

Contracts Update

SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the Authority's various waste treatment arrangements and procurements.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 1) *The Authority is asked to note the information within this report.*

1. Introduction

The waste treatment contracts managed by WLWA deliver Policy 6 of the Authority's Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy - "West London Waste Authority and constituent boroughs will seek a residual waste management solution in accordance with the waste hierarchy that presents value for money and offers reliability in the long term".

2. West London Energy Recovery Ltd contract

Fires

Since the end of June there have been three fires at the waste transfer stations (WTS) operated by Suez on behalf of the Authority:

26th June – At around 22:00 (3 hours after processing finished) a fire started in the bulky waste shed at Transport Avenue WTS. The Fire Brigade attended site and after extinguishing the fire and maintaining a fire watch the site was returned to use. There were no personal injuries but there was a lot of physical damage to the shed itself. A structural survey since the fire has determined the structure is still sound. It needs re-wiring, replacement doors, cladding and new fire and dust suppression systems. The timetable for these works is being co-ordinated and will be agreed shortly.

3rd August – This fire began in one of the outdoor bays at Transport Avenue WTS and included the burning of approximately 150 tonnes of dry mixed recyclables from trade sources. There were no personal injuries or property damage.

24th August – At around 21:00 (2 hours after processing finished) smoke was spotted in the bay of shredded material at Victoria Road WTS. There were no personal injuries or property damage.

These fires were not caused by mechanical failures or arson. It is believed that items in the waste pile e.g. BBQ coals or batteries (either alone or in an item) combusted but the items have burned alongside the rest of the waste.

Suez have comprehensive fire watch and emergency action plans in place to ensure that their response meets or exceeds all requirements to protect the environment, local people and our operations to minimise disruption to boroughs and contractors. Environment Agency visits after each occasion have praised the actions taken to ensure that the local environment is not polluted as a result of chemicals in the waste or in the firewater run off reaching local watercourses. The Environment Agency can give scores to operators when they feel there has been a breach of regulations, no scores have been issued to Suez as a result of these fires.

The Authority was informed quickly about the fires and diversions of waste were put in place to ensure boroughs services could run with minimal disruption. Alternative arrangements for tipping bulky materials are still in place at Transport Avenue until the shed has been re-instated.

Waste fires are a hot topic in the industry, Suez's Industrial Risk Team are using their technical expertise gained through the whole company to look at instances of waste fires and see what areas need to be addressed and processes/procedures changed for the whole company and wider sector. Since the first fire, Suez have upgraded the fire alarm system to link through to the CCTV control centre so if the alarm rings the fire brigade will be called by the control centre. Whilst repairs are underway a night security guard has been introduced to add an extra layer of monitoring.

SERC

There are now two bee hives installed at the site. The local environment is perfect for bees, local experts will be overseeing the colonies.

The annual maintenance of the plant took place for two weeks in July. It included works to install new rams on Line 2 to help reduce downtime as a result of blockages caused by non-conforming items. These have now been used twice and saved a significant number of non-working hours.

Also during this period works were carried out to the stacks on site to change the design and prevent further oscillations. The installation of the dampers followed the shutdown plan so no delays and without any incidents. Oscillations of the stacks have caused approx. 25 working days to be lost over the last 2 years. The following pictures show the change to the design.



Dampers and side panels at ground level

Installation

Dampers and side panels in place

The side panels are part of the vortex shedding devices to help stable the stacks. Dampers were also installed. All the ropes have now been removed and the stacks have been stable since the end of the shutdown. The whole shutdown period went very well. The flows of waste from the WTS was also very closely managed to ensure no disruption to service.

3. Procurement Plan

In accordance with the 18/19 procurement plan the Authority will be going to market to investigate the best options for mattress recycling and abandoned vehicle disposal.

4. Risk

Any risks associated with a contract are recorded on the Authority's risk register. This is reviewed by the WLWA Officers and reported to the Audit Committee.

5. Financial Implications

There are no financial issues arising from this report

6. Staffing Implications

There are no direct staffing issues arising from this report.

7. Health and Safety Implications

None

8. Legal Implications

None

9. Joint Waste Management Strategy Implication

The contracts mentioned in this report meet the Authority's Joint Waste Management Strategy polices listed below:

Policy 5: West London Waste Authority and its constituent Boroughs will reduce biodegradable municipal waste landfilled with regard to the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme.

Policy 6: West London Waste Authority and constituent Boroughs will seek a residual waste management solution in accordance with the waste hierarchy, that presents value for money and that offers reliability in the long term.

Policy 7: The West London Waste Authority and constituent Boroughs will seek to provide waste management services that offer good value, that provide customer satisfaction and that meet and exceed legislative requirements.

Policy 8: The West London Waste Authority and constituent Boroughs will work together to achieve the aims of this strategy and are committed to share equitably the costs and rewards of achieving its aims.

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