the true benefits of in-sourcing from the evidence collected.
- The biggest issue to come from the work has been the need for greater transparency in local government when it comes to assessing their service performance, and when deciding on their approach to contracting / service delivery

Report author, Dr Adam Read, Ricardo Energy and Environment Practice Director – Resource Efficiency and Waste Management, said:

“We hope that the report encourages authorities to at least undertake a robust service review and benchmarking exercise before making a decision on what to do. To date this is far from the norm and this is a worry in what is after all a public service!”

A copy of the report can be found at the following link:

- <http://ee.ricardo.com/cms/public-realm-services-making-the-right-choice/>

ENDS

Notes to editors:

1. The **Environmental Services Association** (ESA) is the trade association for the UK’s resource and waste management sector. We work with our members to transform waste and resource management across the country. This work helps enable our members to turn Britain’s waste into valuable resources, whilst continually protecting the environment.
2. We work with all levels of government, regulators and the public to deliver a more sustainable waste and resource management solution for the UK. ESA’s recent Circular Economy report ‘*Going for Growth – A practical route to a circular economy*’, which outlines how a Circular rather than a linear economy can help manage resources sustainably, can be downloaded [here](#).
3. ESA’s Members manage waste on behalf of the whole of society and we are recovering more than ever before. For example, the industry has helped quadruple the UK’s household recycling rates over the last 10 years.

4. The sector at a glance

- Total turnover: **£11 billion**
- Direct Employment: **95,000 people**
- Municipal waste handled each year: **over 26 million tonnes**
- Energy generated (from waste combustion and landfill gas) each year: **approximately 6,700 GWh**, 1.5% of the UK's total electricity supply and around 20% of our renewable electricity.
- Greenhouse **gas emissions down by 70% since 1990.**
- The **top seven companies account for approximately 40% of turnover.** Many hundreds of SMEs provide either localised or more specialised services

For further details please visit www.esauk.org

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