

# Public Document Pack



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## **SOUTH WEST DEVON WASTE PARTNERSHIP**

**DATE: THURSDAY 22 JULY 2010**  
**TIME: 10.00 AM**  
**PLACE: THE DAW ROOM, COMMITTEE SUITE, COUNTY HALL, EXETER**

### **Members –**

Councillor Croad, Chair  
Councillor Butt, Vice Chair  
Councillors Bowyer, Carroll, Hart, Michael Leaves and Vincent

### **Observers –**

Councillors Julian Brazil, Ian Doggett and Brian Vincent

***Members are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business overleaf***

**BARRY KEEL**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

## **SOUTH WEST DEVON WASTE PARTNERSHIP**

### **1. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES**

To introduce attendees and receive apologies for non-attendance submitted by Members.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members will be asked to make any declarations of interest in respect to items on this agenda.

### **3. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

The current Committee Chair will invite nominations for a new Committee Chair and Vice Chair in accordance with the Joint Working Agreement and a new Chair and Vice Chair will be elected.

### **4. MINUTES**

**(Pages 1 - 4)**

To sign and confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on the 22 April 2010.

### **5. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

To receive reports on business which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be brought forward for urgent consideration.

### **6. PROJECT UPDATE**

**(Pages 5 - 8)**

Members will receive an update on the project from Mark Turner, Project Director.

### **7. OVERVIEW OF PROJECT COMMUNICATIONS**

**(Pages 9 - 16)**

Members will receive a report on communication activity from April to July 2010 and a summary of the general questions received in the last three months from members of the public, including the partnership responses.

### **8. PRESENTATION BY THE HEALTH PROTECTION AGENCY**

Members will receive a presentation from Peter Smith of the Health Protection Agency relating to energy from waste facilities.

**9. JOINT SCRUTINY REVIEW**

Members will receive an update on the proposal to undertake a joint scrutiny review.

**10. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Committee meeting is proposed for 28 October 2010 in Torbay at a venue to be confirmed.

**11. EXEMPT BUSINESS**

To consider passing a resolution under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it (they) involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

**PART II (PRIVATE COMMITTEE)**

**AGENDA**

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO NOTE**

that under the law, the Panel is entitled to consider certain items in private. Members of the public will be asked to leave the meeting when such items are discussed.

**12. OVERVIEW OF CURRENT SOLUTIONS AND BIDDERS INVITED TO CONTINUE CALL FOR FINAL TENDER (CFT) (E3)**

Members will be informed of the progress of the two solutions offered by the two remaining bidders who were selected to continue from the ISDS main stage.

**13. APPROVAL OF SPECIFIC EVALUATION CRITERIA, WEIGHTINGS AND METHODOLOGY FOR JUDGING BID SOLUTIONS IN RESPONSE TO CALL FOR FINAL TENDERS (E3) (Pages 17 - 56)**

Members will receive an overview presentation and consider a report submitted to the Joint Committee for approval of evaluation criteria, weightings and methodology.

**14. PROPOSED REVISED PROJECT PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACT SIGN-OFF PROGRAMME (E3) (Pages 57 - 58)**

Members will receive the latest proposed project procurement and contract sign-off programme from Mark Turner, Project Director.

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## South West Devon Waste Partnership

Thursday 22 April 2010

### PRESENT:

Councillor Croad, in the Chair.  
Councillor Butt, Vice Chair.  
Councillors Bowyer, Hart and Michael Leaves.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Carroll and Doggett

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 12.10 pm.

*Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.*

### 35. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Councillor Roger Croad welcomed members to the meeting.

### 36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 37. MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the South West Devon Waste Partnership Joint Committee held on Thursday 21 January 2010 are confirmed as a correct record.

