

**Brief for Technical Consultancy Support**

**Public Consultation Options for the  
Review of the  
Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for  
Merseyside (JMWMS)**

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Merseyside and Halton Waste Partnership (MHWP) comprises of the five District Councils on Merseyside (Knowsley MBC, Liverpool CC, St Helens MBC, Sefton MBC and Wirral MBC) and Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA). Halton Borough Council, a unitary authority, joined the Partnership in 2006. All members of the Partnership have responsibilities for the effective delivery of sustainable waste management to deliver the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Merseyside (JMWMS) 2008. Halton produced a separate Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2008 aligned with Merseyside and has decided to undertake its own review.
- 1.2 The five Councils on Merseyside and Halton manage the household waste collected within their districts. MWDA is responsible for the treatment and effective disposal of waste from 1.6 million Merseyside residents (currently 8750,000 tonnes of municipal waste with a recycling rate of 33% - 2008/9). MWDA also manages the waste delivered to 14 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs). 4 waste transfer stations and Bidston Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). MWDA on behalf of the Authority and Halton BC awarded its 20 year Waste Management and Recycling Contract to Veolia in May 2009. The contract includes the facilities listed above and the management of two HWRCs in Halton. Planning permission has been granted for a second MRF to be built at Gillmoss in Liverpool. A Resource Recovery Contract is also in procurement using PFI for residual waste treatment infrastructure.
- 1.3 The JMWMS 2008 is an update of the original 2005 strategy bringing it in line with changes in legislation, policy and performance but kept the original aims and objectives. New commitments and recommendations were added in light of recent development and good practice. The document is supported by a series of additional Strategies and Action Plans, in particular the Waste Prevention Strategy for Merseyside 2008 and the District Council Action Plans (see [www.merseysidewda.gov.uk](http://www.merseysidewda.gov.uk)). As the aims and objectives of the original strategy were maintained and had been the subject of a public consultation, it was not considered necessary to conduct a further public consultation or undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment. A scoping report produced in November 2008 for the Review recognised the need for a full public consultation to be undertaken in 2010.

- 1.4 The JMWA full review of the JMWMS commenced in 2009 and specifically focuses on the issues and options associated with the top three levels of the waste hierarchy i.e. waste prevention, reuse, recycling and composting whilst recognising the impact of those activities on the amount of residual waste ultimately requiring treatment or disposal. The review is also considering key strategic factors such as climate change and carbon reduction and governance issues. A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will also be undertaken and a tender is to be awarded shortly.
- 1.4 Key projects undertaken to date are:
- Waste Composition Analysis (Phase 1 – March 2010) with a second phase to follow in June 2010;
  - Issues and Options Workshops for Members and Officers (March 2010) and Interim Report (April 2010) to produce a short list of options, mechanisms for delivery and other strategic areas for consideration;
  - SEA Preparatory Work (February-May 2010).

As part of the review, it is proposed to undertake a public consultation across Merseyside during autumn 2010 following further analysis of the short list of options and mechanisms for delivery and the receipt of the final Waste Composition Analysis report. The aim is to have completed the public consultation by December 2010 and published a ratified JMWMS for Merseyside no later than 31 December 2011 to cover the period 2012-2030 (whilst addressing some carbon targets to 2050).

## **2. Overview**

- 2.1 MHWP has developed and agreed a budgeted programme of workstreams to take forward the review of the Strategy managed by MWDA. However, in the current economic climate, the Authority wishes to review the requirements and costs for public consultation which maximise engagement and participation whilst demonstrating Value for Money.
- 2.2 Elected members and senior officers within the Partnership who attended workshops in March 2010 have already been engaged in the development of a short list of Options, mechanisms for delivery and other strategic areas for the revised Strategy. The final agreed short list of Options and mechanisms for delivery will inform the development of the Public Consultation and a copy of the Interim Issues and Options report is attached for information.

- 2.3 MWDA needs to understand which options are available for consultation against a range of proposed expenditure. Whilst identifying options, consideration will need to have been given to the risks/opportunities associated with existing consultation mechanisms in each of the five district councils on Merseyside, the potential for use of new communications technologies and platforms and the need to engage with hard to reach groups and communities.

The work requested from consultants will inform the officer report to the Authority on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2010. Members will take the decision on which options to proceed with and allow officers to prepare and issue an invitation to tender in July 2010 for the implementation of a public consultation between September and December 2010.

### **3. Work Requirements**

- 3.1 You are requested to provide the following information:

- Identify two options each for public consultation against the following three financial bands:
  1. Up to £50,000
  2. £50,000 - £75,000
  3. 75,000 - £95,000
- Where possible, identify cost and resource implications for partner authorities and the potential for efficiency savings through areas of commonality and resource sharing across the Partnership;

In considering the options, you should take a view on:

- current mechanisms used for public consultation on Merseyside by each Council (including MWDA) and other public bodies such as Merseytravel and all five Local Strategic Partnerships.
- best practice techniques for consultation with all sections of the community (including hard to reach areas/groups); and
- the potential impact of other public consultations being undertaken on Merseyside during the timeframe proposed.

## 4. Outputs

4.1 The following outputs will be required:

- A short electronic report (in Word) no more than 2500 words (plus any supporting material) identifying the specifications and costs required to deliver each of the proposed options (six in total) against the financial range identified above plus any other information you are able to supply as requested above.

## 5. Timetable

5.1 An **Expression of Interest** agreeing to submit a report to MWDA should be emailed to Stuart Donaldson by close of play on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2010.

5.2 One to one briefing sessions between consultant and MWDA can be arranged up to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

5.3 **Final report/brief needs to be submitted/emailed by 28<sup>th</sup> May 2010 to:**

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If you require further information on the brief, please contact Stuart Donaldson.

## 6. Other documents

PDF file of the JMWMS and supplementary documents including DCAPS are available on the MWDA website.

Issues and Options Final Interim Report – April 2010

