



16th March 2011

Final two bidders selected for waste project

Gloucestershire County Council's Cabinet has agreed to push ahead with its residual waste project and the final two bidders have been selected.

At its meeting this afternoon, members agreed that Complete Circle – a consortia of John Laing, Keppel Seghers and Shanks, and Urbaser with Balfour Beatty should be invited to refine their detailed proposals for a waste plant that would deal with the county's residual waste - that's the waste left over when we have reduced, reused, recycled and composted all we can.

Both companies propose to build an Energy from Waste (EfW) facility on Javelin Park near Haresfield.

The decision to choose these bids was based on a number of factors including environmental issues and affordability.

The cost of EfW is estimated to be around £500million over 25 years – doing nothing and continuing to landfill will cost £659million.

As well as saving Gloucestershire taxpayers at least £150m, an EfW plant can:

- Generate electricity equivalent to 28,000 homes
- Create recycled building materials, as a by-product of the incineration process –enough to build 500 homes worth per year
- Produce heating that could be used homes or businesses

At the meeting members were clear that any environmental concerns or issues surrounding the design of an EfW facility would be scrutinised carefully before any final decisions are made.

Cllr Stan Waddington, cabinet member for environment and waste, said: "This was a controversial decision to make but ultimately one we need to take – we cannot keep sending waste to landfill and we must find a solution that is affordable and sustainable.

"I would like to reassure everyone that we are looking at this with people's safety and health as a top priority.

"We've employed an international expert to advise us on the health implication of building a waste facility and we will be guided by him throughout.

"We will continue to work with communities to address their concerns as part of the planning process to ensure they're kept up to date every step of the way."

At the meeting, members also gave their backing for a major push on recycling in the county with aspirations to reach 70% recycling by 2030.



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The commonly known 'Three R's' will become Four R's – recycle, reuse, reduce and **recover** – with an emphasis on **recovering** energy from the remaining 30% of household rubbish.

Cllr Waddington added: "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."

ENDS

Notes to Editors

For the past two years, the council has been looking for an alternative solution to landfilling its residual waste.

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.

During the review the council talked to a variety of groups including local campaign groups to seek their views. Their feedback is included in the Cabinet report available to view online at <http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=117&MIId=7188&Ver=4>.

Contact

Issued by Lisa Bonnell, Gloucestershire County Council's Media Team, 01452 425226, lisa.bonnell@gloucestershire.gov.uk.