

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Arc21 Residual Waste Treatment Facilities – North Foreshore Community Consultation
Date:	24 April 2009
Reporting Officer:	William Francey, Director of Health & Environmental Services, ext 3260
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Relevant Background Information
<p>The Council has been considering for some time a request from arc21 to make 17 acres of land at the North Foreshore available for use by arc 21 as the site for a residual waste treatment facility (either Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) or an Energy from Waste incinerator (EfW)). Following consideration of the matter in the period from October 2007 to January 2008 a series of Party briefings was undertaken over the spring and summer of 2008.</p> <p>At its meeting on 22 August 2008, the Committee considered a further report on the proposal and decided that, to take an informed decision, there should be consultation with the local community to establish whether the location of an EfW incinerator on the site would be appropriate. Following that decision Social Market Research (SMR) was appointed to conduct the public consultation exercise. The purpose of this report is to recommend that a special meeting of the Council be arranged to consider the results of the consultation and decide whether and, if so, on what conditions to make land at the North Foreshore available for this purpose.</p> <p>As Members are aware the MBT and EfW facilities were previously identified in the arc21 Waste Plan as the most appropriate options for the region for the treatment of residual waste (ie mainly black bin waste) not captured for recycling or composting. The arc21 Waste Plan was adopted by the Council and determined by the Minister in 2003/04 and subsequently reviewed in 2006. It was developed to address, among other things, the key targets within the EC Landfill Directive, which were implemented in domestic legislation through the Northern Ireland Landfill Allowances Scheme (NILAS), to achieve the progressive diversion of biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) from landfill. This cannot be achieved through recycling alone. Arc21's focus therefore is currently on securing these facilities so that they will be operational in time to meet these targets. It has been estimated that MBT capacity will be needed in 2012 and the EfW facility will be required from 2014.</p> <p>Throughout the period during which the Council has been considering this matter it has been highlighted that arc21 is anxious to avoid unnecessary delay in taking forward the procurement process for the residual waste treatment facilities (MBT and EfW) required by the arc21 Waste Plan. This procurement process has been underway for some time and arc21's position is that the process cannot proceed beyond its present outline solution stage until arc21 is in a position to declare the preferred sites for the required facilities. Arc21 aims to conclude the outline solution stage by the end of May. Consequently, in view of the materially increased risk of substantial non-compliance fines to which delays in the infrastructure development programme would give rise it is proposed that the matter of the transfer of the North Foreshore lands to arc21 be considered at a Special Council meeting on 9 June. A full report on the consultation</p>

would be circulated in advance of the Council meeting and it is also proposed that SMR be requested to present the findings of the consultation at the meeting.

Recommendations

The Committee is requested to note the contents of this report and to recommend to the Council that the matter of the transfer of the North Foreshore 17 acre site to arc21 be referred to a Special Meeting of the Council on 9 June 2009 for final decision.

A full report on the consultation will be issued in advance of the Special Meeting and the Committee is also recommended to agree that SMR be requested to present the consultation findings at the meeting.

Decision Tracking

The Director of Health & Environmental Services will liaise with Members' Services concerning the arrangements for the Special Council meeting and will submit a report for consideration at the meeting in line with the Committee's decision.

Abbreviations

BMW -	Biodegradable Municipal Waste
EfW -	Energy from Waste
MBT -	Mechanical Biological Treatment
SMR -	Social Market Research