

OXFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE

23 October 2009

Residual Waste Treatment Project Update

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update the OWP on progress on the residual waste treatment procurement project.

2 Background

- 2.1 Diversion of waste from landfill is essential to reduce the risk of fines for exceeding targets for limiting the amount of biodegradable waste that is landfilled under the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS). It is also essential to reduce the amount of methane gas produced. Methane gas is a greenhouse gas over 20 times more powerful than CO₂.
- 2.2 As previously reported the technical solutions being offered are both incineration with energy recovery. Both use established technology providers with a proven track record in incineration.

3 Progress and future actions

- 3.1 Following a detailed evaluation and clarification process the evaluation of the final tenders received from Viridor and WRG was concluded. On 7 September the County Council's Cabinet was asked to endorse the officer recommendation to select Viridor as the preferred bidder for the residual waste treatment contract. After full and careful consideration of the issues Cabinet unanimously endorsed the recommendation.
- 3.2 This decision was called in and scrutinised at the Growth and Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee meeting on 16 September. Again after full and careful consideration Scrutiny Committee decide that no further action was necessary.
- 3.3 Fine tuning of the contract has now commenced with Viridor to clarify and confirm their commitments and to prepare the final contract documentation. This process is expected to last until Christmas. The County Council will then need to formally decide to enter into contract. The contract is expected to be awarded in March 2010.
- 3.4 Planning permission and Environment Agency permits will be required before any facility can be built. The county council as waste planning authority will determine the planning application unless it is called in by the Secretary of State. The planning and procurement processes are kept entirely separate in terms of key officer, teams and governance, with the Cabinet taking decisions on the procurement process and the Planning and Regulation Committee determining the planning applications. Planning decisions are made on planning grounds and are guided by local, regional and national planning policy and other material planning considerations. Planning and Regulation Committee are to consider Viridor's application at their meeting on 19 October.
- 3.5 More information about the project is available on the Council's web site – www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/alternativestolandfill

