BDR WASTE PFI CONTRACT

BDR MANAGER REPORT 2026-27

1 Governance

1.1 BDR Team

1.1.1 The BDR Team continues to work flexibly across the BDR Partnership and the PFI Waste Treatment facility at Bolton Road, and home working.

1.1.2 **The BDR Team comprises:**

1.1.2.1 **BDR Manager – Paul Hutchinson** has formally handed in his notice to retire following an extended absence from September 2025. His post will be going out to advert in due course.

1.1.2.2 The BDR Legal and Financial Advisors were available to function as mentors, support, gatekeepers, and critical friends for the BDR Team on matters contractual for the team during this time.

1.1.2.2.1 RMBC's Waste Manager functioned as a mentor for the team on administrative matters within the RMBC system (Budgets, HR, Governance structure, and Rules).

1.1.2.2.2 Waste Managers from BMBC and CoDC functioned as mentors for the team on matters of BDR Partnership and Council/Site interface.

1.1.2.3 **Senior Contract Officer – Carl Hewlett** (stepped up as BDR Manager in the interim)

1.1.2.4 **Technical Officer / Admin – Rhonda Fletcher**

1.2 External Support

1.1.3 The BDR Team continues to receive external legal, financial, and technical advice from specialists who have been advising the BDR Team on PFI matters and partnership working.

1.1.3.1.1 Neil Tindall Legal Services (Legal)

1.1.3.1.2 Roamine Advisory Limited - Craig Pember (Finance)

1.1.3.1.3 Stantec UK Limited (Technical)

1.1.3.1.4 IDRisk (Insurance)

1.1.4 The BDR Team and their external advisers continue to work on major and minor variations to the contract to improve the overall service delivery, processes, performance, and contractual interaction between BDR and the contractor.

1.1.5 Advisors are / will be assisting with negotiation / due diligence on:

1.1.5.1 Contract Parent Company Guarantee (PCG) change request - rejected.

1.1.5.2 Ferrybridge offtake contract Parent Company Guarantee (PCG) change request – Awaiting Detail from Biffa.

1.1.5.3 Deliverable Matrix Variation – ongoing.

1.1.5.4 Dispute Resolution Pannel agreement.

1.1.5.5 Landfill diversion Incentive - DRIM (annually).

1.1.5.6 Change in Law implications for the contract (and cost mitigation) arising from the Environment Act 2021 (R&WS, EPR, DRS & Simpler Recycling, etc)

1.1.5.6.1 Biffa indicated they wish to discuss potential implications to contract resulting from this.

1.1.5.7 Joint Insurance Cost Report (Bi-annually – Number 5 Received Jan 25 - Rejected)

1.1.5.7.1 Biffa indicated may wish to take to dispute but nothing further currently.

1.1.5.8 Annual Insurance Placement (24/2/25 for 2026) and waiver request for some aspects of Insurance requirements

1.1.5.9 Change request to remove the old Fire suppression system.

1.1.5.10 Qualified Change in Law (QCiL) claim for Environmental Permit changes and installation of Best Available Technologies (BAT's)

1.1.5.10.1 BDR Team awaiting technical and financial date from Biffa (for QCiL claim) to allow due diligence and interrogation.

1.1.5.11 Changes/rebuild of AD Pasteurisation Tunnels and Acid Scrubber due to errors in the original design.

1.1.5.12 Review of new carbon Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) requirements on Energy from Waste (EfW) sites (Ferrybridge) and potential (2030) budgetary impact on BDR Councils. Possibly including financial burden mitigation options/initiatives

1.1.5.13 Review of maintenance plans and lifecycle of Bolton Road plant and equipment.

1.1.5.14 Any future amendments to managing Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP's) from EA directives.

1.1.5.15 Site condition survey and hand back obligation for Barnsley transfer station.

2 Financial

2.1 26/27 Operational Management Budget

2.1.1.1 For 26/27, the Interim BDR Manager was unable to propose to the Joint Waste Board AGM on 6th July 2026 that the budget increase from £340,000 to £380,000 (one-third paid by each Council), as the meeting was not quorate; therefore, the proposal was taken to the next meeting on 16th November 2026. The proposal would meet the Teams' anticipated requirements for 26-27. The budget was last increased in the contract year 22/23 to the current £340,000.

2.1.1.2 This increase is to reflect better annual pay increases for staff, temporary uplifts in pay due to covering the BDR manager position and increases in BDR Consultants' fees for the current year.

2.1.2 Some re-profiling of individual budget header amounts may be required as the year progresses, but it is hoped these costs and savings will be neutral across the budget.

2.1.3 A breakdown of the 26/27 anticipated BDR PFI Operational Management Budget will be presented today at the Joint Waste Board meeting on 16th November 2026 and is below for scrutiny and approval. It is anticipated to be as follows:

2.1.3.1 **Table 1 - Operational Management Budget Forecast 2026/27**

26/27 Budget - To be approved by JWB 16.11.26			
	Budget	**Forecast**	**Variance**
Management	£168,000	£0	£0
Administration	£35,000	£0	£0
Call off Legal	**£83,000**	£0	£0
External Finance	**£54,000**		
External Legal	**£0**		
External Technical	**£30,000**		
External Insurance	**£10,000**		
Call off Finance	£0		
Call off Technical	**£0**		
Projects	£0	£0	£0
Total	**£380,000**	**£0**	**£0**

2.1.4 The BDR team proactively manages its Operational Budget, but it is anticipated that all the 26/27 budget may be utilised, and it is not anticipated that significant budgetary savings will be possible in 26/27.

