
SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN AT A MEETING OF THE WEST ESSEX AREA WASTE MANAGEMENT JOINT COMMITTEE HELD AT COUNTY HALL, CHELMSFORD ON 31 MAY 2006

Present:-

Members & Substitute Members

Councillor Tony Sleep, Brentwood Borough Council (Chairman)
Councillor Roger Walters, Essex County Council
Councillor Michael Gage, Braintree District Council
Councillor Stephen Metcalfe, Epping Forest District Council
Councillor Alan Thawley, Uttlesford District Council
Councillor Mrs Sarah Courage, Brentwood Borough Council

Officers

John Gilbert, Epping Forest District Council
Ron Pridham, Uttlesford District Council
Kathy May, Harlow District Council
Ian Haines, Braintree District Council
Brian Lawrence, Brentwood Borough Council
Nicola Beach, Essex County Council
Peter Kelsbie, Essex County Council
Alex Creecy, Essex County Council
Melanie Clark, Essex County Council
Melanie Bailey, Essex County Council
Buky Awoyemi, Essex County Council

1. Apologies for Absence and Notices of Substitution (agenda item 1)

On behalf of the Joint Committee the Chairman welcomed Councillor Stephen Metcalfe as the new Member representing Epping Forest District Council and, *in absentia*, Councillor Mrs Mary Sartin (new Substitute Member for Epping Forest District Council). A vote of thanks was made to Councillor Derek Jacobs for his work as a previous Member and Vice-Chairman of the Joint Committee.

2. Project Progress Report (agenda item 5)

Referring to paper WEWM/11/06, Peter Kelsbie, Project Co-ordinator, Essex County Council, provided an update on the latest project progress.

It was stated that, since the last meeting of the West Essex Joint Committee, there had been a meeting between representatives from Essex County Council, Southend Borough Council and Defra regarding the Outline Business Case (OBC) and Defra's revised eligibility criteria for PFI. It was explained that these criteria focussed on the overall structure of the contract and the associated regulatory framework. Members heard that the new criteria, issued by Defra, meant that funding would be available for the waste plants themselves (e.g MBT) but not including the supporting infrastructure. However, as a caveat to this,

there was a clause in the new regulations stating that Defra might consider other supporting elements. With this in mind, discussions between Essex County Council, Southend Borough Council and Defra were continuing regarding the inclusion of transfer stations, MRFs and IVCs within the overall contract.

It was noted that the issues relating to the OBC, (as a result of changes to the contract criteria), did not relate to the funding *per se* which remained at the same level. It was clarified that the OBC had not been rejected by Defra. However, variations to the rules governing bids required the OBC to be refined to accommodate these changes.

3. Procurement Process (agenda item 6)

Referring to paper WEWM/12/06, Peter Kelsbie, Project Co-ordinator and Alex Creecy, Technical Manager, Waste & Recycling, Essex County Council, outlined various aspects of the revised procurement process.

The Joint Committee received a presentation on different aspects of the revised procurement process including options surrounding the selection of a procurement route, inclusion of different elements of the disposal treatment process and possible groupings into contract 'lots'.

The arguments relating to the different aspects of procurement (particularly in relation to their inclusion or otherwise within the main PFI procurement) were summarised. Members expressed their support for the various arguments and proposals made although it was noted that formal approval of the overall procurement strategy by the Joint Committee would be sought once the situation regarding Defra was clarified.

4. Dates of Meetings: 2006 – 2007 (agenda item 9)

The Secretary introduced a paper (WEWM/13/06) containing proposed dates for meetings of the Joint Committee from August 2006 to July 2007. It was explained that, following presentation at a previous meeting of the Joint Committee, the suggested dates for future meetings had been revised to take account of comments received at the time. There was a brief discussion concerning the proposed date of the September 2006 meeting date and it was **agreed** that the Secretary would look into this further.