

South West Devon Waste Partnership

Thursday 28 July 2011

PRESENT:

Councillor Leaves, in the Chair.
Councillor Croad, Vice Chair.
Councillors Bowyer, Thomas, and Tyerman.

Observer Members: Councillors Black, Doggett and Vincent

Apologies for absence: Councillor Hart

Also in attendance: Barry Keel – Chair of Project Executive, Mark Turner – Project Director, Martin Pollard – Project Manager, Jac Houslander – Planning Advisor, Liz Waugh – Communications Consultant, Ian Harrison – Deputy Executive Director of Environment and Culture (Devon County Council), Carol Arthur (Torbay Council), Paul Carey – Managing Director, MVV Environmental Devonport Ltd, Jenni Doudoulakis – PFI Co-ordinator, Ross Johnston – Democratic Support Officer.

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 11.15 am.

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.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Agreed that in accordance with the Joint Working Agreement Schedule C clause 4 –

- (1) Councillor Michael Leaves is appointed as Chair until the first meeting of the Joint Committee after the 1 May 2012;
- (2) Councillor Roger Croad is appointed as Vice-Chair until the first meeting of the Joint Committee after the 1 May 2012.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting of the South West Devon Waste Partnership Joint Committee held on Thursday 7 April 2011 are confirmed as a correct record.

4. **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of Chair's Urgent business.

5. **PROJECT UPDATE**

The Partnership received a Project Update report from Mark Turner, Project Director. Members were informed that –

- (a) since the signing of the contract with MVV Devonport Environment Limited in late March 2011, the project's focus had moved onto securing planning and environmental permit approvals;
- (b) since April the partnership's key activity had been assisting MVV in preparing their planning and environmental permit applications, with MVV formally submitting their planning application to the local planning authority (LPA) in May and their environmental permit application to the Environment Agency in June;
- (c) work on the planning application had continued since in response to queries and clarification requests made by the LPA and other statutory consultees, as well as defining and improving aspects of the project that may benefit the local community.

6. **OVERVIEW OF PROJECT COMMUNICATIONS**

Liz Waugh, the Partnership's Communication Consultant presented a Community Engagement Report providing an update on recent and upcoming communication activity. Members were informed that –

- (a) communication activity since April had been steady and included briefings with –
 - Plymouth Chamber of Commerce;
 - MP's;
 - councillors;
 - dockyard staff;
 - schools and a group of professionals;
- (b) a number of public exhibitions were held throughout June, with a noticeable reduction in the number of attendees when compared to the previous round of public exhibitions;
- (c) there were fewer public opposition activities with a public march organised by Incineration is Wrong (IIW) attracting less than 40 attendees;

- (d) the partnership had only received 20 letters in the last quarter with the main issues in both the letters and the public exhibitions tending to be about vehicle emissions, traffic and noise;
- (e) the Incinerator Liaison Committee (ILC) had met formally on two occasions and was providing a useful forum where a greater understanding of the project could be provided to committee members and through them onward to the wider public;
- (f) the ILC was a local community committee chaired by a local resident and attended by interested members of the public and representatives from Environment Agency, MVV, SWDWP, the Ministry of Defence and most recently at the ILC's request local Plymouth City Council councillors;
- (g) MVV had been invited to participate in a documentary with the regional BBC about energy from waste and proposals across Devon.

Following questions members were informed that –

- (h) MVV remained convinced that the technology proposed to be used was appropriate, reliable and safe;
- (i) the BBC documentary would endeavour to demonstrate other technologies other than the technology proposed by MVV;
- (j) a number of people in the local area had volunteered to be part of the ILC, however, as yet no teachers or school representatives had come forward to be on the committee.

7. **OVERVIEW OF MVV'S ENERGY FROM WASTE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS**

The Partnership received a presentation from Paul Carey, Managing Director of MVV Environmental Devonport Ltd. Members were informed that –

- (a) all project milestones were currently on target with MVV having submitted both an application for planning permission and an application for an environmental permit;
- (b) the planning application was submitted with an Environmental Impact Assessment; which concluded that –
 - air quality emissions were well below the limits allowed;
 - there was no significant impact on traffic and no requirement to modify the Wolseley Road junction;
 - there were no problems with noise during the day;

- there was no significant impact on local residents' health;
 - there was no significant contamination impact;
 - there was no significant impact on ecology;
 - there was an improvement in sustainability;
 - there was a significant visual impact from the development;
- (c) the proposed development offered significant environmental and economic benefits through the combined heat and power (CHP) developed from the waste and this delivered and complied with national and local policies;
- (d) in response to the planning application MVV had received a request for further information from the local planning authority under regulation 19;
- (e) the further information required was being discussed with local planners with detailed S106 requirements being negotiated and costs assessed;
- (f) during pre-application discussions local planners had expressed concerns with the proposed architecture and as a result new plans had been developed and submitted with the planning application that saw the architecture of the site take on a maritime appearance to fit in with its surrounding environment.

Following questions from members it was reported that –

- (g) qualified ecologists were currently relocating slow worms off the proposed site;
- (h) delivering waste by sea and rail to the site could be reviewed in the future although the decision of how waste would be delivered ultimately rests with the partnership;
- (i) the data and costs on the S106 agreement was being quantified and would be submitted to the partnership at a future meeting;
- (j) a planning application risk register had been created which was monitored by partnership officers and MVV representatives;
- (k) if a shopping centre was to be developed in Weston Mill then MVV would contribute to improving the Carlton Terrace junction.
- (l) the lighting proposed to be on the outside of the building was requested by planners and would be fuelled by solar photovoltaic

systems.

Members were further informed that planning issues were not of this committee's remit and that if members felt it necessary to raise such issues they should address their concerns to Plymouth City Council's Planning Department.

Agreed that a site visit be organised for new and existing committee members to visit the proposed site prior to the next meeting of the partnership.

8. **PROJECT PROGRAMME AND NEXT STEPS**

Mark Turner, Project Director presented the latest procurement programme. Members were informed that –

- (a) the procurement phase had now been fully completed and the project programme had moved into its next phase;
- (b) the environmental permit application was submitted on 6 June 2011 and had been declared duly made;
- (c) following the submission of the application for planning permission the project programme had been amended so that the Planning Committee date was now in December 2011;
- (d) if successful planning approval would be completed in January and was subject to a three month judicial review, meaning that work on site was anticipated to begin in April 2012 with the site being fully operational from November 2014.

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

Agreed that the next meeting will be held on Thursday 27 October 2011 at the Council House, Armada Way, Plymouth.

10. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

There were no items of exempt business.