

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No 9

meeting date: TUESDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2010
 title: DELIVERY OF WASTE STREAMS TO PFI WASTE TECHNOLOGY PARKS
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1. PURPOSE

1.1 To update Members on the delivery of our waste streams to the PFI Waste Technology Parks, and future arrangements for the collection of mixed paper and cardboard.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's aims and ambitions

- Mission Statement & Vision shared by Local Strategic Partnership
 - An area with an exceptional environment and quality of life for all; sustained by vital and vibrant market towns and villages acting as thriving service centres meeting the needs of residents, businesses and visitors.
- Council Objectives
 - We aim to be a well-managed Council providing efficient services based on identified customer needs.
 - Ensure access to services is available to all.
 - Treat everyone equally.
- Council Priorities
 - None.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 In recent years a number of reports have been presented to this Committee regarding the County Council's PFI waste project and the future waste disposal/treatment arrangements that would arise from that initiative. On 12th January this year a more detailed report was presented to Committee on this matter that set out a number of options for consideration and the estimated financial implications for the Council of each of them. As a result Members resolved to follow a particular course of action, which would give a net saving to the Council of £188k.

2.2 Since that decision was taken we have been in discussions and negotiations with the County Council as to the effect it will have on their arrangements and the way we deliver our services. This has led to the intervention of the leading Members and Chief Officers from both authorities.

2.3 It was reported to Committee on 7th September 2010 that in line with the option selected by this Committee, residual, co-mingled glass, cans and plastic and green waste is now being collected from our Waste Transfer Station by a haulage contractor employed by the County Council's PFI partner and taken to their new facilities.

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- 2.4 Although earlier decisions approved the continued recovery of mixed paper and card under present arrangements and pre-tender preparations have been made, we have experienced difficulties with the County Council in resolving our financial and operational differences. The tender process has therefore been temporarily put on hold.

3. ISSUES

- 3.1 The outstanding issues are covered under the following categories;

3.1.1 Bulk Haulage

Prior to the commencement of the new bulk haulage arrangements on Monday 2nd August 2010, site induction training was provided to all drivers employed by the County Councils PFI haulage contractor who would collect waste from our Waste Transfer Station.

As expected most of the arrangements have now settled in with stronger working relationships developing between the haulage contractor and the staff at the Waste Transfer Station.

The County Council is developing an electronic recording system that will eventually allow immediate access to information on weights of material loads. Unfortunately the system is still not available and as such we are totally reliant on the provision of statistical information from the County Council in order to produce our recycling/waste management performance monitoring returns and claim recycling credit payments.

The provision of trailers under the bulk haulage contract is restricted to minimum material loads of 5 tonnes and above. Due to this restriction we have experienced problems with the standard of cleanliness in the building deteriorating. Recent discussions with County Officers will hopefully improve this situation resulting in a return to the high standards under which we have always performed.

3.1.2 Collection of mixed paper and card from our Waste Transfer Station

It is the view of the County Council that there are sufficient opportunities to manage the bulk loading mixed paper and card from the Waste Transfer Station.

Ribble Valley officers have provided proof that the Waste Transfer Station was never designed to accommodate more than 3 waste streams and that initially the co-mingled waste stream was to include paper and card.

Ribble Valley officers have spent a considerable amount of time and effort investigating how a separate waste stream of mixed paper and card could be managed in each of the Waste Transfer Station buildings. The County Council has been provided detailed analysis (including plans and photographs) on the consequences of including an extra waste stream into either of the two waste transfer buildings with the conclusion that it cannot be done safely.

3.1.3 Financial arrangements

Since the meeting between the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader of the County Council and Chief Officers of both Councils the financial agreements have come under question with some uncertainty of what was agreed.

Recent communications from the County Council state that if our waste paper and card is not integrated into the PFI arrangement then we will receive no recycling

credit value for this material and that they may also legally object to the Council recycling this material. Legal opinion is currently being sought on these matters.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications: -

Resources

- There are no financial consequences as a direct result of this report. Members should be aware however that the cost of the current waste paper and cardboard collection contract is covered through recycling credit payments and income from the sale of the material providing a breakeven service to the Council and tax payers of Ribble Valley. A nil credit value for paper and card only, will cost the Council more than £103,000 per annum, if current arrangements remain in place. If we were forced to make new arrangements for the collection of paper and card then this cost would be considerably higher.

Technical, Environmental & Legal

- There are no specific technical, environmental or legal issues arising directly out of the report at this stage. However the issues where agreement has not been reached are technical, environmental and legal in nature.

Political

- There are no specific political issues arising out of this report.

Reputation

- There are no risks to the Councils reputation as a direct result of this report.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Action by the County Council to further their demand for paper and cardboard to be integrated into their PFI arrangements under their terms and conditions will have significant financial and possibly operational consequences to this Council. Officers will continue negotiations with the County Council to resolve these issues.



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Background Papers – Waste Management Files
For further information please contact John Heap on 01200 414461.