

SERVICE RESPONSES

REPORT PARA	QUERY	ANSWER AVAILABLE BY 2 FEB?
CHILDREN'S SERVICES		
ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & TRANSPORT		
1.	How likely is the Recycling & Energy Recovery Facility (RERF) to be granted planning permission?	Managing the planning process for the proposed RERF is the responsibility of the Waste Planning Authority with the decision made by Members of the Development Control Committee; whilst the applicant Veolia (ES) Ltd and the Waste Disposal Authority are hopeful a positive determination will be achieved, it is not possible to predict the outcome of any planning application.
2.	What are the financial and service implications for Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) should planning permission not be granted? This to include the amount that HCC would be contractually obliged to pay Veolia.	<p>The financial and service implications should planning permission not be achieved were set out in Section 9 pages 15 to 19 of the 4th March 2016 Community Safety & Waste Management Panel meeting (link below) that suggests delivery of the RERF would be in the order of £210 million cheaper, over the 30 year operational period, than the average cost of the best known alternative disposal option, at the time the contract variation was signed in July 2016.</p> <p>Community Safety & Waste Management Panel 4 March 2016</p> <p>The same paper also details the costs to the County Council in the event of planning failure (at Section 13 page 25), that is, a figure of c. £1.2m.</p>
3.	What the current contingency plans if the proposed RERF does not go ahead (including what the cost implications might be)?	The alternative service options, as informed by formal market engagement through the OJEU, were set out in the 4 th March 2016 Community Safety & Waste Management Panel meeting (at Section 16 pages 27 to 30 and at

SERVICE RESPONSES

4.	<p>If access to the new RERF site requires the upgrading or amending of the highway who would be responsible?</p>	<p>Appendix 5). The associated cost for the cheapest of those options received was used to test the value for money of the proposed RERF and is as set out in response to the previous question.</p> <p>In the determination of the Planning Application for the ERF at Rattys Lane, should it be considered that in order for this proposal to be acceptable that works to the highway are necessary, then these will be paid for by the developer of the facility and secured either through a Section 106 Agreement with the Planning Authority or a Section 278 Agreement with the Highways Authority.</p>
COMMUNITY PROTECTION & WASTE MANAGEMENT		
5.	<p>What is the likelihood of F&R moving to the PCC?</p>	<p>The PCCs office is currently working with KPMG on an initial business case to identify the benefits and disadvantages of the PPC taking over governance of HFRS; this initial business case is due for completion by the 10th Feb 2017.</p> <p>It is likely that the initial business case will suggest a positive view/position in relation to the change of governance; this will result in a second more detailed business case being developed.</p> <p>Both HCC and HFRS have cooperated fully with KPMG in the preparation of the initial business case. Given the extent to which HFRS is integrated within the service delivery model across the authority, both HCC and HFRS are of the view that the move will have limited, if any, overall benefit, however Members have been clear that if there is any possibility of improved outcomes for the people of Hertfordshire then due consideration of the case is essential.</p>

SERVICE RESPONSES

		<p>have a negative impact on individuals and the communities of Hertfordshire, even though efforts would certainly be made to continue with existing collaboration.</p> <p>There is a risk that future collaboration would be reliant on 'relationships' rather than firm foundations and factors such as 'who pays' may become a barrier to continued, effective working.</p>
6.	<p>How much, in cash and percentage terms, does HCC receive from proceeds of crime money as a result of work conducted by Trading Standards?</p>	<p>Receipts from POCA depend on a number of variables: a successful prosecution, whether there are any realisable assets, confiscation of those assets through a court process and receipt of those assets through Her Majesty's Court Service. The amount received from proceeds of crime is therefore neither fully predictable nor guaranteed, and varies from year to year.</p> <p>The payments, when received, are paid under the Home Office incentivisation scheme. Recent guidance states that spend is a matter for each agency, but incentive payments should be used to further drive up performance on asset recovery and, where appropriate, to fund local crime fighting priorities for the benefit of the community. Spend is monitored by the Home Office</p> <p>HCC Trading Standards (in general) receives 37% of any assets (monies) recovered – 18.75% from being the financial investigator, and 18.75% from being the Prosecutor.</p> <p>The current accrual is £319,773. With match-funded spend on additional posts to fund crime related priorities (see below), this is reduced to £170, 273. This balance is reserved to manage funding around complex organised</p>

SERVICE RESPONSES

		<p>crime cases, associated legal fees and financial investigation costs, enabling POCA investigations to continue.</p> <p>POCA has been directed at the Hertfordshire Home Security Service (HHSS, now called Herts Home Safety Service). HHSS provides services to those identified as being vulnerable and/or a repeat victim of crime. Services include security advice and fitting of items such as locks, bolts and fire proof letterboxes; fire safety checks; call blockers to protect vulnerable victims of phone scams; and falls prevention work. POCA monies are currently being used to match fund 2 posts in conjunction with the Office of the PCC: (1) for an HHSS technician to meet additional demand and carry out the aforesaid work (£22,500 p.a. over 3 years) (2) A post to lead a programme of work addressing cybercrime and scams targeting the business community (£27,333 p.a. over 3 years).</p>
7.	<p>How much money is allocated to the maintenance and improvement of carriageways and footways for the next financial year? This to be broken down to show carriageways and footways separately with capital and revenue for each. Further, what was the amount spent on the maintenance and improvement of carriageways and footways in the past 4 years?</p>	<p>Attached as Appendix 2 to the minutes</p>
<p>RESOURCES & PERFORMANCE</p>		
8.	<p>To make the most of HCC property the Committee discussed a review of property assets to create a property company that is 100% owned by the</p>	<p>HCC has acknowledged that whilst Property Services and its Property Managing Agent have successfully sold and procured properties of both low and high values for a great</p>

SERVICE RESPONSES

	<p>Authority. To affect this there is a query as to whether HCC has staff with the commercial skills to make robust property deals.</p>	<p>number of years, additional skills and resources will be required to set up and manage the property company vehicle. The initial stages of the work to define the most appropriate vehicle have been assisted by external consultants, Carter Jonas and 31Ten, both specialists in such work. We are currently reviewing the structure, strengths and current workloads of the Property team with a view to ensuring the appropriate skill are available or recruited within the new financial year.</p>
--	---	---