



Oxfordshire County Council
Equalities Impact Assessment

Extension of Contract for Treatment of Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating Containing
Persistent Organic Pollutants

9th July 2024

Contents

Section 1: Summary details	3
Section 2: Detail of proposal.....	4
Section 3: Impact Assessment - Protected Characteristics.....	6
Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Community Impacts.....	8
Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Wider Impacts.....	9
Section 4: Review	10

Section 1: Summary details

Directorate and Service Area	Environment and Highways - Waste and Circular Economy
What is being assessed (e.g. name of policy, procedure, project, service or proposed service change).	Continued utilisation of Residual Waste Treatment Contract with Viridor to treat Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating (WUDS) containing Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). Uncertainty around Environment Agency Regulatory Position Statement has created further uncertainty and means procuring new treatment options a financial risk to the authority. Continuation of current arrangements is therefore sought - which adds further cost to the existing Viridor contract to treat waste via Energy from Waste at the Ardley facility above the key decision threshold. A Cabinet Member Decision is therefore required.
Is this a new or existing function or policy?	Continuation of existing
Summary of assessment Briefly summarise the policy or proposed service change. Summarise possible impacts. Does the proposal bias, discriminate or unfairly disadvantage individuals or groups within the community? (following completion of the assessment).	<p>Continued reduced levels of waste to landfill, and reduction in POPs escaping into the environment where they can cause harm. POPs destroyed by incineration process.</p> <p>Continuation of increase in waste to energy recovery, which although is better than landfill still produces carbon. Increase in diesel use as more handling of waste is required including loading shovels and shredders.</p> <p>There are no implications for disadvantaged individuals or groups.</p>
Completed By	Owain Griffiths
Authorised By	

Date of Assessment	
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Section 2: Detail of proposal

<p>Context / Background</p> <p>Briefly summarise the background to the policy or proposed service change, including reasons for any changes from previous versions.</p>	<p>The treatment of WUDS containing POPs by incineration has been a statutory requirement since January 2023. The implementation of legislation was required within a very short timescale. In response, short-term solutions were initially sought to allow time for uncertainties about legislative requirements to become clearer. Since then, the EA has issued a number of Regulatory Position Statements; however, the most recent has actually caused greater uncertainty due to challenging monitoring regimes for site operators, as well as on-going uncertainty around the need for operators to invest in equipment to capture Fugitive Emissions. With the short-term arrangements expiring December 2024, it was planned to enter a procurement exercise to secure longer-term contracts but feedback from potential suppliers has indicated that procuring at this time means that some are unlikely to bid, while others may load-in potential financial risks, therefore exceeding affordability.</p>
<p>Proposals</p> <p>Explain the detail of the proposals, including why this has been decided as the best course of action.</p>	<p>The implementation of the initial legislation added additional budgetary pressures to the waste management budget. Securing new suppliers at this point is likely to incur further additional cost. Extending existing arrangements for a period of 12 months has therefore been identified by officers as the lowest risk option at this time.</p>
<p>Evidence / Intelligence</p> <p>List and explain any data, consultation outcomes, research</p>	<p>Extensive soft market testing was undertaken with potential suppliers. Feedback following the issue of the most recent RPS in April 2024 clearly indicates that there is considerable financial risk from procuring new arrangements at this time.</p>

<p>findings, feedback from service users and stakeholders etc, that supports your proposals and can help to inform the judgements you make about potential impact on different individuals, communities or groups and our ability to deliver our climate commitments.</p>	<p>Ardley ERF is a convenient location for the delivery of WUDs for treatment, either direct from some of the HWRCs or via transfer stations where it is pre-shredded and bulk hauled to the ERF. This provides an acceptable service for the district councils and HWRCs. Ardley ERF is the only incinerator in Oxfordshire, other energy from waste facilities would increase transport distances.</p> <p>There is a minor increase in the number of HGVs delivering waste to Ardley ERF, but the majority of WUDS is delivered in bulk haulage vehicles mixed with residual waste already delivering to the ERF.</p> <p>There are no implications for residents.</p>
<p>Alternatives considered / rejected</p> <p>Summarise any other approaches that have been considered in developing the policy or proposed service change, and the reasons why these were not adopted. This could include reasons why doing nothing is not an option.</p>	<p>The only alternative to extension is to procure, which carries considerable risk.</p>

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Protected Characteristics

Protected Characteristic	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			Waste Management	On-going during life of contract
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			Waste Management	On-going during life of contract
Gender Reassignment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			Waste Management	On-going during life of contract
Marriage & Civil Partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			Waste Management	On-going during life of contract
Pregnancy & Maternity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			Waste Management	On-going during life of contract
Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			Waste Management	On-going during life of contract
Sex	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			Waste Management	On-going during life of contract
Sexual Orientation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			Waste Management	On-going during life of contract
Religion or Belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			Waste Management	On-going during life of contract

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Community Impacts

Additional community impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Rural communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Impact of additional HGV movements on rural communities was considered. However, the additional movements average out to approximately 1 per day. Given the level of existing traffic, this is felt to be an imperceptible increase and will not have any real impact		Waste Management	On-going during life of contract
Armed Forces	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			Waste Management	On-going during life of contract
Carers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			Waste Management	On-going during life of contract
Areas of deprivation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			Waste Management	On-going during life of contract

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Wider Impacts

Additional Wider Impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			Waste Management	On-going during life of contract
Other Council Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			Waste Management	On-going during life of contract
Providers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			Waste Management	On-going during life of contract
Social Value ¹	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			Waste Management	On-going during life of contract

¹ If the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 applies to this proposal, please summarise here how you have considered how the contract might improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the relevant area

Section 4: Review

Where bias, negative impact or disadvantage is identified, the proposal and/or implementation can be adapted or changed; meaning there is a need for regular review. This review may also be needed to reflect additional data and evidence for a fuller assessment (proportionate to the decision in question). Please state the agreed review timescale for the identified impacts of the policy implementation or service change.

Review Date	
Person Responsible for Review	
Authorised By	