

Draft minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Executive
Executive – 29 March 2007

Present: Councillor Mrs Lewin-Harris (Vice-Chair in the Chair).
Councillors Bishop, Mrs Bradley, Cavill and Hall.

Officers: Ms J Wishlade (Strategic Director), Mr B Carpenter (Waste Services Manager), Mr P Carter (Finance Manager) and Mr G P Dyke (Democratic Services Manager).

(The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm.)

This meeting ran concurrently with meetings of the Executives and Cabinets of Mendip District Council, Sedgemoor District Council, South Somerset District Council, Somerset County Council and West Somerset District Council as the partners in the Somerset Waste Partnership. All meetings considered the same recommendations for the preferred and reserved bidders for the Somerset Refuse and Recycling Collection Contract.

43. Apologies

Councillors Williams (Chairman), Clark, Edwards and Leighton.

44. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the items numbered 5, 6 and 7 on the agenda because of the likelihood that exempt information would otherwise be disclosed relating to Clause 3 of Schedule 12(a) of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Taunton Deane Executive adjourned its meeting at this point. The items referred to in Agenda Items 5, 6 and 7 were taken in joint session with the other Somerset Authorities.

45. Public Question Time

Mr McGauchey, representing GMB Members, working for South Somerset District Council, asked questions on implications for their Direct Labour Organisation and on depot locations under the new Waste Partnership contract arrangements. He was advised that the staff of the former DLO would have full protection under the terms of the contract for an indefinite period and that depot arrangements could be explained in more detail after meetings with the preferred bidder when appointed.

The remainder of this meeting was held in private session.

46. Somerset Waste Partnership Recycling and Refuse Collection Contract: Presentation

Councillors received a detailed presentation on the invitation to negotiate and bid evaluation process including the outline business case, quality and financial evaluations, comparisons between bids and finally, recommendations for the preferred and reserve bidders.

The presentation was followed by a question and answer session, during which capacity, performance monitoring and the need for education and awareness raising were discussed.

Following the presentation, the partner authorities returned to their separate meetings to consider the recommendations in private session.

47. Somerset Waste Partnership Recycling and Refuse Collection Contract: Recommendations

The Executive considered the agenda, report and evaluation document in detail and discussed the recommendations to progress negotiations.

Detailed consideration was given to the evaluation of ITN submissions and satisfaction was expressed in the overall evaluation process. The evaluation report had highlighted a number of areas, upon which negotiation should be focussed that should be set out as part of the formal agreement to appoint the preferred bidder and which should continue to be monitored and considered by the Partnership during the preferred bidder negotiations, leading to contract close. The key issues for negotiation were considered in some detail.

RESOLVED that:

1. The evaluation report be agreed;
2. The recommendation of the evaluation report, to appoint Company W as preferred bidder, be agreed and that they progress to the next stage of the procurement process;
3. The issues identified in the evaluation report, as requiring further negotiation through the preferred bidder stage, should form part of the scope of the appointment so that negotiations going forward were focussed and entered into on the understanding that the Somerset Waste Partnership had not fully accepted the bid from Company W as set out in their ITN submission;
4. A negotiation team, as nominated by the Directors Implementation Group, be authorised to negotiate with Company W on behalf of the Council as part of the Somerset Waste Partnership.
5. The Portfolio Holder for Waste Services, together with the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Chief Executive, the Strategic Director and the Finance Manager be authorised to instruct the negotiation team regarding which service package should be negotiated on behalf of the Council;

6. Company Z be approached to be retained as a reserve bidder in the event that negotiations with Company W did not result in a successful outcome.

All the partner authorities then met in joint session to report their decisions.

48. **Appointment of Preferred Bidder**

All six authorities reported that they had approved the recommendations without amendment (other than a local delegation issue for West Somerset District Council) and the Chairman of the joint session, Councillor McGinty, declared that negotiations would now commence with Company W as the preferred bidder. Company Z would be appointed as reserve bidder.

On behalf of all the Executives/Cabinets, Councillor McGinty congratulated the officers and Portfolio Holders involved in the invitation to negotiate evaluation and also the Democratic Services staff who had organised these special meetings. Both were believed to be unique arrangements and all involved were thanked for their work.

(The meeting ended at 4.20 pm.)