

Mick Bee  
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24 March 2013

Dear Councillor,

Savings claimed for current HWPP (incl New Barnfield RERF) over the HCC landfill cost comparator

**Petition presented to HCC WMCP on 7th March (Item 2)**

As the Petition Organiser on behalf of HertsWOW and people of Hertfordshire I do not find your officers' response satisfactory. The petition requested HCC to "...urgently produce, and then publish, up to date calculations."  
*(Petition and address attached for your convenience)*

Your minutes state: -

*T W Hone received the petition and gave an initial response, informing the Panel that officers would examine the data presented by the petitioner (appendix A (i), A (ii), A (iii) attached) and report back to the Panel. Officers offered to provide a detailed response to the petition, providing updated figures (appendix B attached.)*

Appendix B does not answer that request, rather it seeks to deconstruct the submitted background papers - in a somewhat haphazard way.

The petition asked for a recalculation of the 'savings' in the light of a number of significant changes outlined briefly in the three minute address I made - such a calculation would simply state what the current savings are, and how that was arrived at - for example, with reference to the changes I outlined : -

For the period 2013 to 204? (your choice) -

- Projected waste to be 'managed' (residual waste) has fallen by  $x\%$  to  $x$  tonnes; -
- LATS and penalties are abolished;
- Landfill Tax frozen for the time being;
- recycling and composting has improved and  $x\%$  by 20?? now looks attainable;
- the value/cost of recycling, etc looks set to change in our favour;
- etc.

All these reduce the original overall cost comparator used from £2.3b to £ $x$ b.

(Note: none of that is the slightest confidential.)

Against that the projected total cost of waste management with the HWPP (New Barnfield RERF) has also changed such that the project will now cost £ $x$ m

- other WDA costs will be £xm
  - making a total of £xm
  - this will be a saving over the cost comparator above of £xm.
- (You may chose to specify what those changes are and how they affect the cost.)  
(Note: again, none of that is the slightest confidential.)

What your Officers' response does do, although somewhat hidden in the body of the text, is show that the savings have, as suspected, reduced - by £112m. It says: - "..... *A good example of this (changes in circumstance) is the abolition of LATS at the end of 2012/13. This has resulted in the savings forecast being reduced from £779m over the course of the contract, to £667m.*" No reference however to the other changes that have occurred nor their effect, positive or otherwise, on the 'savings' to be derived from the procurement.

Finally, I would like to stress that HertsWOW are not advocates of 'do nothing' (re: waste management) nor of landfill. HertsWOW has all along advocated 'do better' - which also equates to 'do more cost effectively'. Our document (appendix i to the minutes) was challenging and recalculating the cost comparator HCC used in its PFI business cases..

It would be proper if this letter, rejecting your Officers' document (appendix b to your minutes) as an adequate reply to the petition, was posted alongside that document, or at least a link to where it can be found and I request that this letter is minuted.

We look forward to receiving the calculation we asked for.

Yours sincerely,

Mick Bee  
HertsWOW

To - Cllr Derrick Ashley - Chairman of WMCP  
Cllr Terry Hone - VC - Chairman of March 7 meeting

CC Legal Officer David Roberts (sub Fiona Corcoran)  
Cllr Allan Witherick  
Cllr Michael Muir - (almost) my local Councillor on the Panel  
HertsWOW