



# Health & Safety

## A Local Authority Perspective

### 'The Cost of Doing Nothing'

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Gateshead Council

# Gateshead Council

- 190,000 population
- 91,000 Households
- 105,000 tonnes per annum waste
- 30% current recycling & composting rate

# Recent Contract Procurement

- PFI ongoing
- MRF (Materials Recycling Facility)
- Green Waste Processing
- Waste Management & Disposal
- Recycling Equipment

# Gateshead Scene

- Labour controlled Administration (2/3 labour 1/3 liberal)
- Strong in-house service provision for collection work (specialised strengths)
- Outsource waste treatment, sorting, marketing, landfill provision (non-specialised)

# Gateshead Scene

- Contract Client function established early 1990's with Compulsory Competitive Tendering (CCT)
- Strong level of experience/expertise
- After CCT – Best Value applied similar principles

# Health & Safety in Contracting

- Appreciate organisation culture towards H&S
- Contract specification
- Contract conditions
- Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ)
- Checking and verifying
- Responding and Monitoring
- Standing item on Contract Liaison Meetings
- Application of default system from Contract Conditions as appropriate

# Contract Specification

- Aim to set out sensible, practical, technical working arrangements

# Contract Conditions

- Clauses to support specification and an effective pathway to improvement as a priority.
- Cover relevant legislation (Act by Act), codes of practice, guidance etc - protects Local Authority

# Getting it right

- General practice to use restricted tendering procedure
- Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) Assessment to shortlist
- Scoring matrix against pre-set criteria

# Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (Health & Safety)

- Companies commitment to Health & Safety
- Responsibility and Structure
- Policies and Procedures
- Last 5 years any enforcement for contravention of Health & Safety legislation

# Contract Award & Set-Up

- Resolution of any outstanding issues/concerns
- Pre-Contract Award

# Key Factors

- It is not the sole responsibility of someone else e.g. central team or contractor.
- Health & Safety is the responsibility of local management, supervision and the workforce.

# Practical Experiences

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"Lunch break!!!"

# How are difficulties tackled?

- Head on, open and transparent approach
- No hidden agenda
- Rectification, review and reinforcement
- Use contract conditions as a tool to assist
- Secure evidence statements, photographs etc
- Exercise proportion in applying default systems
- Learn and seek to avoid recurrence
- Maintain comprehensive records

# Benefits of input into Health & Safety

- Get the right people to do the right job at the right price
- Lowest cost is not necessarily the best
- Contract award on MEAT (Most Economically Advantageous Tender)
- Appropriate level of client monitoring input,
- Reduced sickness levels, insurance premiums and reputational risk
- Increased productivity and employee morale
- Acceptance of H&S as a major ongoing issue

# HSE Waste & Recycling Services Guidance

- Welcome – offers clarity of responsibilities
- Provides direction and assistance with identification of principle issues
- Sets a sound context for an issue that is all too often cast aside
- Provides a platform for Local Authorities to go forward
- It's not the bible but a useful tool in striving towards continuous service improvement
- Easy to read and user-friendly
- Seek acceptance and adoption across the waste industry
- Provides a basis of adoption into all aspects of waste management training

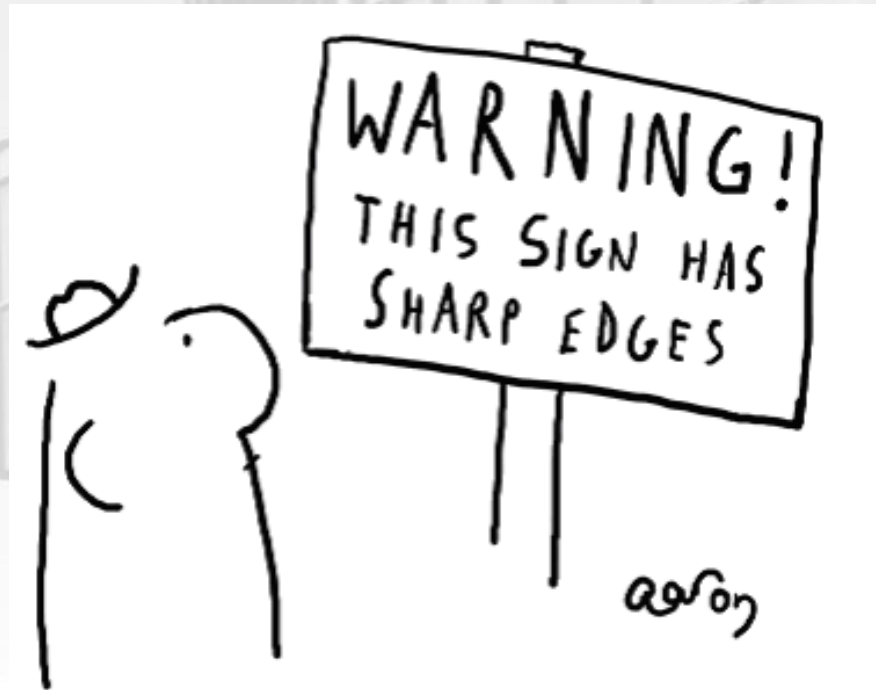
# Health & Safety 'The Cost of Doing Nothing'

There is no such thing.

**BUT...**

Costs can be reduced and contained.

# Health & Safety



Thank you.