



Residual Waste Treatment and Waste Transfer Update

Committee	Gloucestershire Joint Waste Committee
Committee Date	9 th October 2018
Significant Decision	No
Responsible Officers	Wayne Lewis, Gloucestershire Joint Waste Team wayne.lewis@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Main Consultees	None.
Purpose of Report	The purpose of this report is to update committee members on progress with the construction of the Javelin Park Energy from Waste (EfW) facility and on mobilisation plans for the delivery of waste to the facility.
Recommendations	<i>It is recommended that the Committee:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I. notes the progress on the construction of the EfW facility;II. notes the progress on the procurement of waste transfer;III. notes that a tipping away policy is, subject to a county council cabinet resolution, to be issued for consultation; and,IV. notes the progress on the evaluation of waste delivery options for Cheltenham B.C (CBC) and Tewkesbury B.C (TBC) to deliver residual waste to Javelin Park.
Resource Implications	Waste delivery arrangements may have financial and resourcing implications for each partner council, but particularly for GCC, CBC and TBC, as changes to current waste delivery arrangements within these boroughs have yet to be finalised. These will need to be considered as part of the 2019/20 budget setting process for each council.

1. Background

- 1.1 Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) formally awarded a contract to treat Gloucestershire's residual waste to Urbaser Balfour Beatty (UBB) in February 2013, which was re-signed in 2016. The contract is for the treatment of residual waste that remains after residents have reduced, reused and recycled as much as possible. Gloucestershire achieved a countywide recycling rate of 54% in 2018/19; its highest rate to date. Despite good progress in recycling, there is still a significant amount of residual waste that should be diverted from landfill, which for 2018/19 was around 130,000 tonnes.
- 1.2 UBB's technical solution is incineration with energy recovery. The facility is being built at Javelin Park, near Haresfield and will have capacity to treat all of Gloucestershire's residual household waste, whilst generating enough electricity to supply up to 25,000 households.

2. Construction

- 2.1 Construction work commenced in summer 2016 and continues on schedule. Some of the main areas of progress since the last update to the joint committee in June 2018 include:
- Completion of boiler pressure testing;
 - Completion of steelwork in boiler hall;
 - Continuation of steelwork in flue-gas treatment hall;
 - Significant amount of cladding to the north and south elevations; and
 - Glazing of the Visitor Centre and administration block.

3. Mobilisation

- 3.1 The facility is due to be fully operational in July 2019. Commissioning will begin early in 2019 with hot commissioning (the point at which some waste begins to be received and processed) commencing in March 2019. Prior to this, GCC, district councils and service providers such as Ubico and Biffa need to be familiar with the site and understand the processes for waste delivery.
- 3.2 Regular meetings between these parties and UBB are held. These meetings are focussed on the training of all collection and supervisory staff on the safe delivery and tipping of waste on site, the confirmation tipping arrangements for those wastes that will not be processed on site and agreeing waste delivery plans for the commissioning period.

4. Waste Transfer

- 4.1 GCC currently has waste transfer arrangements under its existing Waste Management Services Contract for the bulking and haulage of waste collected by Cotswold D.C (CDC) and Forest of Dean D.C (FoD) to landfill. These arrangements end with the expiry of this contract in January 2020.
- 4.2 A new procurement exercise has been undertaken to procure residual waste transfer to Javelin Park from:
- CDC;
 - FoD; and,
 - CBC and TBC.

The contract will have a term of three years with an option to extend by a further three years.

4.3 At its meeting in June 2018, the joint committee was informed that the award of the lot for CBC and TBC would be subject to a cost evaluation exercise by GCC, which compared the tender prices received to the estimated costs of direct delivery.

4.4 If GCC were to direct CBC and TBC to deliver waste direct to Javelin Park then under the Environmental Protection Act (1990) it would need to pay “*a reasonable contribution towards expenditure reasonably incurred by the waste collection authority in delivering waste...to a place which is unreasonably far from the waste collection area*”. Such payments are commonly known as “tipping away” payments.

4.5 GCC plans to develop a tipping away policy in consultation with district councils. A report is to be considered by GCC cabinet on 10th October, where authorisation will be sought to consult with district councils on the development of a policy. The consultation draft will be based on the payment calculation developed by the National Association of Waste Disposal Officers (NAWDO), which pays an agreed rate for travel beyond a district’s boundary. This policy, when adopted, will be applicable to all future situations where a district council is required to tip waste outside of its collection area.

4.6 CBC and TBC have provided estimated costs for the direct delivery of waste to Javelin Park. They have also identified a number of operational risks and concerns over this approach. The key concern relates to the additional travelling time needed to tip collected waste at Javelin Park. A longer journey to tip means less time is available each day for waste collections; meaning that additional collection costs would be incurred (such as vehicles, staff, fuel and maintenance). It is likely that these costs would not be fully covered by a tipping away payment, which is based on operating costs (and does not consider one-off or capital costs). Similarly, the costs of providing waste transfer are likely to be higher for GCC than the costs of providing a tipping away payment.

4.7 In response to these concerns, a number of meetings have been held between CBC, GCC and TBC to discuss a resolution that is acceptable to all and seeks to minimize overall costs. An option whereby the majority of waste would be delivered to a transfer station and some direct delivered to Javelin Park is currently being evaluated. This offers potential to address district council concerns over the costs and operational practicability of direct delivery to the EfW, whilst also helping GCC to manage down the costs of waste transfer. An update on these discussions will be provided at the joint committee meeting on 9th October.