



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WASTE DISPOSAL OFFICERS

**NAWDO press release – packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (pEPR) payment notifications**

**[Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024]**

[Start]

The National Association of Waste Disposal Officers (NAWDO) welcomes the circulation of packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (pEPR) payment notifications. Local authorities have been seeking certainty on the magnitudes of these payments for some time to enable budgets to be set for 2025/26.

NAWDO looks forward to also receiving further information on the commitment made in the Government's Autumn 2024 Budget regarding the guarantee of this funding should there be a shortfall in producer payments. Local authorities will need to understand any cashflow impacts that may arise from this, particularly as the pEPR payments are already condensed into the second half of the 2025/26 financial year.

While NAWDO is pleased that the financial taps of EPR are being turned on, our members are eager to see a road map established to ensure that the principle of 'full net cost recovery' is fully embedded in future payment calculations. Modelling payments around benchmarks or average costs inevitably creates 'winners and losers', and we do not believe that this is appropriate or sustainable.

In addition, modelling payments around benchmarks or average costs fails to recognise that local authorities seek best value in procurement processes, and will do so under prevailing market conditions and the national policy landscape at the time they go out to tender. For waste treatment and disposal contracts, this can mean that the prices available to one local authority could be quite different to those that another can achieve even just a year later. NAWDO believes that is fundamentally wrong to underpay a local authority on the grounds that it is 'not efficient', when the prices within its contract were those available at the time it needed to put new services in place.

NAWDO is pleased to see that work is developing on future effectiveness metrics. Understanding how the pEPR regime will evolve is essential, so that local authorities can plan the delivery of future services to achieve the best outcomes for local people. However, it is important that the pEPR regime takes full account of both local circumstances for individual authorities, as well as limitations in the powers and influence that they have over recycling performance. NAWDO urges the Government to engage closely with local authorities to ensure that future effectiveness metrics and Improvement Action Plan processes are fair, fit for



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purpose, and adequately take account of the need for local democracy and decision making.

[End]

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### **About us:**

**NAWDO**, the National Association of Waste Disposal Officers, is the primary network and voice for local authorities with statutory responsibility for waste treatment and disposal. NAWDO was formed in 1992 and its members include London Boroughs, Metropolitan, Unitary, Joint Waste Disposal Authorities, Waste Partnerships and County Councils from all UK regions (except Scotland) to keep up to date with the fast-changing waste and resources industry. Through NAWDO local authorities are provided with presentation on regional, national, international and strategic forums and groups to inform, influence and collaborate with key stakeholders and policy makers. NAWDO is entirely run by volunteers and through its Policy and Advisory (P&A) Committee it sets the direction of the organisation with member engagement. With over 80 members NAWDO represents around 80% of all local authorities with waste disposal duties in the UK. NAWDO holds quarterly meetings where its members, central government, regulators, waste industry and other affiliated groups discuss and debate challenges and current developments in the waste and resources industry, helping shape and influence (future) decisions and policy. It also provides an online forum where members can openly discuss and debate current and relevant issues facing senior officers with waste treatment and disposal portfolios.

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