



# Think piece

Covid 19 – Keeping waste and recycling services running in difficult times

April 2020

# Overview

Local authorities and their contractors have risen to the challenge of managing waste in these difficult times and have done a great job in maintaining services. But what are the issues that you need to consider in order to keep services running in these challenging times?

Each of the following slides considers key issues associated with five main questions:

- How do you protect your staff against the risks of Coronavirus?
- How do you manage changes in staffing levels that might result?
- How do you keep collections services operating?
- How do you manage Coronavirus risk at tipping points (MRFs, Energy from waste facilities, landfills, etc)?
- How do you communicate effectively on the issue of Coronavirus?



# Changes to staffing levels



**Maintain collections by considering the risks and knock on effects**



# Waste at delivery and recycling points

Enable greater distances between staff and higher hygiene levels

Ensure **enhanced provision of hand-sanitisers** within all waste facilities and throughout any waste sites

Ensure that where issued, PPE, especially gloves and face masks, **are issued clean everyday**

**Wash or dispose of all PPE every day** at the end of a shift, if possible, and or/have a changing room so **staff do not take used clothing home**

Attempt social distancing by **limiting changing room access** to a crew at a time, if possible

Negotiate **staggered delivery times** and queuing options

If waste is being disposed of at an Energy from Waste plant, landfill or other treatment/disposal facility **ensure that they have sufficient capacity for greater quantities**

For all waste facilities ensure that **information and data from waste flow predictions and monitoring** is provided to managers as soon as possible

**Close or limit access to the canteen/staff room**

Ensure that staff issuing equipment do so at **the correct distance from crews**

Regularly clean all staff welfare facilities at depots. **Wipe all surfaces/handles that staff are likely to touch**

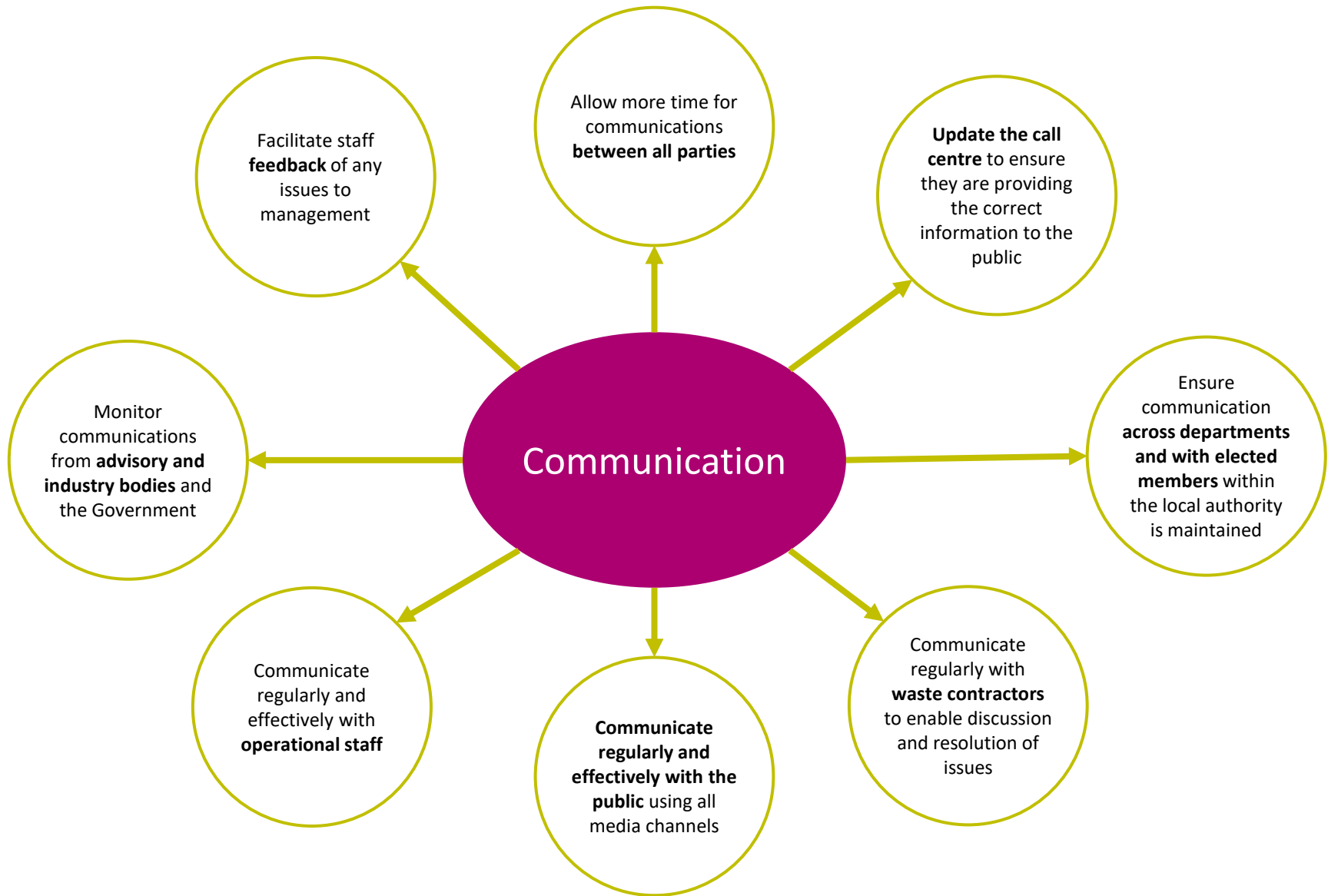
Ensure that weighbridge facility check-ins and outs are **as contactless as possible** to limit exposure to the virus

Ensure that staff on picking-belts in MRFs are **kept in the same teams**, rather than rotating staff in and out of teams

If possible **slow the picking-belt down** to allow for fewer staff on the sorting line at any one time

Allow for new shift patterns **over longer working days**







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