2.2 25/26 Net Unitary Charge Payment

2.2.1 The Interim BDR Manager has now verified the 2025/2026 unitary charge reconciliation and has provided Waste and Finance managers with its outcome.

2.2.2 Throughout the 2025/26 financial year, over 213,000 tonnes of contract waste from Barnsley, Doncaster, and Rotherham Councils were processed through the contract. This is an increase of 0.65% on the previous year. The forecasted amount for the year was 212,000 tonnes.

2.2.3 No additional payments are anticipated, and each Council received credit on its 25/26 July UC.

2.2.4 Savings to the Unitary Charge have been obtained in:

2.2.4.1 Landfill Diversion Incentive
2.2.4.2 Recycling Performance Deduction
2.2.4.3 Royalty Payment for spare capacity use

2.3 26-27 Unitary Charge Forecast

2.3.1 The PFI Unitary charge has an annual indexation mechanism that is set by the January RPIX figure. The January 2026 figure was 3.2%.

2.3.2 Waste arisings for 26-27 are anticipated to remain at the same levels as 25/26 and have been forecast at 212,000 tonnes again, and with no unexpected or unanticipated additional costs, expenditure, or income. The following Unitary Charge amount is anticipated for 2026/27.

2.3.2.1 **Table 2 - 26/27 Unitary Charge Forecast.**

Unitary Charge	**Barnsley**	**Doncaster**	**Rotherham**	**Total**
Invoice Payment to Biffa	£10,114,116.58	£11,478,408.61	£8,433,273.45	£30,025,798.64
Internal Adjustments				
Anticipated Credits	£1,933,164.03	£2,577,552.04	£1,933,164.03	£6,443,880.09
Budget Out-turn	**£8,180,952.55**	**£8,900,856.58**	**£6,500,109.42**	**£23,581,918.55**

2.4 Energy Gainshare Payment.

2.4.1 It is calculated that there will be no Energy Gainshare Payment in 2026/27. This payment is calculated over a three-year rolling average of electricity prices, and as prices have fallen sufficiently since their peak in 21/22 & 22/23, the rolling average will no longer fall within the calculation to trigger a payment.

3 Contract Delivery

3.1 Contract Strategic Meetings

3.1.1 BDR Liaison Committee Meeting – Held every 6 months, the Liaison Committee meetings between the Councils, the contractor, and the operating contractor continue to be positive; the representatives across all parties have been in post for some time, and this allows for a collective understanding of contractual positions. The last meeting was held on 20th May 2026, and the next meeting was due to take place on 11th November 2026, but this is having to be rearranged due to issues with availability.

3.1.2 Operating Contractor (OpCo) - Monthly meetings are held between the BDR team and Biffa, the operating contractor. At these meetings, the BDR team receives updated reports on plant performance and maintenance, duty of care, health and safety, any projects, contractual performance targets, and site inspection outcomes. The BDR team raises any performance issues and agrees deductions that should be applied, and the Contractor is measured against contractual performance requirements.

3.1.3 Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV OpCo) - Bi-monthly meetings are held between the BDR team (with its Legal and Financial external consultants) and the SPV Director(s) and Biffa contract director. At these meetings, the BDR team receives updated reports on contractual compliance, contractual variations, potential changes in law affecting the contract, insurance, and performance of the PFI financially etc. The BDR team raises any (non-operational) contractual issues at this meeting.

3.2 Contract Data

3.2.1 Performance reports are produced by the contractor on the 14th of each month, including information up to the end of the previous month. Current contract year data will only be included until the 30th of September, as the October monthly report will not be available before this meeting on 16th November 2026.

3.2.2 By undertaking continuous monitoring of the contract through site inspections, report scrutiny, performance monitoring mechanisms, and procedures within the BDR Team, and direct communication with the contractor, we are satisfied with contractual performance, service delivery, and compliance. The BDR team currently has no major concerns with Biffa's delivery and will continue to monitor them in accordance with the contract and raise any issues with the Biffa management team as soon as possible for further discussion and investigation.

