

Landfill Communities Fund Forum 22 January 2016

Meeting chaired by Daniel Taylor HMRC

Attendees: as per list attached

LCF changes announced at Autumn Statement 25 November 2015:

Removal of CTPs and requirement for landfill operators to pay 10% of contributions

DT confirmed that Ministers were inclined to agree a softening of the proposal concerning contributing third parties. Landfill operators would not be required to contribute the 10% though there would be an expectation that they increase their contributions. This will be monitored and there would likely be further changes if no progress is made. There was unlikely to be a formal announcement before Budget and further representations could be counter-productive.

In response to comments/questions:

- would there be further discussions with landfill operators concerning the softening? - HM Treasury said that they had already spoken to ESA.
- consultation would have been helpful before changes imposed - DT pointed out that it was made clear at the working group and by letter that changes would be imposed if options for change were not worked up. The responses to the consultation on reform options had been very disappointing.
- the scheme works well, provides important support to local communities, often in deprived areas, so the large cut in the value was disappointing (though welcomed that some of the saving was going to fight waste crime). Why not let the scheme decline naturally with the decline in landfill? - It was pointed out that the cuts were in line with cuts to government departments and spending.
- it would be helpful if CTP rules could be changed to allow the CTP to be funded by EBs but out of non-LCF sources such as member fees, and if heavy reporting requirements introduced in 1999 were reviewed - DT said that legal advice in the past had said that the EB was not considered a third party but we would revisit this and invited the RSPB to write (since received).

Running costs – 7.5% limit – how this applies

DT explained that the 7.5% limit on running costs would apply to expenditure made. The 7.5% included usual running costs and provisions for winding up. The ENTRUST levy was not included in either expenditure or running costs.

A number of attendees commented that they envisaged difficulties in meeting 7.5%, that income would be declining at the same time as they would also have to cut running costs to 7.5%. Smaller EBs would be unfairly disadvantaged as they could not create economies. Governance would suffer.

DT responded that we are looking at efficiency savings, streamlining would be required and a 'gold plated service' was no longer possible.

ADEB suggested that the need to look at duplication of requirements between EBs and ENTRUST. It was pointed out that ENTRUST work to regulatory requirements; it is often EBs that impose additional requirements. ENTRUST agreed to host a meeting to look at efficiencies that could be delivered by the sector.

The EB levy would be announced nearer budget.

Record keeping and asset monitoring

ENTRUST guidance is being drafted and will be discussed with a small group of EBs on 12 February.

Removal of investments and provision of admin services from one EB to another

One EB commented that they still wish to be able to share costs with another for economy and would discuss the proposed way of reporting with ENTRUST.

ENTRUST guidance – timings

The changes will come into effect from 1 April 2016.

ENTRUST would prepare amended guidance which would be considered by a small group of EBs on 12 February. Final guidance would be published during March 2016.

Multi-site projects and the administrative burden

Concerns were voiced about the increased burden of having to register sites individually and the lack of consistency by ENTRUST.

ENTRUST explained that they work with EBs to cluster sites under one registration where possible, but they must adhere to the fundamental requirement to ensure sites are within the proximity of a landfill site. ENTRUST offered a meeting to Biffa Award to discuss the issue.

Attendees

Daniel Taylor	HMRC
Cathy Mawer	HMRC
Alison Bennett	ENTRUST
Christopher Welford	ENTRUST
Jess O'Brien	ENTRUST
Nathaniel Bellio	HM Treasury
Gillian French	Biffa Award
John Hughes	Biffa Award
Jane Darlington	Cambridgeshire Community Foundation
Angela Haymonds	Cory Environmental Trust in Britain
Peter Gerstrom	Cory Environmental Trust in Britain
Sarah Walton	Derbyshire Environmental Trust
Cherida Plumb	Earth Trust
Matt Young	Grantscape
Nigel Oliver	Greenbank Trust
Rosie Oldham	London Wildlife Trust
Stephen Hardy	Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust
Neil Carrigan	Mondergreen Environmental Body Ltd
Catherine Townsend	National Churches Trust
Ulrika Jonsson-Swinburne	National Trust
Gabriella Keaney	Plantlife
Kim Gutteridge	RSPB
Phil Gregory	SITA Trust Ltd
Helen Kramer	The Land Trust
Paul Taylor	The Veolia Environmental Trust
Robert Hargraves	The Veolia Environmental Trust
Oliver Blackburn	The Veolia Environmental Trust
Amy Rose	The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire
Sue Pearce	The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire
Robin Squire	Veolia North Thames Trust
John Lockwood	Viridor Credits Environmental Company
Simon Catford	Viridor Credits Environmental Company
Laura Parry	Woodland Trust
Peter Cox	WREN