### 38. PROJECT UPDATE

The Partnership received a Project Update Report from the Project Manager. Members were informed that –

- (i) since the last meeting of the Partnership the Invitation to Submit Detailed Solutions (ISDS) had been received from the two participants;
- (ii) the Partnership attended two meetings with the Waste Infrastructure Development Programme (WIDP), who would be commencing a commercial review of the project in the near future;
- (iii) on 15 March 2010 it was publicly announced that MVV had indicated their desire to concentrate on their North Yard, Devonport solution and not to pursue their Ernesettle proposal;
- (iv) throughout March formal dialogue had been ongoing with the bidders', to review and clarify their detailed solutions;
- (v) at the end of March officers visited two operational facilities within Germany. The purpose of the visit was to view facilities operated by MVV to assess their technical ability, customer interface and levels of satisfaction as well as health and safety performance;
- (vi) a briefing session had been held for senior finance officers and the Section 151 Officers from the three partner authorities.

Members were also informed that between now and the next Partnership meeting the project team would –

- (vii) continue to hold formal dialogue sessions with the bidders;
- (viii) undertake a visit to a Viridor facility;
- (ix) be developing the next series of public roadshows.

## 39. **OVERVIEW OF PROJECT COMMUNICATIONS**

The Partnerships Communication Advisor presented a report on recent and upcoming communication activity. Members were informed that –

- (i) there had been two key communication events since the last meeting of the Partnership, these were –
  - MVV deciding to focus on their bid solution at North Yard, Devonport;
  - the formation of Incineration is Wrong (IIW), an opposition group against the North Yard, Devonport proposal;
- (ii) in February IIW attended a briefing by the Partnership to discuss their concerns;
- (iii) following the withdrawal of the Ernesettle proposal STIFLE (Stop the Incinerator Fouling Land at Ernesettle) have continued to support their campaign;
- (iv) the queries received from the public by the Partnership were becoming increasingly technical, particularly, following the report on air quality published in March by DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs);
- (v) the Partnership, at the beginning of March, held an MP's briefing. Three local MPs attended and were updated on the proposed solutions;
- (vi) the Partnership provided a briefing to South Hams District Councillors on the project in March. A further briefing with South Hams Council would be held in the future.

In response to questions raised, members were informed that –

- (vii) the Partnership did not answer queries regarding planning issues as this was the responsibility of the Planning functions within the relevant authorities;
- (viii) the Partnership provided transparent responses to all queries received, this was to ensure that a consistent response was being given.

## 40. **PRESENTATION BY THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

The Partnership received a presentation from the Environment Agency on the regulation, permitting, control and monitoring of energy from waste facilities. In attendance to present to the Partnership was Judy Proctor, Cornwall Area Environment Manager and David Mudge, Pollution, Prevention and Control (PPC) Officer for the Devon and Cornwall PPC Team. Members were advised that –

- (i) the Environment Agency's (EA) roles included looking after the environment in England and Wales and regulating industry using environmental permits. They were also statutory consultees on certain planning applications;

- (ii) the EA as a consultee on planning applications were able to offer specialist advice to both decision makers and developers. By working with the Partnership at an early stage the EA have been able to offer pre-application advice to the bidders;
- (iii) the proposed sites would need a planning application for the development and in order to operate from the site they would also need an environmental permit;
- (iv) an environmental permit application for an energy from waste facility could take up to 12 months to determine;
- (v) the environmental permit application must show risk and environmental impacts as well as mitigating impacts. The permit would not be granted if there was an unacceptable risk to the environment or public health;
- (vi) the environmental permit would consider and control the following –
  - categories of waste that could be processed;
  - site monitoring including techniques, equipment, standards and sampling;
  - management and plant operating conditions;
  - energy efficiency, accident prevention, noise, vibration control and odour;
  - compliance with the Waste Incineration Directive and the permit conditions;
- (vii) if operators did not follow the conditions of the permit the EA have the powers of enforcement;
- (viii) the Planning application and the environmental permit application both contain an aspect for air quality assessment. In both cases this aspect was often carried out by the EA's Air Quality Team.