3.3 Waste Treatment

3.3.1 Waste Treatment – Bolton Road Facility – Contract Waste Received.

3.3.1.1 Table 3 – 26/27 Year-to-date contract tonnes processed.

Inputs			2025/26	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	YTD 2026/27
		Contract Waste (Limbs)	**53668.30**	4801.62	4368.72	4250.08	4686.50	3935.30	4664	**26705.78**
Barnsley	A	(Household)	**5026.88**	400.34	370.54	396.38	402.22	323.90	413.38	**2306.76**
	B	(Commercial)	**6157.08**	602.48	588.08	540.34	575.06	566.14	513.72	**3385.82**
	C	(HWRC)	**1247.36**	98.88	92.88	100.82	104.62	93.96	107.12	**598.28**
	D	(Public Highways etc)	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**
	E	(Grounds Maintenance)	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**
Doncaster	A	(Household)	**73622.60**	6504.56	6281.56	5902.52	6621.46	5668.64	5953.16	**36931.90**
	B	(Commercial)	**2748.52**	151.38	120.68	170.48	178.10	117.18	148.42	**886.24**
	C	(HWRC)	**8189.62**	763.30	767.14	684.98	726.44	797.38	711.28	**4450.52**
	D	(Public Highways etc)	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**
	E	(Grounds Maintenance)	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**
Rotherham	A	(Household)	**52253.26**	4542.90	4242.94	4481.40	4505.96	4070.00	4486.74	**26329.94**
	B	(Commercial)	**2971.38**	246.60	227.50	227.32	211.92	185.00	259.50	**1357.84**
	C	(HWRC)	**7202.10**	721.70	698.08	612.74	672.74	727.40	658.74	**4091.40**
	D	(Public Highways etc)	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**
	E	(Grounds Maintenance)	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**

3.3.2 Waste Treatment – Bolton Road Facility - Third-party waste received.

Table 4 – 26/27 Year-to-date third-party waste tonnes processed.

Inputs - 3rd Party	2025/26	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	YTD 2026/27
Biffa	10609.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	358.08	358.08

3.3.2.1 The amount of third-party waste being accepted is monitored and managed by the Contractor against Council delivered tonnage to ensure sufficient capacity to process and prioritise BDR contract waste. This will also allow for smoother acceptance of the contract waste from the Councils and increased reception area cleaning as part of Biffa's ongoing fly management measures.

3.4 Waste Treatment Performance

3.4.1 Annually, the two primary monitoring metrics for the contract are recycling performance and diversion from landfill. The contract sets targets for the facility of 17% recycling (with a default-termination trigger if below 10.5%) and 96.71% diversion of waste from landfill (with a default termination trigger if below 68.5%) in the 2026/27 contract year.

3.4.2 Table 5 – 26/27 Year-to-date Bolton Road Process Outputs

Contract Outputs	2025/26	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	YTD 2026/27
Landfill	**1988.84**	**1487.44**	**1791.22**	**606.04**	**592.63**	**83.1**	**1397.67**	**5958.1**
Recovery (RDF + Moisture)	**186226.70**	13380.31	13602.68	15285.63	15395.99	16203.17	12912.47	**86780.25**
Ferrous	**1253.55**	115.42	143.42	129.32	110.16	116.70	134.05	**749.07**
Non-Ferrous	**347.68**	21.88	28.90	25.50	23.56	36.34	24.83	**161.01**
Fines	**16645.31**	1281.54	1398.52	1441.18	1302.90	1144.96	726.23	**7295.33**
Glass & Stone	**1312.35**	127.34	78.04	215.22	241.56	127.36	141.99	**931.51**
Plastic	**1906.81**	152.98	75.46	152.68	102.56	165.52	158.41	**807.61**
Direct Delivered	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**
Recycling Sub-Total	**21465.70**	1699.16	1724.34	1963.90	1780.74	1590.88	1185.51	**9944.53**
Ferrybridge Metals	**2242.71**	153.93	142.25	185.13	187.32	205.10	155.22	**1028.95**
AWM-Recycling	**0.00**	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**0.00**
Fines CLO Uplift	**3116.93**	239.98	261.88	269.87	243.98	214.40	135.99	**1366.10**
Recycling Total	**26825.33**	2093.06	2128.28	2418.90	2212.04	2010.38	1476.72	**12339.38**
Outbound Total	**209681.24**	16566.91	17118.24	17855.57	17769.36	17877.15	15495.65	**102682.88**

Performance	2025-26	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	YTD 2026/27
Recycling (%)	**14.10%**	12.57%	13.63%	15.68%	13.32%	14.06%	9.27%	13.09%
Diversion (%)	**97.47%**	80.07%	86.31%	99.37%	91.93%	107.94%	78.69%	90.72%
Moisture Loss (%)	**29.18%**	30.66%	30.74%	30.57%	30.47%	28.98%	31.66%	30.51%

4 Complaints

4.1 Complaints Received

Table 6 – 26/27 Complaints received by month.

2026/27	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Flies	**1** (1) *	2 (1) *	2 (2)	2 (2)	0 (0)	1 (1)							0 (0)
Noise	**0** (0)	**0** (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (2)							0 (0)
Odour	**0** (0)	**0** (0)	2 (2)	1 (1)	1 (1)	0 (0)							0 (0)

(#*) Classified immediately as unsubstantiated by the EA (Distance from site, wind direction, closeness to other sources, description of complaint levied (burning waste!) or Hygiene/lack of own fly management at complainant's address).

4.1.1 So far this year, Biffa has received eight fly complaints, two noise and four odour complaints:

4.1.1.1 07/09/2026 – Fly complaint from Ullswater Close, Bolton upon Dearne.

4.1.1.2 27/09/2026 – Noise complaint, Bolton upon Dearne.

4.1.1.3 28/09/2026 – Noise complaint, Bolton upon Dearne.

4.1.1.4 19/08/2026 – Odour related, unable to investigate due to no address.

4.1.1.5 14/07/2026 – Next - Increase in fly activity.

4.1.1.6 16/07/2026 – Manvers Way- Increase in fly numbers and odour from previous year

4.1.1.7 16/06/2026 – Broomhill View, Bolton upon Dearne: report of odour.

