

SCRUTINY BOARD (ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY)
2005/06

INQUIRY INTO THE COUNCIL'S WASTE RECOVERY SOLUTION

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Scrutiny Board (Environment and Community Safety) agreed to undertake an inquiry into the waste solution, with particular reference to recovery technology and meeting targets for the diversion of biodegradable waste from landfill. The department were eager for the Board to help guide policy in this area.
- 1.2 The inquiry aims to consider the Council's technical options for the recovery of waste i.e. to recover value from waste, that will be tendered for as part of the waste solution project. The inquiry will also aim to contribute to the obligations to divert waste from landfill, particularly with regard to meeting the targets set within the Landfill Directive and Waste and Emissions Trading Act. Members were also interested in scrutinising the Integrated Waste Strategy and contributing to its review and development.
- 1.3 There may be issues included in this inquiry which overlap with the remit of Scrutiny Board (City Development). Arrangements will be made to consult with this Board where appropriate.

2.0 SCOPE OF THE INQUIRY

- 2.1 The purpose of the Inquiry is to make an assessment of and, where appropriate, make recommendations on the following areas:
- The key drivers for the requirements for a waste solution for Leeds and the implications for the City.
 - The actions required in order to delay or potentially avoid the development of a waste solution within the city and the practicalities of implementation and public support. To include:
 - changes to the collection arrangements
 - education and awareness
 - partnership working with other local authorities
 - enforcement
 - The objectives/criteria which need to be applied to the selection of the preferred recovery technology or technologies for Leeds.

- Undertake an assessment of technologies against the agreed objectives/criteria. To include:
 - Market response to the Leeds requirements including the implications for the current collection service
 - Financial implications for Leeds of the technology option
 - Consideration of the land-use issues associated with potential technology options
 - Impact of technology options on collection systems
 - The interim contingency measures which maybe required ahead of the implementation of the waste solution and the possible impacts on the waste solution.
 - The integrated waste management strategy and its need for review in order to reflect new legislation and set out how the council will deal with certain issues.
 - Recovery and recycling targets that should be contained within the waste strategy with particular regard to the impact of one on the other.

3.0 COMMENTS OF THE RELEVANT DIRECTOR AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER

- 3.1 In line with Scrutiny Board Procedure Rule 12.4 the views of the relevant Director and Executive Member have been sought and have been incorporated where appropriate into these Terms of Reference. Full details are available on request to the Scrutiny Support Unit.

4.0 TIMETABLE FOR THE INQUIRY

- 4.1 The inquiry will run over four sessions of the board from July 2005, with a final report and recommendations to be agreed in November 2005
- 4.2 The above sessions and the length of the Inquiry are subject to change.

5.0 SUBMISSION OF EVIDENCE

The Chief Streetscene Services Officer to provide evidence on:

5.1 Session 1

- the key issues determining the need for a waste solution including consideration of climate change issues
- current position in Leeds with regards to waste arisings and targets

- the actions required in order to avoid the development of a waste solution within the city and the practicalities of implementation and public support. To include:
 - changes to the collection arrangements
 - education and awareness
 - partnership working with other local authorities
 - enforcement
- technical data currently available
- develop objectives/criteria for the evaluation of the potential waste solution
- the waste strategy review process

5.2 Session Two

- DEFRA to provide a presentation on new waste recovery technology
- Visits to see alternative recovery technology in operation
- Results of soft market testing
- Financial modelling of technical options
- Land-use requirements and issues relating to delivery of appropriate land
- Timetable for the delivery of the solution and the implications for Leeds City Council and residents

5.3 Session 3

- Results of stakeholder opinion gathering/informal consultation
- Evaluation of the technology options
- To discuss the recommendations of the Board

5.4 Session 4

- Draft Integrated Waste Strategy
- To agree the Board's final report and recommendations

6.0 WITNESSES

6.1 The following witnesses have been identified as possible contributors to the Inquiry:

- Chief Streetscene Services Officer
- Head of Environmental Services
- Recycling and Waste Manager
- DEFRA representative
- Consultants - Jacobs Babbie/Urban Mines/PWC