

## **Waste Procurement Project: Appointment of Preferred Bidder**

The Outline Business Case for the Waste Procurement Project (WPP) was approved by Cabinet in January 2007, and on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007 the Council published a Contract Notice in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU). The procurement process progressed through a number of key stages, as detailed below:

- 12 Pre Qualification Questionnaires were received and evaluated;
- 7 bidders were invited to participate in dialogue (ITPD) and submit Outline Solutions by September 2007;
- 3 bidders were selected to participate in further dialogue and submit Detailed Solutions (ISDS) by June 2008;
- Veolia were deselected in August 2008, and Covanta and WRG participated in further dialogue;
- Dialogue was closed on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2009 and final tenders invited to be submitted (ISFT) by 12<sup>th</sup> January 2009;
- The Final Tenders were rigorously evaluated, and the WPP Project Board was presented with the results of the evaluation at their meetings on 9<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

The Community and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee were briefed on the procurement process and evaluation of Detailed Solutions on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2008, and on the evaluation of Final Tenders on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

The Project Team was supported throughout the dialogue and evaluation process by specialist legal, technical and financial advisers, as listed below:

- Ernst & Young (Finance)
- Sharpe Pritchard (Legal)
- RPS (Technical)

Each Final Tender was evaluated against a range of criteria, which were broken down into two tiers. In order for a Final Tender to be considered compliant, it was necessary to score at least 2 out of 5 in each of the Tier 1 criteria. Table 1 below details the Tier 1 criteria and their weightings, and summarises the Tier 2 criteria considered in the evaluation.

*Table 1 – Evaluation Criteria & Weightings:*

<b>Tier 1 Criteria</b>	<b>Tier 1 Weighting</b>	<b>Tier 2 Criteria</b>
Technical & Operational	10%	Availability; Feedstock Flexibility; Contributions to recycling, recovery, energy & emissions targets; Service Quality.
Deliverability & Planning	25%	Deliverability; Planning & Permitting.
Environmental & Social	10%	Process residues; Energy balance; Greenhouse gases; Transport impact; Job creation; Stakeholder engagement.
Financial & Commercial	40%	Affordability; Economic cost; Robustness.
Legal	15%	Delivery vehicle; Legal impediments; Project Agreement; Warranties/security; Facility transfer.

In addition to evaluation against these criteria, each Final Tender underwent a Value for Money (VfM) assessment against the 'do minimum' option of maintaining the current waste management system. Sensitivity testing was also carried out around a range of waste collection scenarios, which

would impact on the residual waste tonnage and therefore cost of the solutions. These assessments have again shown that the 'do minimum' option does not offer the best VfM option to the Council.

### **Communications Strategy**

In the week prior to the preferred bidder decision, BCC will issue a press release to local media which sets out the format of the Cabinet meeting. The release will aim to manage residents' expectations and ensure they are aware the Cabinet will debate the decision in private session.

Following the Cabinet's decision on 14<sup>th</sup> September there will be a number of communications activities carried out, during that day and over the subsequent weeks. The following stakeholders will be notified of the cabinet decision:

Council	External
<b>Activities on 14<sup>th</sup> September</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phone calls to Members in areas of EfW and Waste Transfer Station sites;</li> <li>• Emails/letters to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ all Bucks County Councillors;</li> <li>○ all Bucks Town and District Councillors;</li> <li>○ BCC Waste Management staff;</li> <li>○ BCC PE&amp;D staff, and Corporate Communications team;</li> <li>○ District Council Chief Executives;</li> <li>○ all Parish Council clerks;</li> <li>○ all Bucks MPs and MEPs;</li> <li>○ Joint Waste Committee and Waste Technical Officers Group.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Press conference and interviews given by Martin Tett;</li> <li>• BCC website news page update;</li> <li>• Email to Cabinet members and senior officers at Central Bedfordshire Council;</li> <li>• Updates to Frequently Asked Questions page on BCC website;</li> <li>• News release to local, regional and national media;</li> <li>• News release to waste management trade media;</li> <li>• Emails/letters to EEDA, SEEDA, Government Office East and Government Office South East, Health Protection Agency, Primary Care Trust, Environment Agency and other relevant stakeholders.</li> </ul>
<b>Activities after 14<sup>th</sup> September</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September edition of Manager's Brief;</li> <li>• October edition of Team Brief;</li> <li>• Next edition of Changing Times;</li> <li>• Q&amp;A session for BCC PE&amp;D staff.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Autumn edition of Bucks times magazine.</li> </ul>

### **Alcatel**

The Cabinet decision to appoint a preferred bidder will be made subject to an Overview and Scrutiny Committee call-in period and other requirements, as defined within the recommendations to Cabinet. On 14<sup>th</sup> September BCC will issue Alcatel letters to all 12 bidders which submitted a Pre Qualification Questionnaire at the beginning of our procurement to inform them of the Cabinet decision, in order to meet the requirements of EU procurement procedures.

### **Next Stages**

Following the Cabinet decision the Project Team will work with the selected bidder towards their formal appointment as Preferred Bidder. The Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment will play an active role in delivering the recommendations of the Cabinet report, up to and including entering into contract for the long term waste disposal facilities, and the Project Team will continue to provide updates to Cabinet and the Overview & Scrutiny Committee as necessary.