4.1.1.8 04/06/2026 – Farfield Park, report of flies.

4.1.1.9 02/06/2026 – Lowfield Meadows, Bolton upon Dearne: report of odour and flies.

4.1.1.10 02/06/2026 – Mexborough Road, Bolton upon Dearne: report of flies.

4.1.1.11 29/05/2026 – One local business resident, investigated by Biffa and awaiting a reply from EA.

4.1.1.12 01/05/2026 – One local resident, sample found cluster flies, not BDR related.

4.1.1.13 30/04/2026 – One from local business residents, the complaint was investigated by site management, and the EA came to the site, who determined that the issue was not related to site activities.

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4.1.2 Biffa is currently following its fly management plan, as approved by the EA, increasing fly treatments due to rising temperatures in the warmer months, and monitoring / treating as needed going into the cooler months.

4.1.3 Environmental health officer Adam Cattell attended the site on Monday 22nd June regarding one of the fly complaints. Dave Aston (Environment Agency) unfortunately could not attend.

4.1.4 As part of Biffa's ongoing fly management, a reviewed and updated Fly Management Plan (with additional preventive measures) has been submitted to the EA and approved by them. In addition, Biffa has adapted the application of pesticides to drive flies deeper into the plant on application (not towards exit points), fully inspected the tipping hall to seal all gaps at access and egress points, installed air curtains on the entrance and exit of the tipping Hall to prevent fly egress, and has reduced the time that vehicle entrance and exit doors take to open and close.

4.1.5 Biffa continues dialogue (MD Keith Sinfield personally) with Next in respect of previous complaints of fly issues at their large warehouse that immediately neighbours the Bolton Road site. Dialog between Biffa and Next is ongoing with Biffa receiving praise on the most recent meeting for the reduction in flies labelling it as the best it has ever been. Biffa's fly management plan improvements have been welcomed by all parties and will be monitored going forward.

5 Environmental Report

5.1 26/27

5.1.1 In 26/27, there have been 8 x environmental incidents (unsubstantiated fly, noise, and odour complaints) and 7 x Car forms issued:

5.1.1.1 1 x AIR 1 submission.
5.1.1.2 1 x IC2 submission review
5.1.1.3 1 x Bioaerosol emission monitoring schedule
5.1.1.4 1 x Visit to local business resident following fly complaint.
5.1.1.5 1 x BTS Inspection
5.1.1.6 1 x Bolton Road Site Familiarisation for new EA officer
5.1.1.7 1 x Grange Lane transfer station - Waste returns error

5.1.2 In 26/27, there have been 5 x Schedule 5s submitted:

5.1.2.1 1 x Scada glitch
5.1.2.2 2 x AD Stack Emissions results
5.1.2.3 1 x AD Biogas release
5.1.2.4 1 x Compactor Oil leak

5.1.3 Table 7 - Details of Communications with any relevant Authority in 26/27

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
EA inspections @ BDR Bolton Road				1								
EA inspection @ Barnsley Transfer Station			1									
CAR Received BDR Bolton Road	2	2		1								
WAR Received BDR Bolton Road												
CAR Received Barnsley Transfer Station			1			1						
Schedule 5 submitted to EA		1	3			1						
HSE Enforcement notices BDR Bolton Road												
HSE Enforcement notices Barnsley Transfer Station												
HSE Cautions BDR Bolton Road												
HSE Cautions Barnsley Transfer Station												
New Permits, Variations, Revocations & Suspensions issued. (All Operations)												

6 Other Updates / Issues

6.1 Biffa Sale

6.1.1 The BDR Team and its legal, financial, and technical advisors closely monitored the sale of the PFI contract to Biffa from RUK, being in contact with Senior figures in Biffa, the retained personnel in both the SPV and OpCo. The Team also liaised with other Councils with RUK's/BIFFA PFI's, WIDP, Defra and the Senior Lenders who finance the project, to be aware of wider issues/requests and sense check the sale. So far, no significant issues, risks, or worries are circulating.

6.1.2 The only outstanding request arising from the sale is for the Parent Company Guarantee (PCG) in the contract's various agreement documents to be changed from Renewi PLC to Biffa Bid Co. After taking advice from our consultants this request has been rejected as the new proposed guarantor does not fulfil the requirements of a guarantor as set out in the contract. Renewi PLC remains the guarantor. We have received an update on this in June, and this is currently being reviewed by our legal and financial consultants and the BDR team.

6.2 Insurance

6.2.1 The Contractor obtained full cover of insurance for 2026. Although in general the insurance market for waste still sees difficulties in placement and higher premiums, the Contractor's previous insurance advisor Marsh Limited, stated that for the BDR PFI they have seen an increased appetite from insurers to accept more options, which has seen a slight decrease in premiums. This is due to the BDR Site demonstrating good fire prevention by investment into control measures, equipment, and fire risk reduction.

6.2.1.1 The first meeting between the Contractor, BDR Team and AON has taken place for obtaining insurance for 2027 with a similar message to last year in that they have no major concerns.