In response to questions raised members were informed that –

- (ix) the EA have the power to issue enforcement notices and can prosecute if they were not complied with;
- (x) the EA have standards when undertaking pollution and air quality modelling exercises that ensure the pollution emitted is not above acceptable levels;
- (xi) the air quality report can often extend the planning application process. The EA issue two responses to the planning authority an early response, covering all aspects except air quality, and an audited response, giving a thorough response on air quality once completed;
- (xii) the EA advise to twin track the planning and environmental permit application processes to ensure applications were dealt with within planned timescales;
- (xiii) the EA when deciding on an environmental permit consult with the public and other agencies such as the Health Protection Agency before making their decision.

41. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no items of any other business.

42. **DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING**

Resolved that the next meeting will be held at 10am on Thursday 22 July 2010 in Exeter at a venue to be confirmed.

43. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

Resolved that, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

44. **OVERVIEW OF CURRENT SOLUTIONS AND BIDDERS FOLLOWING SUBMISSION OF DETAILED SOLUTIONS (ISDS) IN MARCH 2010**

The Project Manager gave a detailed verbal update on the detailed solutions proposed by each of the short listed bidders. Members were informed that –

- (i) the two detailed solutions received in March had been reviewed paying particular focus to the key aspects of the bid;
- (ii) value for money was now an important aspect and one which would be concentrated on during the next sessions of formal dialogue with bidders;
- (iii) the next four to five months of formal dialogue was going to be a challenging process leading to the final tenders being requested in late September 2010.

45. **REVIEW OF PROJECT PROCUREMENT STRATEGY, PROGRAMME AND FINANCIAL CLOSE PROCESS**

The Project Manager presented a current and revised Project Programme on the procurement process. It was explained that due to MVV focusing in their North Yard solution the project programme had been brought forward with the final tenders now proposed to be called for in September 2010 rather than November 2010.

46. **JOINT SCRUTINY REVIEW**

Members were informed that –

- (i) officers from the three participating authorities' Democratic Support Teams had met and in principal agreed to undertake a joint scrutiny review;
- (ii) it was hoped that more detail would be discussed between the authorities in the next couple of weeks and that this would lead to a formal agreement for a joint scrutiny meeting being put in place.

Resolved that once the formal agreement had been reached this would be circulated to members of the Partnership.



## Project Update Report for Joint Committee



**SWDWP Joint Working Committee meeting**  
**Project update report**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> July 2010**

This overview report provides a running update of the progress of the procurement and the project and highlights key milestones and activities.

**19<sup>th</sup> July 2010 – Site visit to Marchwood EfW facility, Southampton**

A visit to the Veolia EfW facility at Marchwood in Southampton took place. Attendees included Councillors, Project Executive members and Project Team members. The purpose of the visit was to give all concerned with the project an opportunity to see an operational EfW facility and discuss the plant with its operators.

**16th July 2010 – MP briefing**

The partnership held a MP briefing on the 16<sup>th</sup> July to provide an update on the project and answer any questions. All MP's from the Partnership area were invited.

**7<sup>th</sup> July 2010 – Site visit to Lakeside EfW, Slough**

Selected members of the project team undertook a technical visit to the Viridor/Grundon facility of Lakeside near Slough. The purpose of the visit was to review Viridor's role in the development and operation of the facility. The visit also included a technical review of an Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA) processing facility in Brentford, London.

**5<sup>th</sup> July 2010 – Commercial Team Review by Defra**

The project team discussed with Defra's Waste Infrastructure Development Programme (WIDP) team the process, format and team members required for the WIDP Commercial Team Review planned to commence in August 2010.

The WIDP Commercial Team will undertake to review the commercial positions the Partnership has secured with bidders on key issues. This process has to take place and WIDP have to accept negotiated commercial positions before the Partnership can close the Competitive Dialogue process. The Partnership intends to close dialogue during September 2010.

**14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> June and 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2010 – Public roadshows**

Three roadshows were held during this period, with a fourth roadshow being held in on the 3rd July. The locations of the roadshows were:

- 14th June – Weston Mill
- 15th June – St Budeaux
- 17th June – Ivybridge
- 3rd July – Guildhall, Plymouth City Centre

## Project Update Report for Joint Committee

The roadshows were attended by approximately 180 people in total. The Environment Agency and the Health Protection Agency were also in attendance. The purpose of the roadshows was to update information on the project, timeframes for completion and to tackle specific areas of concern raised through queries received by the Project Team.

