



Subject:	Proposed Study visit to the Covanta Energy from Waste Plant in Poolbeg Dublin
Date:	7 th November 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Tim Walker, Head of Service

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To seek approval for a study visit for Members of the Committee and a number of Council Officers, to the Covanta Energy from Waste (EfW) plant in Poolbeg, Dublin.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to; (a) approve a study visit for members of Committee and a number of Council Officers to the Covanta EfW plant (b) Consider extending the invite to other Council members (c) Subject to approval of the study visit, inform Democratic Services of their intention

to take part in this visit, planned for Wednesday 29th November 2017.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

- 3.1 In September 2017, the Planning Appeals Committee granted planning permission to the arc21 Residual Waste Treatment Project, to be located at Hightown Road, Newtownabbey. This project involves the treatment of the non-recyclable waste from the constituent council members of arc21. Full details of the scheme can be viewed online at;
<http://www.becon.co.uk/>
- 3.2 In light of the significance of this project and its potential impact on the Council's Waste Framework, approved by the Committee on 13th June 2017, it is appropriate to consider a study visit to a modern, EfW facility in order to see the role that this treatment method can play in the future of waste management.
- 3.3 The Covanta EfW facility in Poolbeg, Dublin is one of the most advanced EfW plants in Europe. This plant has the capacity to divert around 600,000 tonnes of non-recyclable waste per annum from landfill, generating electricity for around 80,000 homes and the potential to hook up to the Dublin heating network to keep around 50,000 homes warm. Further details on the facility can be accessed by the following link;
<https://www.dublinwastetoenergy.ie/>
- 3.4 City & Neighbourhood Officers have raised the possibility of a study visit for Members with Covanta and they have indicated that they would be delighted to host such an event.
- 3.5 With this in mind the most appropriate date for a study visit is Wednesday 29th November 2017. The visit would be scheduled for the full day and subject to approval a full itinerary would be provided however indicative timings suggest a 9.00am start and 5.00pm return to Belfast.
- 3.6 Subject to Committee approval, those Members who wish to attend this event are asked to inform Democratic Services as soon as possible, as the logistics (transport and safety equipment) need to be finalised in the coming weeks.

Financial & Resource Implications

3.7	<p>It is anticipated that the cost of the visit will be in the region of £800. This can be met from the Waste Management Service budget.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p>
3.8	<p>There are no relevant equality and good relations implications associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None