

EMBARGOED UNTIL 00:01HRS TUESDAY 2 OCTOBER.

ISSUED ON BEHALF OF SOUTH WEST DEVON WASTE PARTNERSHIP

Private Finance Initiative funding worth £95 million has been awarded by Defra today to create facilities to treat waste for the South West Devon area.

Plymouth City Council, Torbay Council and Devon County Council working together as the South West Devon Waste Partnership applied for the funding to help meet the cost of creating a sustainable waste management solution.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has announced that the partnership's outline business case meets its strict criteria. This unlocks millions of pounds of PFI credits to enable the partner authorities to tackle the waste we will all produce over the next 30 years.

Part of the long term waste management solution could include an Energy from Waste (EfW) facility for waste that cannot be reduced or recycled together with other recycling and composting initiatives, although the nature of the ultimate solution will depend on the successful bidder following a tendering process.

OPTION 1<Plymouth has already exceeded 31 per cent recycling and composting rates but achieving a combined level across the partnership of 50 per cent by 2019 is a key part of the project. >

OPTION 2<Devon has already exceeded 50% recycling and composting rates, but is aiming to achieve 60% by 2020, helping the whole partnership reach a combined level of 50%. >

OPTION 3<Torbay has already reached 28%, recycling and composting rates but achieving a combined level across the partnership of 50 per cent by 2019 is a key part of the project. >

The partnership has been working to minimise waste and promoting recycling, but as the number of households increases, it is predicted that there will still be around 200,000 tonnes of waste that can't be recycled and will need treatment.

OPTION 1<Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Environmental Regulation, Councillor Michael Leaves>

OPTION 2< Councillor Margaret Rogers, Executive Member for Environment > ,

....said: "We are delighted that the partnership bid has been successful. Developing a sustainable long term solution to managing our waste is vital - we cannot continue to rely on landfill.

“We have to plan for the future and to have something in place that will enable us to dispose of the waste that we cannot reuse or recycle.

“Burying our rubbish in the ground is damaging to the environment and is becoming more and more expensive. We have to pay landfill tax and will be fined for every tonne of degradable waste that is landfilled above limits set by the government.

“To avoid severe financial penalties, which could affect council tax bills, and to address a growing number of environmental concerns, we need to find new ways to deal with our waste.”

OPTION 3< Cllr Chris Lewis, Torbay Council Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Transport and Planning, said: "Torbay Council is keen to promote waste minimisation via education and encouragement. However, for the waste that cannot be recycled, we believe that energy from waste is the most sustainable way forward and our best option to avoid landfill, and that working in partnership with other local authorities is the best way forward.">

OPTION 1 ONLY<The outline business case for PFI funding estimates that the scheme could cost Plymouth £660 million over a 30-year period.> The total cost for all the authorities over the period is £1,582 million – but not having a waste solution would cost £1,902 million, taking into account escalating costs of landfill and associated taxes.

The bid took almost a year to put together with representatives from each authority working through complex scenarios and forecasts.

Factors taken into account included increased landfill tax, decreasing limits on the amount of waste that can be landfilled, increased population and waste created, increased investment into recycling and composting initiatives, new government and EU directives, design and technical issues for waste management facilities, environmental and planning issues and meeting extremely tight pollution control standards.

Waste Minister Joan Ruddock said: “ I am pleased to see these three authorities working together to deliver this important project.

PFI agreements like this create a real incentive to local authorities and industry to work together to cut waste and make better use of the waste we do create as well as reducing our impact on the environment.”

A series of roadshows are being held at venues across the region to provide information about the project and the partnership’s work to develop a solution that meets the needs of the local community. The partnership are keen to hear people’s points of view about the proposals – everyone is encouraged to attend and find out more.

The roadshows commence on 9 October and will run at 10 venues across south west Devon until 23 October. Further details and more information are available from www.swdwp.co.uk.

Ends

Notes to Editors

For more information please contact Jane Slavin on 01752 512679 or Liz Waugh on 07966 388921.

Roadshow Schedule

9 October	Plymouth Guildhall	4 – 8 pm
10 October	Ernesettle School, Plymouth	4 – 8 pm
11 October	Plymouth Guildhall	10 – 4pm
13 October	Ibis Hotel (Campanile), Plymouth	4 – 8pm
14 October	Cockington Court, Torquay	4 – 8pm
15 October	Berry Head Hotel, Brixham	4 – 8 pm
20 October	Saltash Guildhall	4 – 8pm
21 October	Courtney Centre, Newton Abbot	4 – 8pm
22 October	Parish Centre, Tavistock	4 – 8pm
23 October	The Watermark, Ivybridge	4 – 8pm