



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

C422

Cabinet 28 March 2012

West Suffolk Waste and Street Scene Services Joint Committee: 27 January 2012 (Apr12/07)

*(The following is a summary of the decisions taken by the Joint Committee.
This is for information only and no decisions are required by the Cabinet at this
stage)*

Cabinet Members:

Cllrs David Ray and Peter Stevens

Chairman of the Joint Committee:

Cllr Peter Stevens

1. Procurement of Waste Transfer and Recycling Services (Report C312)

RESOLVED:-

That a further report be presented to the Joint Committee regarding arrangements for sharing costs and benefits resulting from this procurement.

The local authorities in Suffolk have been working together through a joint officer project team to assess future waste infrastructure needs. Suffolk County Council has a need to consider waste transfer requirements for transporting residual waste from where it arose to the Energy from Waste Facility from December 2014. There is also a need to consider the sorting and marketing of mixed dry recyclate when the current Suffolk Recycling Consortium contract arrangements for the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) at Great Blakenham expires in March 2014. Future arrangements for processing organic waste in Suffolk is outside of the scope of this procurement exercise as current contracts across the county expire at different times.

The procurement is a complex one involving eight different councils in the process of procuring the waste infrastructure in two lots, namely:-

- (a) the transfer stations and haulage needed for the Energy from Waste Facility; and
- (b) recycling infrastructure and haulage services, to replace the current MRF contract.

The project uses an European Union (EU) compliant procurement process called Competitive Dialogue (CD). Under this process prospective contractors are invited to provide their increasingly detailed proposals to an input/output specification. This process allows a dialogue with suppliers to negotiate and develop optimised solutions. A reduced number of prospective contractors remain involved with the process as discussions in later stages become more detailed.

It has been agreed that Suffolk County Council will act as the Contracting Authority for this procurement, and will be leading the process. The Lead Negotiator will work closely with a representative from of the Waste Collection Authorities (WCA), and this Lead Negotiator is the Borough Council's Head of Waste Street Scene Services.

Throughout the procurement, until recommending award of the contract towards the end of the process, will be delegated to Suffolk County Council in conjunction with the Directors of all of the other local authorities within Suffolk. These Directors will consult with their relevant Portfolio Holder or Member Champion before confirming their agreement that the process can move forward to the next stage. The key stages where decisions are required are listed in the report.

2. Options for Diverting Organic Waste (Report C313)

RESOLVED:- That

- (1) the work undertaken in terms of the modelling of the various food waste collection options and the potential costs and risks be noted;**
- (2) options be kept under review when more information and costs are available;**
- (3) no change be made to the current policy on the collection of garden waste;**
- (4) introduction of a trial(s) to test the different collection options if proved necessary and practical in the future when more details are known;**
- (5) the procurement of the twelve replacement Refuse Collection Vehicles as previously reported be approved; and**
- (6) subject to further changes to the financial and performance profile in the short term, the inclusion of meat waste in the brown bins be deferred.**

The report outlined the results of research into the relative merits of six different options for the collection and treatment of food waste that is currently collected in the black bin and sent for disposal in landfill.

The options involve different vehicle and staffing configurations, and estimates relating to the amount of food waste that can be collected, based upon assumptions relating to household behaviour and proposed changes to current waste collection policies.

A number of work streams were undertaken including:-

- (a) a compositional analysis of the contents of the brown bin;
- (b) a review of the services provided at a number of similar Councils to determine household participation levels, recycling performance and the relative merits associated with different approaches to managing garden waste; and
- (c) modelling of the changes in cost and performance associated with each option.

The report outlines the range of assumptions to determine the most effective method of collecting food waste in the future and the risks attached to each option. The risks also refer to a number of unknown future impacts that can change the relative cost and performance of each option, such as:-

- (a) the future level of Recycling Performance Payment and the Inter Authority Agreement; guaranteeing the ongoing commitment of partners;
- (b) gate fees associated with organics treatment and the location of future facilities;
- (c) the availability of facilities for both the transfer and processing of waste, at locations convenient to both authorities;
- (d) the availability of capital funding to support changes to vehicle specifications and numbers;
- (e) the ongoing economic climate, affordability and the acceptance of policy changes; and
- (f) the reduction or increase in the quantity of waste generated and captured.

Whilst there are gaps and uncertainties in the research examined to date, based on the assumptions used in the modelling the current waste management approach appears to be the most effective in terms of cost, although it is the least performing option in terms of the recycling rate achieved. An increase in performance is however, achievable using the other collection and treatment options, although there is a direct association between increasing recycling performance and increasing cost.