

## **Waste Strategy Infrastructure Provision Update - October 2011**

### **Residual Waste Treatment Facility**

Three bidders were selected to commence the Detailed Solution stage (ISDS) of the procurement in June 2010. The three selected bidders were:

- Skanska with Cory Environmental
- Resources from Waste
- Urbaser Ltd. with Balfour Beatty

During autumn 2010, bidders presented their designs to a professional design panel, sponsored by ECC's Essex Design Initiative, made up of local architects, civil engineers and planning professionals. This panel provided an independent, CABE-style review of the bidders' design proposals and their approaches to using the Authority site at Courtauld Road, Basildon.

The procurement programme has suffered no client-side delays but, during the last quarter of 2010, two bidders suffered internal, consortium issues which delayed their ability to properly engage with the Authority procurement team. During September, the Resources from Waste (RfW) consortium advised the Authority that it would not be able to continue in the process. This was due to two factors: firstly, that the lead member, United Utilities, was being sold and, secondly, that the technical partner, Laing O'Rourke, had quite separately but coincidentally taken a corporate decision to pull out of the UK waste market entirely.

The Authority proposed to move ahead with the two remaining Bidders but during November the Authority was advised that Skanska was removing itself from its consortium with Cory and of any further involvement with the procurement. However Cory wished to continue in the procurement but in doing so required an extension to the date for submission of Detailed Solutions.

Whilst considering Cory's request Resources from Waste informed the Authority that, following the sale of United Utilities to Shanks plc, Shanks were keen to re-engage with the procurement process and move the original RfW solution to Detailed Solution.

In order to maintain and maximise the competitive environment, the Authority proposed to extend the closing date for Detailed Solutions to April 2011. This allowed both Cory and RfW an equal opportunity to re-engage in their new consortium formats whilst minimising the delay to Urbaser.

All three Bidders submitted a Detailed Solution in April 2011 and two, RfW and Urbaser, were selected to return to dialogue in order to move their solutions to close of dialogue and submission of a Final Tender. The programme date for submission of Final Tenders was November 2011; however both Bidders and the Authority worked together to a stretch target and secured these Final Tender submissions one month earlier in October 2011.

The project team is currently evaluating these tenders and plans to announce a Preferred Bidder before Christmas 2011.

### **Site activity**

The Authority's leasehold site at Courtauld Road has been undergoing a comprehensive programme of enablement works by the landlord. The creation of a new washland area and transfer of protected species was undertaken successfully, with over two thousand great crested newts and a number of adders re-homed. Subsequently, the brook was realigned to the perimeter of the site and approximately 3m of clay soil imported to raise the site to a developable level. These works were completed and signed off in January 2011.

## **Biowaste Treatment Facility**

The Biowaste Outline Business Case proposed a two-site approach:

- An AD facility to treat source-segregated food only at Sandon, and
- An IVC facility to treat co-mingled food and garden waste at Courtauld Road.

Procurement for the IVC facility was launched in summer 2010 and moved through the Outline Solution stage and into the commencement of Detailed Solutions. The market response, however, was not as expected, and the procurement was abandoned to allow the Outline Business Case to be reviewed. This review is currently underway and the project team hopes to have a revised proposal for the Project Board's consideration by early 2012.

## **Waste Transfer Stations**

The Waste Strategy proposal requires the provision of six transfer stations across the county – five in Essex and one in Southend. The status of the required sites is as follows:

**Braintree** – Site purchase progressing and feasibility study on going. The proposal is that this site will be a co-occupation site with Braintree DC Waste function.

**Chelmsford/Maldon** - Shared use of existing ECC site with ECC Highways. Joint planning application to be submitted with Highways.

**Colchester/Tendring** – Potential site identified on boundary of both Colchester and Tendring districts. The site purchase remains on hold whilst ECC engage in discussions with Tendring District Councils.

**Harlow/Epping Forest** - Site acquired at West Road Harlow. Planning permission granted 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011. In the process of appointing ECC framework contractor to undertake the design and build.

**Uttlesford** - Site acquired off of Chelmsford Road Great Dunmow. Planning application to be submitted in early 2012.

**Southend/Rochford** – use of existing Southend central depot site with new facility to be provided.