MVV Umwelt was in attendance at the roadshows on the 14th and 15th June and Viridor was in attendance at the roadshow on the 17th June.

### **18<sup>th</sup> May 2010 – Site visit to Portsmouth EfW facility**

Selected members of the project team undertook a site visit to Portsmouth. The purpose of this visit was to review the EfW technical ability of this facility.

### **April to July 2010 – Ongoing Dialogue with bidders**

Throughout April, May, June and July the project team have had regular dialogue meetings with the bidders to seek to close down all outstanding commercial issues. Dialogue meetings will continue until close of dialogue – expected in September 2010.

### **29<sup>th</sup> March – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 – Site visit to Mannheim and Leuna EfW facilities in Germany**

Selected members of the project team undertook a technical visit to the MVV Umwelt operational Mannheim and Leuna EfW facilities in Germany. The purpose of the visit was to review the operational and the technical ability of the facilities.

### **15<sup>th</sup> March 2010 – Public announcement of MVV's withdrawal of their Ernesettle solution from the procurement**

The partnership released a public press release statement confirming MVV's decision to focus on its North Yard solution in preference to its Ernesettle solution. This resulted in two solutions remaining in the procurement:

- MVV – North Yard Devonport site
- Viridor – New England Quarry site

### **12<sup>th</sup> March 2010 – MP briefing**

The partnership held a MP briefing to provide an update on the project and answer any questions. All MP's from the Partnership area were invited. MPs Linda Gilroy, Alison Seabeck and Gary Streeter attended.

### **5<sup>th</sup> March 2010 – Participants submitted their detailed solutions in response to Invitation to Submit Detailed Solutions (ISDS) main stage**

On the 5th March 2010 the Main Stage Invitation to Submit Detailed Solutions were received. The partnership has since reviewed these submissions to ensure the proposals meet the partnership's requirements with areas for continuing dialogue highlighted. The bidders continuing through to the Call for Final Tender stage were confirmed to the Joint Working Committee meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> April.

## Project Update Report for Joint Committee

### **8th & 9th February 2010 – MVV exhibition**

MVV held a two day exhibition in Ernesettle and Weston Mill (North Yard site).

The partnership attended the exhibitions to provide members of the public with background information on the objectives of the partnership and the project.

### **January 2010 – March 2010 – Ongoing dialogue with participants**

Throughout January and February the partnership had regular ongoing dialogue meetings with the participants. The dialogue meetings will continue throughout the procurement process.

### **8<sup>th</sup> January 2010 – Public announcement of SITA's withdrawal from the procurement**

SITA withdrew from the procurement leave two bidders proposing solutions on three sites;

- MVV – Ernesettle and North Yard Devonport site
- Viridor – New England Quarry site

### **November 2009 - January 2010 – Ongoing dialogue with participants**

Throughout November, December and January the partnership had regular dialogue meetings with the participants. The dialogue meetings will continue throughout the procurement process.

### **9<sup>th</sup> November – 14<sup>th</sup> November and 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009 – Public roadshows**

A series of exhibitions were held from 9 to 14 November, with the approximate number of total attendees being 192. The aim was two-fold – to communicate information about the project and partnership and to gather comment and opinion from local residents and the community. The exhibition covered the partnership background and objectives, project scope and timescales, the waste management issues under consideration, introduced the three companies currently bidding for the contract, site locations under consideration and the potential solutions being proposed.

There was an additional event held on the 9th December at the request of local residents and councillors around the North Yard Devonport site.

### **6<sup>th</sup> November 2009 – ISDS main stage documents issued to participants**

ISDS main stage documents and evaluation criteria issued to remaining participants for ongoing development of solutions.

