



Belfast City Council

Report to: Health and Environmental Services Committee

Subject: ~~Procurement by Tender of a service~~ for the Collection and Aanalysis of Samples from Dargan Road Landfill Site

Date: 5th November, 2008

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Relevant Background Information

Staff from the Environmental Protection Unit provide monitoring and sampling services at the North Foreshore to ensure that the Council complies with relevant legislation and its duty of care in respect of landfill gas and other discharges through leachate. In relation to the latter type of discharge, the Council must comply with the conditions set in Waste Management Licence LN/08/46/C and requirements under the Landfill Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003, the Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 and the Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998.

The Unit undertakes a regular programme of sampling for a range of parameters at the Dargan Road site. The samples taken include, leachate, groundwater, marine and surface water, discharge and marine muds. Samples are taken on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis and are sent to a specialised laboratory for detailed analysis for a number of indicator parameters. The resultant trends are monitored for compliance with the above regulations.

The main objectives of this monitoring is to:

- Meet requirements of Waste Management Licence LN/08/46/C
- Demonstrate that the design measures in place are effective,
- Show that discharges are not causing significant environmental impact by comparison with baseline data,
- Provide warning of changes requiring further investigation,
- Manage the site to ensure it does not cause significant environmental impacts.
- Provide data for statutory returns to the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

The current contract for the collection and analysis of the samples was for 3 years and it expires in December, 2008. This contract was arranged by the Waste Management Service previously as it holds accountability for carrying out the effective management of the regime related to the Waste Management Licence. This time round, the Environmental Protection Unit will arrange and manage the contract. However the cost of the contract will be met from the Waste Closure Plan.

It should be noted that the regime for monitoring will be in place long after the closure of the landfill site. It is recommended that this contract is awarded for a maximum of three years in order to ensure continuity and consistency in approach. The Waste management Service has made provision to include this in the financial provision for the Landfill Closure Plan for the next 3 financial years.

Key Issues

The environmental implications of the above are of high importance as hydrogeological and atmospheric emissions from a landfill need to be monitored for their potential impact on the environment. Landfill gas (and in particular methane) is an Ozone Depleting Substance (ODS)). The monitoring of these and leachate from the landfill site is an essential requirement placed on the Council under the EC Landfill Directive and demonstrates the Council's commitment to protecting the environment.

The existing contract for the collection and analysis of samples from Dargan Road Landfill Site will expire on 31 December 2008. The Service therefore proposes to let a contract for a period of one year, with an annual renewal option thereafter, for a further two years, subject to satisfactory performance.

A Quality/Price matrix of 70/30 will be applied against the tenders and scored on the basis of information provided in line with the stated evaluation criteria, i.e.:

- Cost
- Service delivery – including sample collection provision
- Experience
- Ability to work in partnership
- Technical capacity / limits of detection
- Technical capability

Once the tenders have been evaluated against the agreed appropriate criteria, and on the advice of the procurement unit, the contract will be awarded via the delegated authority of the Director of Health and Environmental Services.

Resource Implications

The budget provision for the year 2008/2009 for sampling services is provided within the Waste Management Service under the Closure Plan for the Landfill site. The cost per annum is estimated at approx £45,000. The cost over the three year period of the

contact is estimated at around £140,000

Recommendations

The Committee is requested to approve the commencement of a tendering exercise for the provision of a service for the collection and analysis of samples from the Dargan Road landfill Site.

Key to Abbreviations

None

Documents Attached

None

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