6.2.2 Following the sale to Biffa, the contractor has switched to AON as their insurance broker. Following several meetings with them, they are reporting a similar position to Marsh previously and have seen an increase in appetite from the insurers also. Biffa confirmed that insurance had been placed by the deadline of the 24th of December 2025 as needed.

6.2.3 Insurance, cover, and availability will be scrutinised closely to ensure that under the new contractor (Biffa) it continues to be placed and that it is sufficient to cover and meet the contractual requirements.

6.2.4 The SPV has advised that they will be writing to obtain the same waivers to levels of insurance as they have in previous years, and we anticipate the following.

6.2.4.1 A hot works condition applied to the Material (Property) Damage and Business Interruption

6.2.4.2 A deductible for Material (Property) Damage, Machinery Breakdown, and Business Interruption.

6.2.4.3 The Material (Property) Damage and Business Interruption policy has a Loss Limit.

6.2.4.4 Deductibles for Public and Products Liability policy and individual aspects sub-limits

6.2.5 We have engaged with IDRisk (Insurance Specialist) to undertake a review of these requests along with the cover documents. Once received, the BDR Team will make a judgement on whether to grant the waiver or if more information is needed.

6.3 Joint Insurance Cost Report (JICR)

6.3.1 The position for the 25/26 to 26/27 JICR remains the same as in previous iterations, and the BDR Team has rejected any claim for payment from the contractor, citing the contract drafting and calculation. We now await a response from the Contractor if they wish to pursue their claim.

6.3.2 The 5th JICR was received in February 2025 (every 2 years), making an initial claim of £1.13M from the Councils for increased insurance costs. Full interrogation and due diligence of the report (for accuracy and against the Contract specification) had been undertaken by the BDR Manager with his Legal, Financial, and Insurance advisors. The conclusion of all is a rejection of the JICR. A Rejection letter was sent to the Contractor on the 25th of March 2025, confirming rejection on the grounds of:

6.3.2.1 Mathematical errors
6.3.2.2 Incorrect data used
6.3.2.3 Incorrect (or lack of evidence) for assumptions in the report
6.3.2.4 Incorrect interpretation of the contract.
6.3.2.5 When the correct data is used, we calculate that the Councils are not liable to make payment.

6.3.3 Therefore, the position for the 5th JICR remains the same as the previous four iterations, rejecting any claim for payment from the contractor, citing the contract drafting and calculation. We now await a response from the Contractor if they wish to pursue their claim.

6.3.4 It should be noted that the BDR position on JICR is not unique, and many PFI's JICR's are not yet agreed. Further guidance from the Infrastructure Projects Authority (IPA) on the application of the contract about JICR has recently been issued, but although it was anticipated to give clarity, on review, this (non-binding guidance) seems watered down and lacking clarity.

6.3.5 We are still awaiting an official response from the SPV on our rejection letter. Although it should be noted that the time limit as stipulated in the contract to take our rejection through the Dispute process has lapsed. The Contractor has recently intimated that they may seek to take several JICR's (3 to 5) to adjudication and dispute. This could be in 2026, but they may initially pursue a "test case" with another PFI First.

6.3.6 The BDR team and its advisors will keep a review of the situation with IDRisk having reviewed the previous 5 JICR's already.

6.3.7 The sixth JICR is due in January 2027, and we anticipate an update from the Contractor prior to this being issues to agree a position going forward.

6.4 AD Pasteurisation Tunnel & Acid Scrubber

6.4.1 Biffa's legal action against the original contractor (JCBE), who designed and built the AD facility, has been to Adjudication in December 23 /January 24, with the adjudication being found in favour of Biffa.

6.4.2 JCBE has disputed the findings of the adjudication through the submission of a Notice of Dissatisfaction. Unless the parties agree on a position on liability, the case will now be heard in court.

6.4.3 JCBE's parent company have now been in contract with Biffa to agree a way forward on this with several meetings taking place. Recent updates indicate that this is moving forward with a planned resolution soon.

6.4.4 As the Acid Scrubber is integral to the AD facility and is physically positioned on top of the AD plant, Biffa feels it may not now be as simple as making the original design work. Biffa is investigating if a new positioning or a new (enhanced) system may be required. The BDR team will ensure that any cost for any enhancing of the system above what is required is not passed to the Councils.

6.4.5 Biffa will continue to progress the rectification of the acid scrubber on the AD facility. The base for the course of action is a report they commissioned from their consultant Otto Simon. A design path has been chosen by Biffa, which is being worked through with a suitable contractor appointed to build and commission the equipment. Again, the BDR team, along with our legal, technical, and financial consultants, will endure due diligence of the suggested solution is undertaken to mitigate any additional cost pass through to the Council.

6.5 Permit emission amendments (Best available Technologies – BATS)

6.5.1 Biffa has received a draft revised permit from the EA detailing the new required emissions levels from the acid scrubber stack. Biffa has formally written to the Councils to notify us that they believe this is a Qualifying Change of Law and therefore, once the changes in the permit have been analysed, there may be a claim for any additional resource/expenditure to meet the new permit requirements.

6.5.2 Biffa has also been set a hard delivery date in 2026 by the EA to comply with their permit requirement, and are being closely monitored by the EA. This now looks likely to be pushed back to 2027.

