

To: City Executive Board

Date: 31 March 2010

Item No:

Report of: Value and Performance Scrutiny Committee

Title of Report: Scrutiny response to the recommended award of contract for the provision of a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) to manage the sorting and onward transmission of Oxford's dry recycle.

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To advise the City Executive Board of the recommendations made by the Value & Performance Scrutiny Committee on the Materials Recycling Facility report.

Key decision - Yes

Executive lead member: Councillor Tanner

**Report approved by:
Councillor Goddard – Chair of Value and Performance Scrutiny Committee**

Policy Framework: Corporate Plan fundamental service review. Cleaner, Greener City

Recommendation(s): To consider the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations on the report into a Materials Recycling Facility. The City Executive Board is asked to respond to the scrutiny committee:

If it agrees or disagrees with the recommendations as outlined

If it agrees what actions will be taken and when

If it disagrees why

If more information is required from officers when will that be considered

Recommendations are included in the report but are repeated below

Recommendations:

Recommendation 1

To welcome this very positive move and support the recommended choice from the evaluation process

Recommendation 2

That a thorough explanation of the new scheme its benefits and operation is provided on our web site, in council publications and a leaflet to be delivered to all households. That this is supplemented with visits and education programmes in focused areas

Recommendation 3

That we learn from our neighbours and others on methods of achieving compliance and buy-in from residents and at least place labels on the top of each container saying what cannot be put into the box

Recommendation 4

That information is given on the 2 outstanding questions from the committee on:

- **What will happen to expandable polystyrene**
- **What will be the process until the recommended MRF comes fully onto stream**

Introduction and Background

1. At its meeting on 29 March 2010, the Value and Performance Scrutiny Committee considered the report on a Materials Recycling Facility. The report was being submitted to the City Executive Board on 31 March, seeking approval to award a contract to Community Waste Recycling Ltd to process and manage the onward transmission of the dry re-cyclate collected from properties and businesses in Oxford.
2. Members asked a series of questions and were supported in this by, the Director, City Services, other officers and the Lead Board Member. The debate covered:
 - a. What difference members of the public would see
 - b. What new items can be recycled
 - c. What would happen to particular waste such as expandable polystyrene, batteries, cling film, metal and hygiene products (the committee await an answer on what will happen to expandable polystyrene)
 - d. Practicalities such as how clean and dry items needed to be when placed in the waste stream.
 - e. What would happen with electronic items ,
3. The committee were particularly interested what would happen with the output from the MRF and where it would go. Officers gave reassurance

that the waste to landfill from the MRF would be below 5% and most recyclate would be reused in this country.

The recommended bidder was not able to offer the full range of service immediately and the committee wished to be clear what would happen in the interim.

Conclusions and recommendations

4. The committee drew the following conclusions and recommendations:
5. **Bidder Choice** Members asked for further information on how particular

Recommendation 1

To welcome this very positive move and support the recommended choice from the evaluation process.

6. **Explanation and communication with residents**

Conclusion

Key to the success of this operation will be the understanding and commitment of residents. All opportunities must be taken in the lead up, and ongoing operation to provide information, education and clarity

Recommendation 2

That a thorough explanation of the new scheme its benefits and operation is provided on our web site, in council publications and a leaflet to be delivered to all households. That this is supplemented with visits and education programmes in focused areas

Recommendation 3

That we learn from our neighbours and others on methods of achieving compliance and buy-in from residents and at least place labels on the top of each container saying what cannot be put into the box

7. **Extra Information**

Recommendation 4

That information is given on the 2 outstanding questions from the committee on:

- **What will happen to expandable polystyrene**
- **What will be the process until the recommended MRF comes fully onto stream**

Comments from the Board Member

To be submitted to the CEB meeting.

Comments from the Director, City Services

At a previous meeting, members of the Scrutiny Committee made suggestions for requirements to be met. I am pleased that we have been able to accommodate all of these in a cost effective way through this procurement

Legal and Finance Comments – refer to CEB report

Report Author: Colin Gregory on behalf of the chair of Value and Performance Scrutiny Committee cgregory@oxford.gov.uk , 01865 252415

Version number:1