

Item No. 40	Classification: Open	Date: 15 th January 2003	MEETING NAME Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Report title:		Draft Waste Management Strategy: Funding for Expert External Consultant Advice for a Review of Alternatives to Landfill	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Environment and Transport Scrutiny Sub Committee	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Overview and Scrutiny Committee (O.S.C.) approve the budget required (approximately £5,000) to buy in sufficient external expert consultant advice as part of the Environment and Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee's input to the draft Waste Management Strategy now being developed with reference to alternatives to landfill.

BACKGROUND

2. The way in which the waste produced by society is managed is a key topic on local, national and international agendas. National, regional and local government recognise that waste management practices that continue to favour landfill over other waste management options are unsustainable and that we cannot continue to produce more waste and dispose of it by the most environmentally damaging route, that is landfill.

FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION - ALTERNATIVES TO LANDFILL

3. The Environment and Transport Scrutiny Sub Committee will commence a review of the alternatives to landfill as part of the ongoing consultation process informing the new Waste Management Strategy for Southwark.
4. One key principle underpinning Southwark's Draft Waste Management Strategy is that prior to a waste disposal option being chosen the concepts of Best Value and BPEO (best practicable environmental option) are adhered to, to ensure that impacts on the natural environment and human health are minimised within the need to provide a value for money service.
5. Members of the Environment and Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee considered that they needed to buy in some external expert advice on the alternatives to landfill which exist in order to be best informed before making their recommendations.
6. The Sub-Committee will be considering options for buying in external opinion at their meeting on Monday 13th January 2003.
7. There is no one external expert consultant who can elucidate the advantages and disadvantages of all the alternatives to landfill available. The Head of Waste Management and Transport has therefore recommended a variety of experts who will

be able to give detailed advice on the following alternatives to landfill:

- Recycling and composting
- Saving Waste and Prosper (SWAP)
- Pro-incineration
- Bio Gas Plants
- Mechanical Biological Treatments.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

8. Buying in this quantity of external expertise will be costly but will provide the broad coverage of all the alternatives available which is needed to enable the Sub-Committee to come to a view. **No exact costings are available at this moment in time but officers have posited a figure of around £5,000. This figure exceeds the threshold of £2,000 beyond which O.S.C. needs to approve expenditure by Scrutiny Sub-Committees.** The timing of O.S.C. meetings in relation to the Environment and Transport Sub-Committee's commencement of its review of alternatives to landfill requires a decision by O.S.C. to fund the costs of external expertise now.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
<i>Environment and Transport Scrutiny Sub Committee Agenda, Background Papers and Minutes</i>	<i>Constitutional Support Unit, 3rd Floor, Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB</i>	<i>Tina Akumanyi T: 0207 525 7226</i>

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Ian Hughes, Head of Corporate Strategy	
Report Author	Maggie Sullivan, Corporate Strategy Assistant	
Version	<i>Final Version</i>	
Dated	<i>10 January 2003</i>	
Key Decision?	<i>No</i>	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Borough Solicitor & Secretary	No	NO
Chief Finance Officer	No	No
<i>List other Officers here</i>	Gill Davies Phil Davies	Yes
Executive Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Support Services	10 January 2003	