



9th March 2011

Council aiming for 'zero waste to landfill'

Gloucestershire County Council's Cabinet is being asked to approve the next steps of the residual waste project, which aims to see zero waste sent to landfill.

Next week, (16th March) Cabinet will be asked to approve a recommendation that the project moves forward by taking the remaining four bidders in the process down to two.

Members will also be asked to give their backing for a major push on recycling in the county with aspirations to reach 70% recycling by 2030.

The report being discussed by Cabinet will include exploring new incentives to encourage district councils to make recycling easier and a commitment that landfill will only be used as a last resort.

Cllr Stan Waddington, cabinet member for environment and waste, said: "When we entered this process we did it with one clear aim in mind – to cut the amount of waste we send to landfill.

"The report going before Cabinet outlines how we're going to do that by stepping up our recycling campaign and pushing ahead with the residual waste project.

"Zero waste to landfill is what we're aiming for in the future and I really think we have the commitment and ability to do that now."

For the past two years, the council has been looking for an alternative solution to landfilling its residual waste – that's the waste left over when we have reduced, reused, recycled and composted all we can.

But the project was put on hold last October when the government withdrew £92 million of Private Finance Investment (PFI) funding.

A strategic re-appraisal was then carried out to determine whether or not the project could continue without this funding.

The re-appraisal determined that over 25 years, continuing to landfill would cost taxpayers £150 million more than finding an alternative solution.

Cllr Waddington added: "This review has shown us that we are right to continue with this project both for environmental and financial reasons.

"The figure of £150m is astounding and is the equivalent of funding the Fire Service for eight years.

"We cannot ignore this as the county faces unprecedented financial pressure on public services across the board."

ENDS
