

February 2009

Dear Householder/Ratepayer

**Belfast City Council Consultation Survey – Making Land Available for a Waste Treatment Facility**

Belfast City Council wants to hear your views on whether we should make land available on the North Foreshore of Belfast Lough for a waste treatment facility.

Waste is an important issue affecting all the people of Belfast. What we do with our waste affects our environment and has implications for us now and for future generations. The European Union has set targets for reducing the amount of waste we put in landfill and will fine local councils which do not meet these targets.

Belfast City Council is working within a partnership of 11 councils, called arc21, and with the people of Belfast to reduce, reuse and recycle waste. Many of you will be familiar with our blue and brown bin and blackbox recycling schemes. However, at projected levels of recycling, we do not believe that we will meet our future landfill reduction targets. Following a rigorous consultation and research process it has been decided that other treatment options are required for the waste not collected separately for recycling. The current consultation exercise is purely about obtaining your views about the use of the North Foreshore as a site for one of these facilities.

We enclose a questionnaire and information leaflet to help explain what these proposals are and the reasons why we are considering them. We are also holding informal roadshows at various locations across the city so you can learn more, ask us any questions and tell us your views. Information is also available on our website [www.belfastcity.gov.uk](http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk).

A short questionnaire is at the back of the information leaflet. We would very much appreciate it if you would take the time to give us your views on this important issue and return it to us in the freepost envelope. Your answers, and the views you express, are absolutely confidential.

The findings from this survey will be used to help inform the Councillors in their final decision making on whether to make land available on the North Foreshore for a waste treatment facility. Results from the survey and details of the Council's decision will be put on our website.

If you have any queries regarding this survey please contact our helpline at Belfast City Council on 08000 328100.

Yours sincerely

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