

Our ref: PG/ILD/WG/094

Your ref:

10<sup>th</sup> January 2012

Dear Sarita,

Thank you for your request for information relating to the 'Petition' on residual waste. As only point 1 relates specifically to Project Gwyrd, we have responded to this point and have left points 2 and 3 to the stakeholders that deal with these issues.

The response gives a short introduction and counters the claim that the Project is 'against WG Policy of localised facilities'. It then goes on to explain why the Project is consistent with each 'Council being able to chose their own waste technology and waste management procurement.'

## Introduction

Prosiect Gwyrd is a partnership of 5 local authorities to deliver a solution to residual waste. This work is being carried out in parallel with each of the partners' priority to recycle and compost as much waste as possible, in line with the legally binding Welsh Government waste targets. The procurement is supported by the Welsh Government, both in terms of the cost of the procurement and a 25% contribution of the gate fee of the facility over the contract term.

Each of the partners are committed to adhering to the EU Waste Hierarchy and are investing in reduction and reuse schemes, recycling education, recycling and composting collections as well as the infrastructure or service contracts to process these materials.

The Project is committed to delivering the residual waste infrastructure needed to meet the Welsh Government waste targets up until 2025. The Welsh Government's Towards Zero Waste sets out Wales' intention to recycle all of the waste we produce and eliminate any non recyclable rubbish by 2050. If this is achieved there will be no need for energy from waste in the future but in the meantime residual waste has to be dealt with in a sustainable way.

## Against WG policy of localised facilities.

Prosiect Gwyrd is a sub-regional approach to residual waste procurement and the Project has to strike a balance between the principles set out in the Waste Proximity Principle and achieving value for money benefits through partnership working. Both proposed sites at the ISFT stage are within the partnership area, with Viridor's site at Trident Park in Cardiff and Veolia's site south of the existing Llanwern Steelworks in Newport.

The site location chosen by the bidders would have been determined by a range of factors including the proximity to where the waste is being generated, the availability to connect to the

grid to sell electricity, potential heat users and the transportation links and cost to deliver the waste to the facility.

The Project evaluates the bidders' Transportation Plan using an integrated environmental model assessment which takes all of these factors into consideration.

The Project is fully in line with Welsh Government Waste and Environmental Policy. This has recently been confirmed to the Project in a letter from the WG's Waste Programme Office. A Local Partnerships Transactor has been appointed to the Project by the Welsh Government to oversee the procurement to ensure that it is line with the Welsh Government's requirements and the Welsh Government will carry out their own 'health check' before contract close.

### **Council's to chose their own waste technology and waste management procurement.**

All five Councils chose through a due democratic process, to become part of 'Prosiect Gwyrdd'. The Project had to produce an Outline Business Case and had to chose a reference technology to show that the Project was affordable. Through an integrated environmental model Assessment, Energy from Waste was chosen as the reference technology at that point in time. The Outline Business Case and the agreement to start the procurement was agreed by all five Full Councils in summer 2009. The procurement has always been technology neutral – we did not specify a technology.

Through this democratic process, each Council agreed the Prosiect Gwyrdd procurement route, agreed the Outline Business Case, agreed the evaluation criteria, and agreed to advertise the requirements of the Project to the global market through an advert in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Each of the partner Councils did chose their own procurement route and this has been carried out through democratic process. Through this process they have also selected the two technologies that remain in the procurement.

Yours sincerely,

### **Prosiect Gwyrdd**

[www.prosiectgwyrdd.co.uk](http://www.prosiectgwyrdd.co.uk)