



On behalf of South West Devon Waste Partnership

For immediate issue

8 May 2009

Initial enquiries underway for South West Devon Waste Partnership project.

The next stage of the South West Devon Waste Partnership project is underway, with six companies waiting to hear who will go through to the next round.

The partnership is currently in negotiation with waste management companies to provide a long term waste treatment solution to deal with residual waste, after all recycling has taken place, from Plymouth, Torbay and South Devon.

No decisions have been made yet regarding the site, exact technology or potential operators of the contract. A shortlist from the current six bidders will be made and announced in early summer. The successful contractors will be asked to develop detailed plans, before one is chosen to progress with a planning application, which will include the potential site and technology.

However, as part of planning preparations, the companies involved in the process are beginning their initial scoping enquiries, looking at environmental issues associated with potential sites.

As companies are now beginning to submit requests for 'scoping opinions' on potential sites to organisations involved in planning, the partnership is keen to ensure explain the difference between the scoping opinion and planning applications.

Mark Turner, Project Director for the partnership said: "It is important that people understand the difference between the initial scoping enquiries and the formal planning process. Scoping gathers basic information from organisations (rather than individuals) to see what environmental factors might need to be considered in making a planning application.

"This might involve transport and traffic movements, habitat and wildlife considerations, air quality, visual and noise elements. It means that companies can get more of an idea about the factors they will need to consider for a specific site. It's important that they can get as much information as possible as it may affect their final costs, operations and ultimately whether they decide to proceed with a particular location.

“In contrast, the formal planning application is a prescribed process, when the applicant sets out their intended plans and everyone - organisations and individuals including the general public alike, can give their feedback on the proposals. The plans, along with any comments, are considered by the planning committee, who decide whether approval can be granted so the proposals can go ahead.”

Four locations have been identified in the partnership’s waste strategies as possible places for strategic waste facilities, - Coypool, Ernesettle, New England Quarry and Wrangaton. The first scoping opinion request has already been made on New England Quarry. Viridor, the company that owns the site, has requested a scoping opinion from Devon County Council as the Waste Planning Authority, on the possibility of an energy from waste facility with non hazardous landfill and new road access.

For more information, visit www.swdwp.co.uk

Ends

Notes to Editors.

The scoping opinion request is not a planning application. It is a part of the Environmental Impact Assessment process. This means a potential applicant for planning permission can establish the environmental information that would be needed to form part of an Environmental Statement - a detailed technical document legally required to accompany a planning application of this type.

When a request for a scoping opinion is made, the Waste Planning Authority consults with a number of statutory and technical consultees to establish what the environmental effects of such a proposal might be and what (if anything) could be done to mitigate them. This information is then given to the potential applicant who would then have to include the technical information in the Environmental Statement accompanying any future planning application.

This process is potentially a way for an applicant to establish whether a proposal is viable before a planning application is ever made

The shortlisted contractors are: □ Amey Cespa □ MVV Umwelt □ SITA □ Shanks Waste Solutions □ Urbaser SA □ Veolia □ Viridor □ Waste Recycling Group .

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The overall contract value for the 25-year period is expected to be in the region of £800m.

For more information please contact Liz Waugh on 01752 847135 / 07966 388921 or Jane Slavin (PCC) on 01752 304049.