

**TENDER FOR AUTOMATIC PLASTIC SORTING EQUIPMENT - REQUEST FOR DELEGATED POWERS**

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**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To request that the Environment Committee delegates the appointment of the Contractor for the Tender for Supply and Installation of Automatic Plastic Sorting Equipment for the Materials Recycling Facility to Strategic Director - Environment.

**2. Summary**

- 2.1 A tender for the supply and installation of automatic plastic sorting equipment for the Materials Recycling Facility has recently been sent out, as approved by the Environment Contracts Sub-Committee on 21 December.
- 2.2 The closing date for tenders is 4 April 00, and following evaluation, officers will be in a position to recommend a contractor in week beginning 17 April.
- 2.3 Due to the high value of the contract, expected to be in the region of £880,000, Standing Orders for Contracts requires the approval of the contractor to be obtained from the Environment Committee, unless the Committee agrees to suspend these Standing Orders.
- 2.4 The peak time for recycling collections is just after Christmas, and if the Contractor is appointed in April, the equipment can be scheduled for commissioning in late November. This gives the operator a month to completely familiarise themselves with the equipment before the post-Christmas peak of deliveries. To keep on time, the contractor needs to be appointed in the week beginning 17 April 2000.
- 2.5 However, no Environment Committee is scheduled to meet near to this date, and there will be no further opportunity to present a report to Committee until after the elections on 4 May 2000.

**3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 That Contract Standing Orders be suspended to enable the Strategic Director Environment to appoint the contractor, in consultation with the Chair or in his absence the Vice-Chair of the Environment Committee.

#### 4. **Background**

- 4.1 Milton Keynes Council have obtained landfill tax funding of £880,000 from EB (Milton Keynes) Ltd. for the supply and installation of automatic plastic sorting equipment at the Materials Recycling Facility in Colts Holm Road, Old Wolverton.
- 4.2 Due to the high value of this contract, approval to tender has to be given by committee. This was given by the Environment Contracts Sub Committee on 21 December 1999.
- 4.3 Notice then had to be placed in the European Journal. This has been done, and three expressions of interest have been received. The tender document has been sent out to these three companies, and tenders are to be received by 4 April 2000.
- 4.4 Officers expect to be ready to recommend a contractor in the week beginning 17 April 2000, but will be unable to take the recommendation to Committee as required because no Committees will be meeting until after the elections on 4 May 2000.

#### 5. **Issues and Choices**

- 5.1 Officers could delay obtaining approval until an appropriate meeting after the elections. However, this will delay the installation of the equipment until after Christmas 2000. It is desirable that the equipment should be installed before Christmas in order that it is working in time to cope with the post-Christmas rush of recyclables, and that the factory should not be in a state of disruption in the post-Christmas period.
- 5.2 Environment Committee can delegate power of approval to Strategic Director – Environment to appointment the Contractor. However, the Committee must agree to suspend Standing Orders for Contracts for this to be achieved. This will assist in keeping work to schedule, so that commissioning can take place in late November 2000.

#### 6. **Implications**

##### 6.1 Environmental

The environmental benefits of the equipment have already been discussed in the item for committee on 21<sup>st</sup> December. The environmental benefit of this decision would be earlier and faster sorting of plastics.

##### 6.2 Equalities

None

### 6.3 Financial

This work is financed by landfill tax funds obtained from EB Milton Keynes Ltd. The project is categorised as a research project, and for this to be the case it is desirable that the equipment should be the first of its type to be installed in the UK; the longer this is delayed, the less likely this will be.

### 6.4 Legal

There are no legal implications, except that the Committee may agree to suspend the Councils Standing Orders for Contracts, if the recommendation is accepted.

### 6.5 Staff and Accommodation

None

## 7. **Conclusions**

- 7.1 The Environment Committee should delegate powers of appointment of the Contractor for the Tender for the Supply and Installation of the Automatic Plastic Sorting Equipment for the Materials Recycling Facility to Strategic Director – Environment.

Background Papers: Project Plan