

**REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR
SUSTAINABILITY, ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC REALM
TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL
ON WEDNESDAY, 8 JULY 2015**

Integrated Waste Contract

Following questions at Scrutiny the Executive agreed the recommended referred bidder and reserve bidder. A detailed briefing was held for all members on the 1 July which set out much of the detail of the contract, with regard to the collection and treatment of recycling and residual waste.

Since then a considerable amount of effort by officers has been spent in finalising the details of the waste contract with the preferred bidder Amey (AmeyCespa). The awarding of contract is the subject for debate at Full Council this evening and subsequent decision by the Executive. I would take this opportunity to thank the procurement team for more than two years of hard work and dedication and state my intention to ensure that the contract is effectively monitored and managed to ensure it deliver the expected outcomes.

Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF)

The council launched its 15/16 Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) Programme on 1 April. The council has secured over £990k of Department for Transport funding and unlocked over £300k of local match funding.

Working in partnership with Visit Isle of Wight, the Chamber of Commerce, Southern Vectis, schools. Highlights from the first three months of delivery include:

- The establishment of a partnership with the cycling and walking charity Sustrans, to deliver a programme of school engagement to promote cycling and walking to young people. Already over 30 of the Island's schools have signed up to the initiative, which will deliver a range of training, incentives and activities to inspire young people to embrace active travel.
- The launch of a new bus service – the 'St Cross Business Express' to improve accessibility between Newport town centre and St Cross, which also serves the hospital area.
- A comprehensive and compelling sustainable transport exhibition delivered by Visit Isle of Wight at the Guildhall in Newport.
- A team of three 'Travel Ambassadors', providing a warm welcome and travel information to visitors and residents at transport interchanges.

Countryside Outsourcing

Members will be aware that part of the medium term financial plan is to transfer the management of the council's countryside estate to a third party. I can confirm that conversations are on-going with Natural Enterprise as our potential partner.

Green Deal Code of Conduct

I was pleased that the recent meeting of the Executive supported my paper setting out how the council would aim to work to endorse providers of the Green Deal and other national energy schemes in order to progress the roll out of projects across the Island. I would stress that there is no financial commitment from the council to these projects but the fact that it has checked the credentials of potential suppliers should give confidence to people to make best use of the scheme.

Car Club

Proposals have now been invited for the establishment of an Island Car Club and the council intends to appoint an operator by the end of July. Car clubs are a proven shared transport model which provides greater mobility for local people and we intend the majority of vehicles to be full electric vehicles, thereby reducing carbon emissions. The project is being fully funded externally by the 'Developing Car Clubs in England' programme and should see 10 vehicles in place by March 2016.

Island Energy Company

Discussions regarding a joint venture to create an Island energy company are underway, as per the corporate plan (Vision). The aim would be to generate revenue for the council whilst providing cheaper electricity bills for vulnerable residents.

Data Centre

The feasibility of building of a data storage centre on the Island is being investigated. If economically sound this project would attract inward investment, create skilled jobs, generate revenue for the council, and free-up capacity in the grid which would support growth in the renewable energy industry. It would also support the business case for an Island-based energy company as a reliable energy user.

Eco Day

The council is co-sponsoring an 'Eco Day' event at the Isle of Wight College in October to showcase renewable/sustainable/eco technology businesses on the Island. It is expected that some international companies will be exhibiting and that there will be a series of workshops and talks. This will be at no cost to the council but we shall be seeking a range of economic, tourism and public health benefits.

Sustainable Food Island

I have been working with Public Health and the Chamber of Commerce on sustainable approaches to, such as improving access to fresh fruit and vegetables. This will involve bringing together stakeholders including growers, suppliers, restaurateurs, schools and charities to create a cohesive strategy which will reduce food waste and improve nutrition and wellbeing.

Councillor Luisa Hillard
Executive Member for Sustainability, Environment and Public Realm