### **9<sup>th</sup> October 2009 – MP briefing**

The partnership held a MP briefing on the 9<sup>th</sup> October to provide an update on the project. All MP's from the Partnership area were invited. Alison Seabeck, Gary Streeter and Hugo Swire attended

### **2<sup>nd</sup> October 2009 - participants submitted their first stage Invitation to Submit Detailed Solutions**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> October the First Stage Invitation to Submit Detailed Solutions were received. The partnership has since been ensuring the proposals fulfil the

## Project Update Report for Joint Committee

partnership's requirements. The bidders going through to the IDSD main stage were accepted in the Joint Working Committee meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> November in Part II and this list was released into the public domain on the 6<sup>th</sup> November.

### **15<sup>th</sup> August 2009 – Public Exhibition**

As part of the public information process, the partnership held a one day event in the Guildhall Plymouth to provide an update on the project. The event was a brief update prior to a series of roadshows across the region in November which will provide further details on the project. Over 200 people attended the briefing to ask questions about the proposals, including the potential locations, technology and timescale for the project.

### **August and September 2009 – Dialogue with participants**

Throughout August and September the partnership had regular dialogue meetings with the participants. The purpose was to ensure the participants understood the requirements of the partnership and that the partnership understood the participants proposals. The dialogue meetings will continue throughout the procurement process.

### **16<sup>th</sup> July 2009 – Decision made on shortlisted bidders through to the Invitation to Submit Detailed Solutions (ISDS) stage**

In July 2009 three companies and five solutions were shortlisted to go forward to the ISDS stage.

The private companies that were shortlisted and invited to submit detailed solutions were:

- MVV Umwelt
- SITA UK
- Viridor

The proposals involve facilities based at four locations; Ernesettle, North Yard Devonport, South Yard Devonport and New England Quarry. MVV Umwelt and SITA have offered proposals for both Ernesettle and Devonport whilst Viridor has put forward its own site at New England Quarry.



## **South West Devon Waste Partnership Roadshow and Community Engagement Report – July 2010**

This report provides a summary of project related communication activities, written queries and responses made between April 2010 and July 2010.

### **1. Communication activities**

#### **i. Exhibitions**

Dates:

- 14 June - 4pm to 8pm, Weston Mill Community Primary School
- 15 June - 4pm to 8pm St Budeaux Community Centre
- 17 June - 4pm to 8pm, The Watermark, Ivybridge
- 3 July - 10am to 2pm, Plymouth Guildhall

The purpose of the roadshow was to provide an update on the project and enable residents to speak with partnership officers and technical experts.

The Health Protection Agency and the Environment Agency attended the exhibitions to provide impartial advice and explain their roles in the development. MVV Umwelt and Viridor also attended the exhibitions in the vicinity of their proposal.

The main concerns were:

- Traffic and increased congestion
- Health implications
- Height of the stack
- Light and noise pollution
- Recycling figures

Number of attendees:

- Weston Mill Community Primary School – 48 people
- St Budeaux Community Centre – 46 people
- The Watermark, Ivybridge – 54 people
- Guildhall Plymouth – 31 people

Advertising the event:

- Opposition groups informed via email on 28th May
- Press release sent out to the local media on 15th June (appendix 1).
- Posters given to the following locations to display:
- St Budeaux: Community Centre, Lidl, St Budeaux Library, Riverside Primary School Co-op, Wolseley Road, Weston Mill Primary school
- Ernesettle: Ernesettle Primary School, Social Club
- Devonport : College of Further Education,
- Ivybridge: The Watermark

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- Lee Mill : Tesco

Adverts in:

- Western Morning News – 10th, 11th, 12th, 14th June and 1st July
- Plymouth Evening Herald – 10th, 11th, 12th, 14th June and 1st July
- South Hams Gazette (w) – 11th June

ii. 24 June – Environment Agency / SWDWP communications meeting

To share information and provide updates on the project and procedures.

iii. 2 July: CAVIL – attendance at opposition meeting for briefing in Ivybridge

Mark Turner, Ben Jennings and Liz Waugh attended a meeting chaired by Gary Streeter of the Ivybridge taskforce opposed to the Energy from waste proposals. This was a helpful session and a chance to explore local residents' concerns, and provide information regarding the proposals and waste management strategies.

iv. 16<sup>th</sup> July – Briefing to Oliver Colville (MP for Plymouth, Sutton and Devonport)

To provide a briefing on the project and answer any questions.

iv. 16<sup>th</sup> July – MP briefing

To provide a briefing on the project and answer any questions. All local Devon and SE Cornwall MPs invited - MPs who have confirmed attendance Oliver Colwill, Gary Streeter and Alison Seabeck.

vi. 19<sup>th</sup> July – Marchwood visit

To provide members and project officers the opportunity to view an operational Energy from Waste facility.