6.5.3 The BDR Team has asked for Biffa to provide a detailed analysis of the changes and an in-depth justification for any Qualified Change in Law (QCiL) payment they feel is required from the council. Biffa have advised quotation and procurement for the solution has been undertaken and they are hoping to have further information soon (costings, solution proposed, technical specification of solution, and technical specification of existing and cost to replace as is).

6.5.4 Following extra monitoring carried out in December 2025, we are still awaiting an update from Biffa that will provide us with the cost model and engineering solution details for us to review. This is now expected in June/July.

6.5.5 Once received the BDR team will undertake due diligence of any claim, taking legal, financial, and technical advice from external experts to ascertain if the claim is correct and then if any payment is required form the Councils.

6.5.6 Technical consultants, Stantec, have been provided with details of the system and have provided an independent evaluation of the contractual performance baseline requirements. And they will assist with phase two – Analysis of the proposed solution by Biffa.

6.6 External Maintenance Review

6.6.1 The review conducted at the BDR Waste Treatment Facility examined lifecycle maintenance activities from 2019 to 2025, comparing Biffa's annual maintenance records against the original Schedule 46 – Lifecycle Works. The aim was to identify discrepancies in maintenance frequency and provide BDR Councils with a clearer understanding of the condition of key equipment. The analysis revealed several instances of non-conformance, with some assets maintained less frequently than scheduled and others more frequently. Biffa attributed these variances to factors such as third-party maintenance, asset descriptions, improved inspection regimes, and operational decisions based on the knowledge of operating the facility over the previous 10 years.

6.6.2 The findings from Stantec found no significant issues to raise regarding the ongoing maintenance and lifecycle activities at the facility. The findings also suggesting opportunities for cost savings through potential reductions in maintenance frequency for certain equipment, provided these changes are justified and agreed upon. Conversely, where increased maintenance is necessary, Biffa should supply detailed explanations to ensure transparency and support future contract hand back planning.

6.6.3 The findings by Stantec have given the BDR team confidence that Biffa is managing maintenance and lifecycle activities well. The report also recommends improving the format and clarity of future maintenance data sharing—preferably in Excel—to facilitate easier analysis and consistent terminology. Going forward the BDR team will use this data annually to review the planned and actual maintenance, promoting better contract management and informed decision-making.

7 Barnsley Transfer Station – Grange Lane

7.1 Dilapidation Works

7.1.1 All delaps works have now been completed for some time. BMBC Asset Management has commissioned a survey of a schedule of conditions to record a standard for Biffa to keep the site in a good and tenable condition to the end of the contract, which was being reviewed by BMBC (two years ago).

7.1.2 The BDR manager has been pushing BMBC asset Management (without response to numerous e-mails) to allow the survey to be reviewed and agreed by Biffa, to allow a variation to the BTS contract to be drawn up to agree on the maintenance of the facility moving forward, how the paintwork on the steel should be managed, and, more specifically, the agreed hand-back condition expected by BMBC from Biffa at contract end.

7.1.3 Recently, after numerous unanswered requests and with Biffa planning to undertake their own condition survey, we were contacted by the group leader for BMBC Estates late in 2025 and are currently in the process of working through the outstanding works to enable an agreement on the baseline condition survey between the contractor and BMBC as soon as possible.

7.1.4 This will allow all parties to agree what the condition of the site will be when it comes to handing back the site at the end of the contract period.

7.2 Other

7.2.1 Due to long-term sickness, staffing levels were high at Barnsley transfer station. Agency workers covered long-term sick duties. Although all long-term sickness has returned to work, two are on phased returns, meaning cover is still required from Bolton Road site.

