

JOINT WASTE DISPOSAL BOARD
20 APRIL 2005
(6.00pm to 7.25pm)

Present: Bracknell Forest Borough Council

Councillor Mrs Ballin
Councillor Mills (Chairman)

Reading Borough Council

Councillor R McKenzie
Councillor J Orton

Wokingham District Council

Councillor P Lewis
Councillor R Stanton

7. Presentation (Item 1)

Derek Hampshire of the Project User Group delivered a presentation to the Board on the key findings of the Group arising from its consideration of the agreed elements of Bidders' proposals.

Mr Hampshire went on to describe the make-up of the Group which included residents from each local authority area and representatives from the business, environment and religious sectors. He added that the Group, collectively, had many useful skills which it could bring to the table and expressed its wish to continue to contribute to the progress of the Initiative before, during and following its implementation.

Mr Hampshire stated that the people the Group represented would expect the Project Team to lobby hard in its efforts to, amongst other things, harmonise the collection of waste among the three local authority areas or at least raise the issue as a concern.

The Board was advised that the recommendations contained within the Group's Reports were representative though he conceded that sometimes these fell outside the scope of the Project. In doing so, however, he did express the Group's wish that the Project Team would consider an "aspirational clause" that these issues and concerns would be revisited since these appeared to be inadequately embedded in the Project's Agenda.

The Group raised a number of specific concerns which it was hoped would be considered by the Board. These included:

- Civic Amenity Sites' Opening Hours
- Collection of glass waste from doorstep collections
- Collection of kitchen waste or an aspiration to improve on this in the future

- Convergence of the three local authorities' collection arrangements
- Future facilities for investment in composting since these appeared inadequate or were not included within the proposals

He reiterated the Group's wish that, whilst many of the above contained a number of technical issues, it show some form of commitment to aspire to improve on these, if it were at all feasible to do so.

Finally, Mr Hampshire requested on behalf of the Group that it be involved in the consultation process prior, during and after the implementation of the facility, if approved.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr Hampshire thanked the three local authorities and their staff for allowing him to address the Board.

The Project Director stated that the User Group had received a much reduced version of the Bidders' proposals due to the confidential nature of the detail therein. He added that, in respect of the general aspirations requested by the Group that these would be covered, however, he did recognise there would need to be a degree of flexibility to take account of technological changes.

8. **Minutes (Item 2)**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 4 August 2004 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

9. **Declarations of Interest (Item 3)**

There were no declarations of interest in relation to any items on the agenda.

10. **Urgent Items of Business (Item 4)**

There were no urgent items of business authorised by the Chairman on the grounds of urgency.

11. **Exclusion of Public and Press (Item 5)**

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of item 8, which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information under the following categories of Schedule 12A of that Act:

- (7) financial affairs of a company;
- (9) terms proposed or to be proposed for a contract for the supply of services.

12. **Evaluation of Best and Final Offer Submissions (item 6)**

There was submitted a report by the Project Director inviting the Board to consider the outcome of the evaluation of responses received from Shanks Waste Services (Shanks) and Waste Recycling Group (WRG) in response to the Councils' invitation to submit a Best and Final Offer (BaFO) and to agree the next steps in the procurement.

The Board was advised that the Joint Project Team (JPT) of Council Officers and consultant advisers had prepared a comprehensive report entitled "Central Berkshire Waste PFI – Evaluation of Best and Final Offer Submissions" (The Evaluation Report), the executive summary and recommendations to which were attached as Appendix A to the report.

The Board was advised that this was an important decision before it and that the lead-in to this decision reflected a lot of work from the Project Team and external advisers. He added that both DeFRA and the Treasury would need to agree a final business case to comply with SOPC3 Standard for Public Finance Initiative (PFI) Projects and stated that it was unlikely that they would concur with any derogation outside of that agreement. He did add, however, that he was confident that both DeFRA and the Treasury would be satisfied that the proposed bid would comply with the standards set.

RESOLVED that

- (i) The Evaluation Report, be approved;
- (ii) the Waste Recycling Group progress to the preferred bidder stage of procurement;
- (iii) each local authority be recommended to formally approve a decision to appoint Waste Recycling Group as Preferred Bidder;
- (iv) the issues identified in the Evaluation Report as requiring negotiation through the preferred bidder stage form part of the scope of the appointment so that negotiations going forward were focussed and entered into on the understanding that the Councils had not fully accepted the WRG bid as set out at BaFO; and
- (v) Shanks be approached to be retained as a reserve bidder in the event that negotiations with WRG did not yield a successful outcome.

CHAIRMAN