**2. Summary of written queries received**

Over the last three months, the partnership has been asked to respond to 5 letters and two Freedom of Information (FOI) requests.

FOI

The FOI requests concerned the planning process and amounts spent on consultancy fees. The partnership's role as the procuring organisation has been explained including the distinction between the partnership's remit and the statutory planning process. It was explained that the partnership has not commissioned any external consultancy to assist with planning process although the project delivery team does include planning officers seconded from the partner councils to provide advice to the partnership, but remain independent from the statutory planning process.

It was also explained that the partnership is encouraging the companies bidding for the contract to engage with the relevant planning authorities, as it will be their responsibility to submit a planning application for any solution.

## Letters

Members and officers have passed letters onto the partnership for a response. The general topics and information that the partnership has communicated are outlined below.

### 2.1 Health

The partnership has invited specialist waste management contractors to propose solutions to meet our future needs and all the proposals being presented include energy from waste facilities. Energy from waste is a clean, proven and reliable process. Energy from waste has been studied for many years and it has been proved that modern facilities have no measurable effect on human health and do not increase pollution significantly above that which already exists from normal human activities. These conclusions are supported by government agencies such as the Health Protection Agency and other independent qualified organisations. More information is available on our website [www.swdwp.co.uk](http://www.swdwp.co.uk) and also on [www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk)

Energy from waste facilities are the most highly regulated industrial plants in the UK in terms of their emissions to the atmosphere. Companies are required by law to continually monitor emission levels. Once in operation, an energy from waste facility must conform to the Waste Incineration Directive, which was incorporated into English law through the Waste Incineration (England and Wales) Regulations 2002. This sets strict limits on the quantities of any pollutants a thermal waste treatment plant may produce. Also, a thorough Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be carried out for any site and facility as part of the planning application and permitting process which will be independently assessed.

### 2.2 Waste minimisation

The proposed energy from waste plant should be seen in the context of the waste hierarchy i.e. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover Energy, Dispose. The partnership has already factored in increased waste minimisation efforts alongside significantly improved recycling as part of their future waste projections. These modelled projections were revised by the partner authorities in October 2009 to take account of the latest waste and population trends.

It has been stressed that local authorities have little control over waste production. However through the Devon Authorities Waste Reduction and Recycling Committee the councils have been promoting waste minimisation using a variety of ways, including roadshows, radio, press and tv advertising. Reuse is being promoted through the resale of items from recycling centres and support for furniture reuse charities.

### 2.3 Impact on recycling

There will always be a proportion of our waste which cannot be recycled that will need other solutions, such as waste contaminated by food or other organic matter (e.g. nappies). There are also waste elements that cannot be recycled as it is not sustainable or economic to do so e.g. composite materials, carpet, mattresses etc. A modern, appropriately sized and regulated facility provides an appropriate treatment arrangement to divert as much of this waste as possible from more harmful landfill.

The partnership has carefully sized the facility (i.e. limiting the capacity of the plant) for projected future needs so that there will be scope to increase recycling to latest national

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target levels set by the government and beyond. Our new facility will be part of an integrated waste management solution sized to meet the needs of South West Devon, so as not to 'crowd out' recycling. The partnership and the associated district councils are making strenuous efforts to increase the level of materials recycled in the area and this has been factored into forecasting our future needs.

Energy from waste plants generally rely on a relatively low quality waste stream. The plants do not work so efficiently if fed materials with high energy content, such as a lot of plastics. So rather than discourage recycling, it is important that items of high energy content are extracted and recycled leaving a 'lower calorie' waste stream for the plant to incinerate.