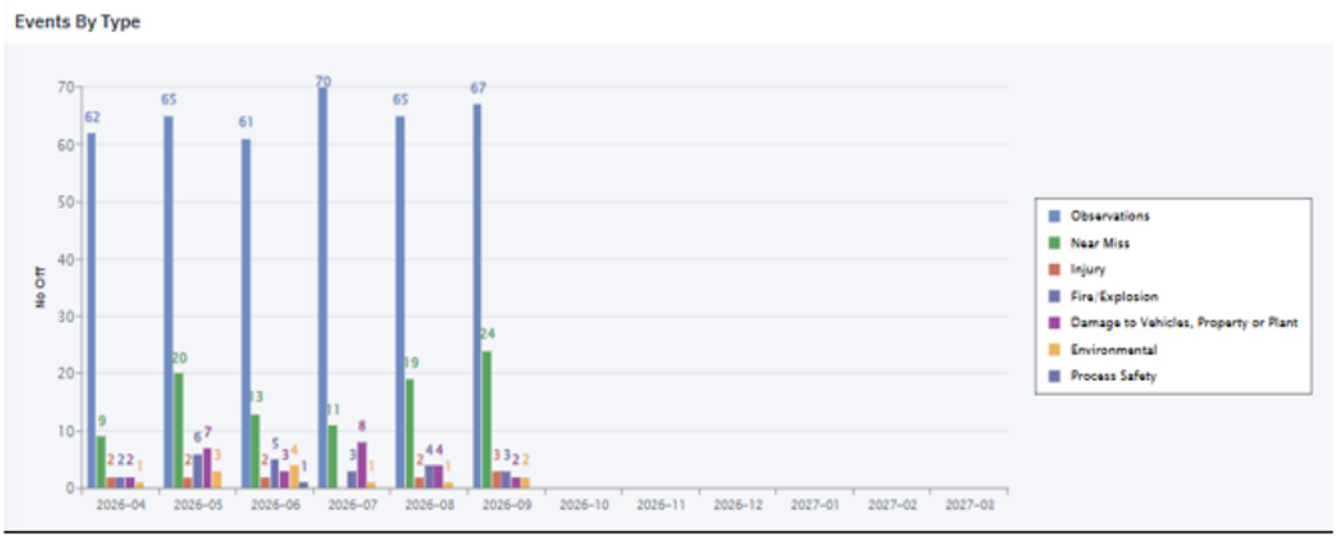
8 Health and Safety

8.1 26/27

8.1.1 Table 8 – 26/27 Year-to-date Health and Safety

H&S data supplied up to September 2026, as the October 2026 data will not be contractually available until 14th November 2026 (after this report is issued).

Events year to date April 2026 – March 2027



9 Community Education Liaison Officer (CELO)

9.1 26/27

9.1.1 Press Releases

9.1.1.1 New site tour dates for 2026/27.

9.1.1.2 CSR volunteer hours

9.1.2 Social Media

9.1.2.1 Recycle Week 2026 (25th September to 1st October) **-** posts were shared during rom the official campaign. These received 2,592 views on the social media channels.

9.1.2.2 International E-Waste Day 2026 (14th October) - the Great Cable Challenge was repeated this year.

9.1.2.3 International Compost Awareness Week (May 2026) - Social media content was shared on Facebook and Instagram. The posts received 35,154 views. The giveaway received 419 entries. The winner of the giveaway was selected, and the bundle was delivered.

9.1.2.4 Three social media posts have been created on disposing of BBQs safely, warnings on using BBQs in natural settings, and disposing of gas canisters safely. The post received 10,732 views.

9.1.2.5 A social media post was shared for World Refill Day (July). This received 478 views on Facebook and seventy-eight views on Instagram.

9.1.2.6 Four blogs were published about the Hot bin giveaway and reasons to start composting as part of International Compost Awareness Week.

9.1.2.7 Blogs are posted regularly on a range of topics including borrowing the swap shop kit and making quesadillas.

9.1.2.8 Eighty-nine posts were shared on the Waste Less South Yorkshire. They received 339,951 views on Facebook and 35,113 views on Instagram, and ten posts were shared on TikTok about using coffee grounds in the garden, waste 'horror stories', wardrobe decluttering, using leftover bread, eco-friendly day at the shops, buying second-hand books, borrowing instead of buying, the 'kinda chic' trend applied to sustainable habits, Shop your wardrobe competition launch, and autumn wardrobe.

9.1.3 Prevention/Reduction Activities

9.1.3.1 **Single Use Plastics** - Between April and August the CELO team established a collaboration with Hey Girls to provide reusable period products to residents of Barnsley, Doncaster, and Rotherham. This included setting them up as a supplier, a website landing page being made and a new platform being created. The homepacks were promoted through food banks, social supermarkets, women's shelters, domestic violence groups, sexual health organisations, and other similar places to try to get the packs to people who would benefit most from them. Between August and October home packs were sent to 265 people.

9.1.3.2 **Plastic Free July Giveaway** - which focuses on a different area of life each week by 31st July 2026. Giveaway bundles were purchased to promote plastic-free products in different areas of life. The bundle categories are in the kitchen, for the kids, out and about, beauty and hygiene. Social media posts and a press release are now complete.

In July, four giveaways ran on the Waste Less South Yorkshire social media channels, focused on plastic-free swaps in different areas of life. Winners were selected, and prizes were posted out. The total number of entries was 444. The entries per giveaway are as follows:

Kitchen – 137 entries. Kids – 51 entries. Out and about – 135 entries. Beauty – 121 entries

9.1.4 **Food Waste Reduction Campaign – Phase 2** –All events and promotion of the kitchen kits have now ended. Ten events were undertaken in total, and the scheme promoted at talks and via social media.

635 surveys have been completed in total and over five hundred packs distributed. In addition, 118 follow-up surveys have been completed and follow up surveys will continue to be sent out until December.

9.1.4.1 **Recipe Ideas** – Artisan Cooks were commissioned to create ten recipe videos to be used across social media. In July, the recipe videos were uploaded to YouTube and have been included in social media plans.

9.1.5 **Clothing Waste Prevention Campaign 'Shop Stop'** - In June, a meeting took place with personal stylist Laura Fawcett, to discuss creating personal style videos for social media. Ideas for the videos were discussed and agreed on, including styling basics, styling old microtrends, and shopping your own wardrobe. A series of six videos were produced by Laura and shared throughout September and October. In October, a further seven videos were commissioned for November to January to be used throughout the year.

9.1.5.1 Social media assets were developed for a 'shop your wardrobe' clothing competition. The competition ran in September and into October, receiving multiple entries; winners were selected in October and received their prizes through Thankbox.

9.1.5.2 **Team Repair** – Team Repair sessions have been promoted to schools through education and enterprise contacts at the three Councils. There were thirty-three sessions available in total. To date three have been completed in Barnsley, with a further six sessions booked and one more school expressing interest; three have been completed in Doncaster, with a further two schools expressing interest; and one has been completed in Rotherham with a further two schools expressing interest. The details continue to be shared regularly on social media and via contacts.

