

Our ref: BLWS-SL-IB-L1
12th June 2023

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Dear Steve

Bridging Liquid Waste Strategy 2023-26 Review

Further to your recent emailed letter, below is our review of the above-named document. It is structured to respond in line with the specific questions asked, shown in italics above each response:

In your view, to what extent do you think the proposed Bridging Liquid Waste Strategy is sufficient in meeting the needs of the Island in terms of liquid waste management?

- The Strategy certainly identifies that a reaction to the current state of the sewer network is required. It is an ageing system that has limited capacity with potential for catastrophic failure.
- We would broadly agree with the strategy of dealing with infiltration. There is less detail on replacing and upgrading main carriers, which we would have expected to see.
- We broadly agree with the use of SUDs to deal with storm water to new properties and estates. There is less detail on older developments generally and their run-off water to carriageways specifically.

To what extent do you think the timeline is sufficient in meeting the needs of the Island and to not delay necessary future developments on the Island?

- The 2023 budget already seems unachievable. Detail of how work will be procured is lacking.
- In relation to the above, we refute that there is a 'lack of... contractors on the island...' [page 3 bottom para]. We acknowledge there are challenges in mobilising the knowledge and capacity that exists in Jersey. Geomarine have international, UK and extensive local experience; in particular, we have extensive connections to the local supply chain. We can assist in the mobilisation of local resource and would welcome a separate meeting on such.
- In summary of the above, there is sufficient resource on island and engineering knowledge to move this forward before it is at a point where the costs/contract size are such that a UK contractor is required.

To what extent do you think the budget is sufficient in meeting the needs of the Island and to not delay necessary future developments on the Island?

- The total average budget is just over £21M per annum. If resource levelling is actively pursued, this is less than £2m per month and is manageable at a local level, using on-island resources.

How has your company been impacted by current issues with sewerage network capacity? If so, could you provide further detail?

- As a civil engineering contractor, we rely on forecasting government projects. We have resource to suit the budgets outlined, yet subsequent tendering has not materialised. Surety of government requirement will enhance our ability to shape and size the company to the client requirement.

Are you aware of any individual new developments or existing homes that have been refused a connection onto the main sewerage network? If so, please could you provide further details?

- It has been common knowledge for many years, in the civil engineering sector, that intended homes in St Peter will not be able to be serviced by the existing connection points.

If applicable, do you consider that your company will be adversely or positively impacted by any aspects of the Bridging Liquid Waste Strategy?

- As previously mentioned, we use the published strategies to alter our offering, train staff, invest in equipment, recruit and plan, therefore generally we expect the strategy to be positive for us.

In your view, are there any further considerations/solutions that should be included in the Bridging Liquid Waste Strategy? If so, could you provide further detail?

- We would reiterate, and expand upon, our opinion in relation to the final paragraph of the executive summary:

Due to the lack of key consultants and contractors on the island to undertake the required services and works, it is proposed that long-term frameworks are set up with a mix of UK and Jersey based consulting and contracting entities who can design and build these key assets whilst employing and training local labour to improve the skill set over the period of the programme. This will provide the best value and avoid the challenges that have been seen repeatedly from solely relying on companies from UK or Europe.

- This grossly under-estimates the capability and experience of our locally based consultants and contractors, many of whom have gained their experience not only in Jersey but UK and worldwide.
- As an industry we have already learnt from previous projects when working with national and international companies, this appears to get forgotten over time.
- As Island based service providers, who generally work within the constraints of the islands providing the day-to-day service, when a sizable project is required, Government tends to look off island rather than on. Certain projects seem to automatically be classed as too big for the on-island provider. Over recent years we have seen UK providers going into administration and the government having to step in. We would suggest that backing appropriate local providers, to grow on island experience along with the invest in plant and equipment to serve the island would be a more sustainable approach.
- UK consultants will give UK-centric, guarded and out of context solutions that will require UK contractors. The question needs to be asked differently, Geomarine have local (but internationally trained and experienced) chartered professionals who can assist.

Are there any elements of the Bridging Liquid Waste Strategy that raise concern for you? If so, could you provide further detail?

- No other comment

To what extent do you think the Bridging Liquid Waste Strategy will be successful in addressing current sewerage capacity issues?

- Overall the strategy is good for the timescale it covers and we believe it can be successful
- Our concerns are in the already late procurement of the elements marked for construction in 2023. Surety of timeframes is critical to mobilising local capacity.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the strategy. Government is a critical client due to the nature of our sector and we remain available to discuss any element.

Yours sincerely



Iain Barclay
Operations Director