The system cannot be viewed in isolation – it relies on a fully integrated process where reduce, reuse, and recycling are the first elements of the waste treatment. This type of integrated scheme is fully in line with UK Government policy and EU legislation. It reflects the move away from landfill towards increased recycling and recovering some value from waste, such as generating energy.

#### 2.4 Effects on the local community

Potential light and noise impacts will be assessed and any issues dealt with as part of the planning and Environmental Permitting process. Normally, a facility of this type would only require lighting needed for vehicle movements to and from the facility. Noise levels from the process can be controlled and usually this would not be audible outside the main building.

Facilities of this type generally create 200 jobs during construction and approximately 30-40 jobs for the general day-to-day running of the facility.

#### 2.5 Stack height

The height of the chimney for a waste to energy plant will be calculated to ensure adequate dispersal of any flue gases regardless of weather conditions and must be calculated for each specific site according to topography and weather conditions. Contractors will undertake extensive air quality investigations and dispersion modelling as part of their proposals, which will determine the exact stack height. This exercise has yet to be completed by the bidders but it is usual for a facility of this capacity to have a stack in the region of 90 metres tall. This structure would be designed to complement the facility architecture and minimise adverse visual impact as far as possible.

#### 2.6 Sustainability

The impact of transportation to and from the proposed sites will be considered as part of the procurement and also formally assessed as part of the planning application process. Some consideration has already been given to transportation issues as part of the site identification and this will be further reviewed within the bid evaluation process used by the South West Devon Waste Partnership to select the preferred bidder.

In terms of location, the largest proportion of residual waste (by Council) going to the energy from waste facility will be generated in Plymouth and hence locating the facility in or near to Plymouth will reduce the miles that waste has to travel overall.



### 2.7 Traffic

As part of the planning process contractors will be required to produce detailed studies of the projected traffic flows and ensure they will have no unacceptable adverse impacts on existing transport network. If road improvements are deemed to be required these will be undertaken as part of the project works.

The waste which will be delivered to the new facility is currently being delivered to one of two landfill sites. Refuse collection vehicles currently collect waste from Plymouth and parts of South Hams and take it to Chelson Meadow from where it is loaded onto bulk tipping vehicles for onward transport via the A38 to a landfill in Cornwall. Similar bulk tippers carry waste from West Devon to the same landfill. Waste from Torbay, parts of South Hams and Teignbridge is currently taken to a landfill near to Newton Abbot. Depending on the final site location the potential for increased use of bulk tipping vehicles to transport waste may reduce the overall amount of waste miles travelled and may make it possible to plan deliveries times to reduce congestion.

### 2.8 PFI

The Government's Private Finance Initiative (PFI) programme has been used widely for building schools and hospitals around the UK. It is a way of funding major capital projects such as large scale building, construction or infrastructure projects with an appropriate risk transfer to the private sector without having to use money directly from the 'local public purse'— i.e. the council. If the partnership's project were unable to secure central government PFI support, alternative funding mechanisms would have to be found but would result in an associated rise in council tax for residents.

PFI contracts are long term; the partnership is looking for a contract over the next 30 years. This is because it is a major investment: the costs of building the facility and operating it are borne by the contractor, so there needs to be some long-term security and certainty. The contractor will need to know that they are guaranteed to get our residual waste for a definite amount of time. PFI contracts are designed around an 'output specification', so that if the contractor does not meet our high-level specific requirements or there are performance issues, the partnership can reduce payments or even terminate the agreement. Flexibility will also be built into the contract to recognise and manage potential future changes from either legislation or the partnership.

### 2.9 Need for a solution

Each partner council considered a range of alternative waste treatment options as part of their respective Municipal Waste Management Strategy development. Options were considered again when developing the partnership's outline business case. On each occasion, it was concluded that a thermal process recovering energy from waste was a preferable option for treating our residual waste combined with increased recycling and waste minimisation.

