



Report to Cabinet

Subject **Waste Management – Update On
New Disposal Arrangements 2006 - 2032**

Date **March 2006**

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1. Purpose of the Report

To update Cabinet Members on the waste disposal arrangements following the Nottinghamshire County Council's decision to enter into a PFI Agreement with Veolia Environmental (formally known as ONYX).

2. Background

Members will recall that I gave an update on the proposed waste disposal arrangements in December 2005 and in particular how any new arrangements would affect the Council's refuse collection and recycling service operationally and financially. At that time, Nottinghamshire County Council required the District Councils to sign up to a partnering agreement by no later than 31st March 2006.

Nottinghamshire's County Council's full Council have now approved a recommendation to enter into an agreement with Veolia Environmental Services (ONYX) for waste disposal over the next 26 years even though the District Councils have not yet signed up. I understand that this new waste disposal agreement starts on 1st July 2006.

There is a need for contractual arrangements to be put in place between each individual authority and the County Council. A Waste Partnership Agreement that will be signed by each district and the County Council will provide this.

A draft of the partnering agreement, including some of the draft schedules, was received from the County Council on 15th December 2005. This was discussed at a meeting of district technical, finance and legal officers and Eversheds, the solicitors appointed to represent the districts in negotiations with the County Council. Eversheds sent detailed comments to the County Council's solicitors on 30th January 2006 but a substantive response from them is still awaited.

It is understood that the County Council may have been concentrating their efforts on finalising the PFI contract. Although there have been ongoing discussions between the parties' respective technical officers, particularly in relation to the content of the schedules, which contain most of the important operational and financial detail, no further progress can be made on the partnering agreement until a response is received.

3. Proposal

The County Council has authorised its Director of Environment to continue negotiations relating to the partnering agreement with the districts, although they have recognised that it may not be possible to conclude this agreement before the PFI contract commences. As indicated above, further progress can only be made in respect of the partnering agreement when the County Council's appointed lawyers have responded to the detailed comments submitted to them in January.

It is proposed that the District Councils continue to negotiate with the County Council on the outstanding issues to ensure that the taxpayers of Nottinghamshire receive the most economical and efficient waste collection and disposal service.

4. Recommendation

Members are requested to note this report.