



South West Devon Waste Partnership – Final Business Case

A joint scrutiny report to the Cabinets of Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council and Torbay Council

JANUARY 2011

1. A Joint Scrutiny Panel was established in 2010 to review the procurement process being undertaken by the South West Devon Waste Partnership to secure a preferred option to treat and dispose of residual waste from Plymouth and Torbay, the districts of West Devon and South Hams and most of Teignbridge.
2. The report of the Joint Scrutiny Panel is available at www.torbay.gov.uk/report_final.pdf. The Panel's main recommendations were around flexibility in the 25 year contract, waste reduction and the continued improvement in recycling across the Partnership area.
3. At the end of its review, the Panel agreed to meet again to provide challenge once the Joint Committee made recommendations through to each Council's Cabinet. As such the Panel met again on 31 January 2011 to discuss the Final Business Case for the South West Devon Waste Partnership which was due to be presented to the Cabinets of each Partnership authority on 7 February 2011.
4. The Final Business Case was only made available to the Panel on 28 January 2011 and this needs to be taken into account in considering the comments put forward by the Panel.
5. The Panel agreed that the following comments be forwarded to each Cabinet:
 - a. The Panel is frustrated about the limited amount of detail and time available on which to make conclusions and recommendations.
 - b. The Panel feel that each Cabinet should have more detailed information around the mechanisms relating to the Guaranteed Minimum Tonnage (as outlined on page 86 of the report to the Cabinets). In particular, there needs to be clarity around how

shortfalls in residual waste from the Partner authorities will be dealt with.

- c. There should be further clarity around the mechanisms within the contract which will be of advantage or disadvantage to the Partner authorities (including carbon trading and renewable heat incentives).
- d. There should be further exploration of rail and sea infrastructure to serve the preferred site and facility.
- e. The Panel re-confirms its previous recommendation in respect of the waste hierarchy and recycling rates, namely:

That each partner authority re-affirms its commitment to the waste hierarchy within each Municipal Waste Management Strategy with all authorities obliged to meet challenging recycling targets through shared learning across the Partnership.