



Report to Cabinet

Subject Nottinghamshire Waste Management Partnering Agreement

Date 15th December 2005

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1. Purpose of the Report

To provide an update on progress towards reaching an agreement with the County Council and all Nottinghamshire districts and confirm the Council's desire to continue negotiations.

2. Background

Members will be aware that the County Council is preparing to enter PFI contracts to secure waste disposal arrangements within the county for the next 26 years. The County Council has also proposed that a partnering agreement be drawn up between the county and the district councils to secure the waste streams, which will be disposed of via the PFI contracts. Members and officers have been meeting for some time to achieve compatible waste collection and disposal measures, which satisfy not only the complex technical requirements of an integrated operation, but also the necessary financial and legal safeguards. The County Council's programme for completing the various stages of the process has been subject to significant slippage and progress has been reported previously to Cabinet.

At the shadow joint members' board meeting on 12 September 2005, since no agreement had yet been reached with the districts, the County Council requested the districts' 'agreement in principle' to continue to work towards a formal agreement. Since the September meeting, a first draft agreement has been received for preliminary consideration. It is subject to change, and has little by way of technical content. The draft agreement also relies heavily on the PFI contracts, which have not yet been released. Matters are accordingly still at a preliminary stage, albeit that negotiations on the perceived points at issue are

continuing. Messrs Eversheds have been retained as solicitors to advise the districts jointly. Meetings are underway with them.

In response to the County Council's request at the September meeting, it is felt appropriate to confirm this Council's desire to continue negotiations to try and secure a satisfactory outcome.

3. Financial Implications

These are still to be determined and will be finalised after the disposal facilities have been confirmed, and appropriate remuneration from sales of recyclates, tipping away payments and other financial issues have been resolved.

4. Recommendation

The Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE to confirm this Council's desire to continue negotiations and try to secure a satisfactory outcome.

5. Wards affected

All wards

6. Background Papers

None.