

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 6 February 2003	<b>MEETING NAME</b> Overview and Scrutiny Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Supplemental Report: Draft Waste Management Strategy: A review of alternatives to landfill	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Chair of the Environment and Transport Scrutiny Sub Committee	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That having reviewed the further detail supplied in this report, Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) consider expenditure of no more than £3,000 to pay for independent advice for a seminar on alternatives to landfill as part of a review on the part of the Environment & Transport Scrutiny Sub Committee.

## BACKGROUND

### Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC)

2. This report supplements an earlier one to OSC requesting expenditure of up to £3,000 for a range of external expert advice on alternatives to landfill. OSC considered the original report at its meeting in January and asked that further detail be provided on the issues arising before it could reach a decision.

## POLICY CONTEXT

3. The current draft Waste Management Strategy addresses the period 2003/04 – 2005/06 in detail, together with the principal actions that will need to be taken for the years 2007-10 and 2010-2021. The strategy needs to address the following issues:
  - Pressure from the European Union and the UK Government which means that reliance on landfill cannot continue at its current level
  - New legislation to deal with hazardous waste (incineration directive)
  - More waste must be recycled, composted or used in energy recovery schemes
  - Waste arising are increasing year on year and the costs of waste management are rising
  - The disposal options for London are particularly acute with limited landfill space beyond 2007

The principles on which the strategy are based are to:

- Reduce total waste arising through the promotion of waste minimisation
- Recover value from waste materials that would otherwise be disposed of in landfill
- Minimise the social, environmental and financial impact of waste management

## ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE

4. The Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Sub Committee has promoted this strategy as part of its work programme. OSC has agreed a post Executive agreement review to influence the policy options informing the Strategy and as part of the consultation period.
5. The current draft Waste Management Strategy outlines options on the disposal and treatment of waste. However, the current strategy is still, at present, a framework for how waste is to be managed over the next 20 years. Members of the Sub Committee agreed that one outcome of their review should be to offer the Executive Body strong evidence of the most viable, efficient and cost effective ways of disposing and treating of waste.
6. Members of the Sub Committee agreed that they wanted more information on the methods of disposing and treating of waste.
7. In order to be most fully informed, Members of the Sub Committee agreed that some independent, expert, external advice was justified as part of the review. Their reasons for thinking so were as follows:
  - That recommendations arising out of Overview and Scrutiny should be independent and based on the best quality advice available;
  - That such expertise would provide the best guarantee of independence to the Sub Committee in reaching its recommendations;
  - That without such advice Members of the Sub Committee would not be in a position to make knowledgeable and evidence based recommendations to the Executive Body to support its consideration of the draft Waste Management Strategy;
  - That it will help progress the strategic objective of a cleaner and greener borough written into the Community Strategy.
8. Members have been advised that no one external expert could argue the advantages and disadvantages of all the alternatives to landfill. It would require a range of expertise. Members agreed the minimum number of experts necessary to fully cover all the alternatives to landfill they had previously determined was necessary.
9. Members have agreed that the best way to hear from all the experts is through an Overview and Scrutiny seminar led by members. The following experts have expressed a willingness to attend such a seminar:

Dr Elaine Kerrell, Director SWAP  
Topic – Overview of Waste Management Solutions  
and to facilitate the seminar

Robin Murray, Director Ecologika  
Topic – Recycling and Reuse

David Sargent, London Waste Co  
Topic – Incineration as part of an Integrated Strategy

Dominic Hogg, Eunomia  
Topic – Alternative treatments/Emerging Technologies

Hugh Car Harris, Chief Executive London Remade

Topic – Waste Management Practices in London.

## **COSTS**

10. The total cost of the expert advice is not anticipated to go beyond £3,000.

## **ADDITIONAL ISSUES ARISING**

11. Members have agreed one additional option includes extending the seminar to outside bodies in an effort to get fully under the debates and issues involved.
12. The Chair of the Sub Committee has proposed an option of inviting students from South Bank University who may be involved in environmental options projects, to have input to the seminar and this review.
13. The Chair of the Sub Committee has proposed an option that the seminar could be advertised using the press strategy for Overview and Scrutiny, once operational.

## **OUTCOMES**

14. The outcome of a seminar and recommendations arising will be reported to OSC, outlining what Members consider to be the best alternatives to landfill.

## **TIMETABLE**

15. Members of the Sub Committee agreed that, if possible, the seminar should take place on Tuesday 11 March. Members will then consider their recommendations arising and report back to OSC at the earliest, convenient time.

## **REASON FOR LATENESS**

16. Officers have been awaiting details of costs and experts which have only recently become available.

## **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

## **Audit Trail**

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Ian Hughes, Head of Corporate Strategy
<b>Report Author</b>	Maggie Sullivan, Corporate Strategy Assistant
<b>Version</b>	<i>Final Version</i>

<b>Dated</b>	5 February 2003	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	NO (but may prove to have a significant impact on communities)	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Borough Solicitor & Secretary	No	No
Chief Finance Officer	No	No
List other Officers here	Gill Davies Phil Davies	Yes
<b>Executive Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Support Services</b>		5 February 2003