

Briefing note for Cllr Tony Cummings

1st April 2015

GMWDA Update

This will be my final update to Council on work being undertaken by the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority prior to me standing down in the forthcoming elections.

I would like to start with some really positive news and advise Councillors that the construction phase of the PFI Contract has been completed, as the Runcorn Thermal Power Station achieved completion on the 19th January 2015. The Recycling and Waste Management Contract (the Contract) is now in its operational phase and the prospect for increasing diversion in 2015/16 to the 81% level assumed in the budget is good, with plans in place to do this via improved capture and segregation of materials at the Household Waste Recycling Centres.

At my last Authority meeting held on 20th March 2015, Members were provided with an update on the work Officers are doing to investigate what is commonly termed as 'fly tipping' but is, in fact, illegal dumping. This is an issue for all nine Districts and it was noted that this is a complex multi-agency issue and will not be solved overnight. Officers advised that it was unlikely that one policy could be followed by all Districts due to budget and resource restraints, but more research was being done and a Time Specific Group had been set up specifically to deal with the issue of illegal dumping.

At the Authority meeting on 7th July 2014, Members approved the development of a self-funded solar farm at Salford Road, Over Hulton, Bolton following a feasibility study carried out by AMEC, which concluded that the site is appropriate for such a project. Planning was approved by Bolton Council and a Preferred Bidder has been appointed. Work is on track and the solar farm is expected to be fully constructed and operational by mid June 2015.

As part of next year's capital programme the Authority is looking to define a new leachate management scheme for its closed landfill site at Bredbury. Part of this scheme will involve repairs and improvements to the existing leachate collection system and also a feasibility study to define if the leachate generated on site can be treated by constructed wetlands (reed beds) and disposed to a local watercourse. The scope for this study has now been defined and is currently being reviewed for pricing with three consultants. Results of the study are expected to be concluded in May 2015.

The LIFE+ Up and Forward campaign work which involved a team visiting deprived areas with low recycling rates, and through engaging and working with the community sought to improve

the recycling participation and accuracy has finished on the ground. I attended the results Seminar on the 24th March 2015 which provided Districts, and other interested parties, with some of the results and learning from the targeted campaigns. The learning from these campaigns is being drafted into case studies for dissemination across Europe. The key learning has already been captured for us, and has been fed into the 2015/16 Communications and Engagement Plan. This, for Bury, means that we will jointly use our waste team to deliver targeted community led works in specific areas, starting in the summer. That should enable us to push up further our recycling rates. The team that completed the LIFE+ project have been recognised for their excellent work by being shortlisted in the National Recycling Awards for team of the year. These are the same awards, though in a different category, in which Bury's innovative move to three weekly collections has also been shortlisted. I will be watching closely the results as the winners are announced on 1st July 2015.

Bury's percentage of household waste sent for Reuse, Recycling or Composting for 2013/14 was 42.96%. The current recycling figure for 2014/15 is yet to be confirmed; however, the move to three weekly bin collections will have a positive impact on this figure, as a 10% increase in the initial period was noted. Historically, other Districts such as Stockport and Trafford have had better recycling rates than the other seven Districts in the Partnership but with the great work the Head of Waste Management and his team are doing and the change to three weekly residual waste collections it should have a positive impact on the recycling rate which will be good for the environment and should provide financial savings.

On a final and personal note, can I record my thanks to fellow Councillors for the support they have provided me in representing Bury for ten years on the GMWDA. I would like to wish my successor an equally rewarding time.