Our potential solution intends to only treat the residual waste which has not been removed by waste minimisation and recycling initiatives. The partnership has calculated its future residual waste tonnage need on the basis that the partnership authorities will continue to improve recycling rates until they are over 50%. In addition, our future needs have also considered future local population trends which are predicted to rise.

SWDWP  
Communications report July 2010

The overall strategy and justification for engaging in this procurement can be found in the Outline Business Case which is available within Documents section of our partnership website.

By way of background to the project, like most authorities, the partnership councils currently rely on landfill for the disposal of the majority of their waste that cannot be reused, recycled or composted. Landfills produce harmful methane gas which contributes to global warming and also toxic liquid leachate which can be extremely damaging to the environment. To reduce the reliance on landfill the Government has increased landfill tax so that everyone will be paying £80 per tonne tax by 2014, having risen from £7 per tonne when it was first introduced in 1996.

In addition, the Government has given all councils an annual decreasing allowance of biodegradable municipal waste that we can landfill every year, or risk fines at £150 for each tonne over our allowance. The cost of not finding an alternative solution will therefore result in significant council tax increases. Over the expected life of the contract, an energy from waste solution is estimated to be at least £150m lower than continuing with landfill (including government PFI support) with other alternative waste treatment solutions estimated to be currently more expensive than landfill.

Our evaluation has also estimated that an energy from waste solution would save approximately 38,000 tonnes of carbon equivalent per year compared to landfill disposal. This is the equivalent of removing approximately 14,000 medium sized cars from the road per year within the partnership area. In addition, if the heat generated from the process can be used productively this could increase the figure by up to a further 40,000 tonnes saved, the equivalent of removing a further 15,000 medium sized cars.

### **3. Media Enquiries**

General media enquiries have covered the progress of the project and provided updates as needed. Journalists attended all four of the recent roadshow events, speaking with residents and experts; a factual and balanced view resulted in the main.

The recent publication of an air quality report by Defra in April (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/air/airquality/strategy/>) has resulted in a BBC enquiry and substantial coverage. The BBC had been alerted by Save our South Hams to the report and the partnership provided a technical briefing and interview, resulting in a useful and informative piece. Although this coverage featured objectors from Eco-Ivy and Friends of the Earth, the report was helpful and fair in its tone.

Finally, recycling related media stories have been a subject of both controversy and acclaim for the individual partner authorities over the last few months. As a result, in some cases, there has been a need to support partner councils in dealing with the more difficult and complex issues. There is a need to consider how the partnership officers can support the partner authorities in the most effective manner should incidents of this nature reoccur.

## Appendix 1



### ON BEHALF OF SOUTH WEST DEVON WASTE PARTNERSHIP

PRESS RELEASE

15 June 2010

For immediate release

THE South West Devon Waste Partnership is holding a series of exhibitions in June to provide an update on the project to develop a new waste treatment facility in the region.

The events are open to all and will take place on the following dates:

14 June - 4pm to 8pm: Weston Mill Community Primary School  
15 June - 4pm to 8pm : St Budeaux Community Centre  
17 June - 4pm to 8pm: The Watermark, Ivybridge  
3 July - 10am to 2pm: Plymouth Guildhall

Councillor Roger Croad, chairman of the South West Devon Waste Partnership, said: "As the project progresses, it's important that we keep people informed. These roadshows are a regular event to enable people to come along and ask questions and gain a better understanding of the issues."

There will be experts on hand to provide more information about how we will manage our waste in the future, and answer any queries.

He added: "We are making great strides in terms of recycling, reusing and reducing waste in the first place, but we still need to raise public awareness, to encourage greater recycling rates."

More information on the work of the partnership can be found at [www.swdwp.co.uk](http://www.swdwp.co.uk)

ENDS

Notes to Editors

The South West Devon Waste Partnership is a collaboration between Plymouth City Council, Devon County Council and Torbay Council. The main objective is to deliver a sustainable long-term waste management solution for the communities of Plymouth, South and West Devon, the South Hams, Teignbridge and Torbay.

For more information, please contact Liz Waugh on 01752 847135 or Jane Slavin on 01752 304049.

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