



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Launch of NFS Landfill Gas Electricity Generation Project
Date:	12 August 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives ext. 3459

Relevant Background Information

The North Foreshore was the former Dargan Road Waste Landfill site for Belfast, which has been closed to dumping since March 2007.

The decomposition of waste at the North Foreshore produces landfill gas, which is composed of 50% methane and 50% carbon-dioxide. Under current UK Legislation and EU Directives the Council is not permitted to release this potent greenhouse gas into the atmosphere. As the site is closed, the land is being capped to contain the gas and a network of gas wells and inter-connecting pipework is being installed to collect the gas, which was fed to a central flare. This process is closely monitored by the Council's Health & Environmental Services Department and overseen by the Northern Ireland Environmental Agency.

Landfill gas is a valuable sustainable, renewable energy resource and following a comprehensive scoping study it was determined that the generation of 'green' electricity for sale to the national grid would be the most cost effective means of using the Landfill Gas. At the Development Committee meeting in April 2005, the Members considered options on how best to progress this project, and approved a recommendation to appoint an experienced operator as a joint venture partner to install, operate and manage the Landfill Gas Electric generation facility. Management of the gas field will be retained by the Council to ensure the highest safety standards: and the Committee has previously approved the installation of a cable to connect the facility to the national electricity grid.

The Development Committee approved the appointment of a joint venture partner, Renewable Power Systems, on 16 January 2008, to install, operate and manage the Landfill Gas Electric generation facility.

Key Issues

The construction and installation work of the Landfill Gas Electric generation facility is complete. This will enable the generation of electricity to be sold on to the national grid to NIE.

After the successful media coverage at the launch of the project in December 2008, there has been a lot of positive interest in the Landfill Gas Electric generation facility. This project is the biggest Landfill Gas Electric generation facility in Northern Ireland that will export 4 mega watt hours of renewable green electricity to power 5,000 homes.

The Council has been working in partnership with its joint venture partner, Renewable Power Systems, NIE and DETI to deliver the Landfill Gas Electric generation facility. DETI is responsible for encouraging renewable energy production and has been involved with the project through its assistance with the renewable obligation certificates, which provides a financial incentive for renewable energy producers.

It is proposed that the Lord Mayor, Ms Naomi Long would invite the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Ms Arlene Foster to a switch on ceremony in September. It will provide the opportunity for the Council to show case its contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the use of Landfill Gas to generate green electricity, which will help to deliver the Governments renewable energy targets.

The Members of the Development Committee will also be invited to attend the switch on ceremony of the Landfill Gas Electric generation facility in September.

Resource Implications

Existing resource.

Recommendations

1. Members are asked to note the contents of the report

Decision Tracking

That the Members of the Committee are invited to attend the switch on ceremony
Timeline: September 2009 Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay

Key to Abbreviations

NIE Northern Ireland Electricity
DETI Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment