

Warwickshire Waste Partnership - 27 November 2007

The Future of Biowaste Treatment in Warwickshire

Report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy on behalf of the Officers Group

Summary

Reporting the outcome of the tender process for biowaste treatment and the proposed timescales for the implementation of the service.

Recommendation

That Members note the contents of this report for information purposes.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Over the past year Warwickshire County Council has been putting together a business case and going through a procurement process for the treatment of biowaste in Warwickshire. This report details the outcome of the work and the next steps for implementing the new service.
- 1.2 The biowaste to be treated is mixed green and kitchen waste, collected together in one container from the kerbside (commingled), by the District and Borough Councils. In doing so it makes it possible to implement fortnightly collections of residual waste and recycling by giving a weekly outlet for food waste.
- 1.3 Warwick District Council was committed to rolling out such fortnightly collections from 1 April 2008. As such a service needed to be available for the Warwick area from this time.

2. Outcome of Tender Process

- 2.1 Six compliant tenders were received, with these providing a range of sites across the County, although only two offered a service for North Warwickshire Borough.
- 2.2 A number of options were modelled to provide the treatment infrastructure where needed, while still being cost effective. The options modelled were:-

Option 1: Warwick District Council only.

- Option 2:** Warwick District Council and Stratford District Council.
- Option 3:** Warwick District Council and Rugby Borough Council.
- Option 4:** Warwick District Council, Stratford District Council and Rugby Borough Council.
- Option 5:** Warwick District Council, Stratford District Council, Rugby Borough Council and Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council.
- Option 6:** The whole of Warwickshire.

- 2.3 Each of these options was evaluated using all of the compliant tenders submitted to calculate the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (or Tenders) for that option. These were then assessed for its overall cost effectiveness to the Authorities in Warwickshire considering the proposed collection methods.
- 2.4 The evaluation showed that the most viable scenario was option 4, for which the Most Economically Advantageous tender was from Biffa Waste Services for their Ufton site. The site will have capacity for up to approximately 40,000 tonnes of biowaste per annum and will be able to serve Warwick District, Stratford District and Rugby Borough for waste delivered direct to the site by the collection vehicles.
- 2.5 Biffa are also able to provide capacity for Warwick District Council at their Etwall in-vessel composting site near Burton on Trent from 1 April 2008 until the Ufton site is operational.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 As stated in 2.5 above the service will be available to Warwick District from 1 April 2008, with the waste being transferred to Etwall while the plant is developed. Once it is operational, by Autumn 2008, waste from Stratford District Council will also be accepted and a start date for Rugby Borough Council will be agreed.
- 3.2 While the new plant is being developed Biffa will be working with officers from the relevant authorities to produce appropriate education and communication materials to ensure that the correct wastes are collected for composting.

4. Facilities for Northern Warwickshire

- 4.1 When approving the award of the contract to Biffa Waste Services, the County Council Members requested that the situation in the north of the County be investigated further now that we know what the market is able to provide. It is proposed to start this work in the Summer of 2008 with a view to expanding the service to the rest of the County if possible by Spring 2010.

- 4.2 A key factor in this work will be the fact that Warwickshire County Council is currently negotiating to purchase a site in North Warwickshire that could act as a transfer station for biowaste if necessary.
- 4.3 It is intended to issue a PIN (prior information notice) next year to inform/determine the level of market interest in developing a processing facility for the north of the County.

Enquiries: about this report should be made to Jo Ingle, Project Manager, 01926 418064, email joingle@warwickshire.gov.uk.

Background Papers

None.

JOHN DEEGAN
Strategic Director for Environment and Economy
Shire Hall
Warwick

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