



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Emergency Repairs to Bay Walls at Waste Transfer
<b>Date:</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> March 2010
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Tim Walker, Head of Waste Management, ext 3311
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Laurence McQuoid, Waste Manager, ext 3342

### Relevant Background Information

The waste transfer station (WTS) opened at Dargan Road in November 2007, following the closure of the Council's landfill site in March 2007. The WTS receives almost 110,000 tonnes of waste each year from the city which is hauled to arc21 procured landfill sites at Mullaghglass and Cottonmount. The WTS removes the need for the Council's vehicles to direct haul to these landfill sites and provides savings for the Council due to the reduction in the time spent by these vehicles travelling to and from the sites, and the associated savings in fuel costs.

### Key Issues

A number of problems have arisen at the WTS, with the push walls experiencing damage due to the wear and tear involved in storage and loading operations.

In order to test the most promising solution to prevent further damage to the push walls in Bay 1, a quotation exercise was undertaken to replace these damaged walls and to fill them with a special lightweight concrete in November 2009. This concrete had to be used due to the limited load-bearing capacity of the floor of the WTS. The works were completed at a cost of £29,000 and the push walls have since been inspected by RPS Consulting Engineers to assess the effectiveness of these steps. The Engineers have confirmed that the process has significantly reduced the damage being caused to the push walls.

An inspection of the push walls in Bay 2 of the WTS has determined that 22 of the 30 no. push walls need to be replaced. Following the success of the earlier works, the Service now proposes to apply the same process in this bay. The estimated cost of

completing these works is in the region of £35,000.

Under the Council's Financial Regulations this would require a tendering exercise. If, however, a tender exercise was to be undertaken the timescale would mean that work could not commence in Bay 2 until August 2010. There are a number of issues which would mean that this delay would not be feasible for the Council:

- Collapse of push walls in Bay 2 could result in serious injury to personnel working in the WTS and could also damage machinery
- Failure of the push walls in Bay 2 could result in this bay having to be closed. This would (i) reduce the operating capacity of the WTS by 50%, and (ii) mean that Cleansing Service vehicles would have to direct haul to landfill which would disrupt the collection services across the City.
- Not all Cleansing Service vehicles would be able to deposit their waste at landfill as single axle vehicles are not allowed onto the sites due to their lack of traction. This would further disrupt the collection services across the City.
- The haulage contractor could seek recompense from the Council for loss of income as the problem would not be of the contractor's making.

Under Section A.5 of the Council's Financial regulations permission is sought from the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to waive the requirement to undertake a tender exercise for the works required to bay two and grant permission for this work to be completed through a quotation exercise. This approach would allow the Council to limit the risk of danger to personnel and equipment while still ensuring that competition is applied to the award of the contract to complete the work.

### **Resource Implications**

#### Financial

The estimated cost of completing the Bay 2 repairs is £35,000 which can be funded from the 2009/10 WTS revenue estimates through savings that have been generated during the 2009/10 year.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- Exercises its authority under paragraph A.5 of the Financial Regulations to waive the requirement for a tender exercise to be undertaken to complete the works to Bay 2 of the WTS.
- That a quotation exercise is completed prior to the award of the contract for completion of these works.

<b>Abbreviations</b>
WTS – Waste Transfer Station
<b>Decision Tracking</b>
The Head of Waste Management will ensure that a quotation exercise is completed for the works required.