9.1.6 **Second Hand September -** Second-hand September content has been created as part of the next social media plan.

In July, content was included in the next social media plan and has been approved by the comms group.

In September, posts were shared throughout the month, including from the official Oxfam campaign, and a blog post about shopping at charity shops.

9.1.7 **Batteries, Vapes and Electronics -** The specific changes required by Barnsley and Doncaster were discussed with Material Focus, and they have agreed to schedule these with their design team. A timeline for the localised designs has been requested but not yet supplied.

In July, the revised Material Focus designs were distributed to the Councils and responses chased.
In August, the amends requested by the Councils were shared with Material Focus. Once a response is received, the Councils will be updated on the expected timeline. There has been no progress in September.
Three posts have been created for social media, promoting take-back schemes, proper disposal and the hazards of batteries, vapes and electronics.

9.1.4 **Community Activities –** So far this year, seven tours of the BDR Waste Treatment Facility have taken place with forty-two participants.

9.1.5 **Education Workshops –** So far this year, five 3Rs sessions and two assemblies occurred with five hundred and thirty-three participants.
In September, one education session took place. This was a Rubbish Adventure session with Whiston Brownies.

9.1.6 **Community Talks and Presentations -** two talks took place. A Love Food Hate Waste talk for St Wilfrid's Fellowship was attended by approximately twenty-five people, and a Love your Clothes talk for the Inner Wheel Club of Doncaster was attended by approximately thirty-five people. St Wilfrid's Fellowship has booked a talk for 2027, and a group of Magistrates has expressed interest in a talk later this year.

9.1.7 **Biffa BDR Community Social Responsibility (CSR) (grants and volunteer hours)** - In April, 6.5 hours of volunteer hours took place with Kids Plant Trees.
In July, the CELO team attended the Kids Plant Trees celebration event as volunteers.
In October 4.5 volunteer hours took place with the Doncaster Clothing Swap and a further 9 hours are scheduled for later in the year. Information and the application form for volunteer hours are now on the BDR website. This information was also distributed to Parish Councils in the area.

9.1.8 **Community Liaison Group Newsletter** – The Q1 (Jan-Mar 26), Q2 (Apr-Jun) and Q3 (July-Sept) newsletter updates have been shared with CLG and added to the BDR online website.

9.1.9 **Waste Composition Analysis -** Data and reports from the Spring 2026 analysis have now been shared with the Councils.
The next compositional analysis took place in October 2026, and the details will be provided to the councils when received.

9.1.10 **BDR Online Website Management** - Website checks occurred in April, June and August, and any needed changes were requested.

9.2 CELO Budget 26/27

9.2.1 Below shows the agreed 26/27 budget and current spend used by the CELO team to deliver the projects for the councils. This includes the £15k set aside for each Council to utilise on projects specific to their area that align with the goals of the fund.

9.2.1.1 Agreed 26/27 CELO Budget: £172,468.27.

9.2.1.2 Current Spend as of end of September 2026: £22,371.85.

10 Joint working and BDR support 25/26 and 26-27

10.1 Updates

10.1.1 The BDR team and its External Advisors have been assisting Barnsley, Doncaster, and Rotherham councils with joint and individual projects. There is additional support as required, from a legal locum, internal and external technical advisors, and financial advisors, for more complex matters. It should be noted that the increase in consultation activity from central government departments is putting pressure on resources. Once the outcome of the consultations is known, more resources will be required to implement changes to contracts and services.

10.1.2 Listed below are the current projects and areas where the BDR team is helping to support the individual Councils or co-ordinate joint work 25/26 and 26-27:

10.1.3 BMBC

10.1.3.1 Support on Paper and Card recycling off-taker re-contracting and specification.
10.1.3.2 Support on Dry Mixed Recycling off-taker re-contracting and specification.
10.1.3.3 Support on Skips and Bulky Waste off-taker re-contracting and specification.
10.1.3.4 Finalisation and Support for delivery of new HWRC contract
10.1.3.5 Support for re-tender of Garden Waste Contract

10.1.4 CoDC

10.1.4.1 Finalisation and Support for the delivery of the new HWRC contract
10.1.4.2 Legal support for review of Collection Contract

10.1.5 RMBC

10.1.5.1 Support for the re-tender of Garden Waste Contract
10.1.5.2 Support for delivery/take-back of new HWRC contract.

10.1.6 B.D.R

10.1.6.1 Co-ordination, collation, and submission to numerous Government/Defra consultations from around the waste sector.
10.1.6.2 Assisting with HWRC contract variation requirements
10.1.6.3 Lobbying the Government on the delays in the R&WS outcomes
10.1.6.4 Changes required due to Resource and Waste Strategy
10.1.6.5 Pre-work on Strategic Review of SYMWS as requested at JWB.

10.2 Report Contact:

10.2.1 Paul Hutchinson, BDR Manager (on sick leave) – Paul.hutchinson@rotherham.gov.uk
10.2.2 Carl Hewlett, BDR Senior Contract Officer – Carl.Hewlett@rotherham.gov.uk