

**AUTHORISATION TO TENDER FOR AUTOMATIC PLASTIC SORTING EQUIPMENT**

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**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To seek authorisation from the Sub-Committee for Milton Keynes Council to tender for the purchase of automatic plastic sorting equipment for the Materials Recycling Facility.

**2. Summary**

- 2.1 Milton Keynes Council have applied for a Landfill Tax grant of £880,000 from EB(Milton Keynes) Ltd for the purchase of automatic plastic sorting equipment for the Council's recycling factory. This has been approved by both EB(Milton Keynes) Ltd and ENTRUST, the regulatory body overseeing landfill tax applications. The approval to tender for the purchase of this equipment is now requested.

**3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 That officers be authorised to seek tenders for the purchase of automatic plastic sorting equipment for the Materials Recycling Facility.

#### 4. **Background**

- 4.1 Milton Keynes Council have applied for a landfill tax grant from EB (Milton Keynes) Ltd. for £880,000 in capital expenditure and £10,000 in revenue to purchase and install automatic sorting equipment for the recycling factory in Wolverton. This will allow a higher volume of plastics to be processed at the factory. The bid has been successful. Council procedure requires approval from Committee for expenditure of this magnitude.

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

- 5.1 There is a variety of automatic plastic sorting equipment available on the world market, but it differs in speed and effectiveness of sorting. Milton Keynes Council has developed a specification in conjunction with Shanks Waste Solutions who operate the Materials Recycling Facility. This specification will form the basis of the tender. The project has qualified as a “research project” under landfill tax classifications, and a report will need to be written about the effectiveness of the plant in order to obtain the grant.

#### 6. **Implications**

##### 6.1 Environmental

The environmental benefits of this equipment are considerable. They will allow a greater throughput of mixed plastics for sorting from Milton Keynes and the surrounding areas. Up to ten times less energy is needed to recycle plastic compared to the manufacture of the virgin polymer. Space is conserved in local landfill sites, and oil resources are conserved.

##### 6.2 Equalities

None

##### 6.3 Financial

There are no financial implications for Milton Keynes Council because the cost of the project is paid for by the EB(Milton Keynes)Ltd grant. Shanks Waste Solutions contribute 10% towards this grant.

##### 6.4 Legal

The legal implications are: the necessity of signing a contract with EBMK (Ltd) for the grant, and the tender contract itself. There is also the intention to appoint a project manager, with whom a contract will be necessary.

##### 6.5 Staff and Accommodation

A project manager will be appointed on a daily rate to manage the tendering, installation and commissioning of the project. The manager will be based in a Milton Keynes Council office at the Materials Recycling Facility. There are no other effects upon Milton Keynes Council staff, but Shanks Waste Solutions staff

who currently sort plastics will need to be retrained to perform other tasks relating to handling of the higher volume of materials it is expected that the new equipment will attract. This work is likely to be less monotonous and repetitive.

7. **Conclusions**

- 7.1 Milton Keynes Council has been fortunate in obtaining a grant for the purchase and installation of automatic plastic sorting equipment for its Materials Recycling Facility. It is recommended that the Committee approves the purchase of this equipment being placed out to tender.

Background Papers: None.