

Equality & Sustainability Assessment

Project Title:		P0403 Package 4: Processing of Dry Mixed Recycling (DMR)		
Department: City Operations		Team: Street Scene		Person Responsible for assessment: Darren Share
Date of assessment: 16/06/2023		Is it a new or existing proposal? New Contract Award		
Brief description of the proposal: To approve the award of a contract following a procurement process for the Processing of Dry Mixed Recycling (DMR) in accordance with the delegations approved by Cabinet in the strategy report in support of the Waste Strategy Framework 2017 – 2040 (Forward plan Number: 004374/2017) dated 13 February 2018.				
Potential impacts of the policy/development/ decision on:	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	No Specific Impact	What will the impact be? If the impact is negative, how can it be mitigated, what action will be taken?
Natural Resources – including water, soil, air	✓			<p>The Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) being used as part of the award of this contract, as with any waste treatment plant, will be required to meet the regulatory responsibilities as defined in Section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) 1990. Procedures are in place to ensure that all third party facilities and off-takers used in related activities are compliant with applicable legislation.</p> <p>The contract has a strong emphasis on ensuring that extremely minimal levels of waste is sent to landfill, which has impacts on water, soil and air quality.</p>
Energy use and CO ₂ emissions	✓			<p>Waste processing emissions arising relate to the energy and fuels used to handle, sort and process the materials for recycling and treatment purposes i.e. post collection treatments such as MRFs, RDF plants, EfW plants and landfill sites. For this contract the emissions primarily originate from fuels such as diesel and burning oil used by</p>

				<p>plant and equipment on site at the MRF and through fuels consumed in transportation to and from the facility.</p> <p>The contract will also be responsible for the management of quantities of rejects from MRF (= impurities contained in MRF inputs) which are not suitable for processing and will need to be transported and treated at an alternative facility, with the suggested treatment being at a Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) plant.</p> <p>On balance, despite the impact the haulage and processing of waste materials has, it is felt that the contribution recycling makes in moving waste up the waste hierarchy and reducing the need for raw materials and energy to manufacture products from scratch and avoiding the use of landfill and thus supporting the Council's carbon ambitions, this contract award will have a positive impact.</p>
Quality of environment	✓			<p>The impact of operations on the environment will be measured and monitored by the contractor through their Environmental Management System (EMS). They operate an established and accredited EMS in compliance with ISO 14001 at their MRF. The EMS is key to managing the environmental performance of their contracts as it provides the procedures for identifying, managing and, wherever possible, reducing the impact of the services on the environment. The EMS is designed to support the achievement of their environmental targets with the progress managed through a series of monitoring, recording and reporting activities.</p> <p>An Environmental Impact and Control Plan is in place for the MRF and sets out all measures and actions required by the contractor to:</p>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise the environmental impacts of operating the services, including receiving, bulking, handling, transporting and treating contract waste. Impacts include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emissions (liquid, solid and gaseous) ○ Odour ○ Bio-aerosols ○ Dust ○ Noise ○ Litter ○ Spillages ○ Traffic ○ Light ○ Vibration ○ Invasive/injurious weeds ○ Vermin and flies • Meet the environmental conditions contained or referred to within the Environmental Permit and other consents and meet all relevant legal requirements. • Minimise amenity impacts on the local population. <p>To meet regulatory responsibilities as defined in Section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) 1990, the contractor has procedures in place to ensure that all third party facilities and off-takers used in their activities are compliant with applicable legislation.</p> <p>The MRF has Environmental Impact Assessments and procedures in place to minimise nuisance related to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Odour mitigation and control • Dust management
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Impact on local green and open spaces and biodiversity	✓			As part of the contract award the preferred contractor is required to sign up to the Birmingham Business Charter for Social Responsibility and has produced an action plan as part of their submission. One of the activities identified is for the MRF and their local staff to litter pick the local canal.
Use of sustainable products and equipment	✓			<p>The award of this contract is for the provision of a Dry Mixed Recyclate (DMR) waste treatment capacity for wastes arising as part of the Council's mixed recycling collections and through the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC), ensuring the closed environmental journey for DMR material streams so that there is a transparent audit trail for the movement of DMR materials across the contract and the supply chain.</p> <p>The preferred contractor will also monitor and review carbon footprints of suppliers within their supply chain to look at improvement initiatives and have a sustainability and low carbon focus embedded into their procurement system.</p>
Minimising Waste	✓			This contract will benefit from resources available as part of the contractor's wider portfolio and will include the use of an educational visitors' centre in Birmingham which will house displays, graphics, interactive kiosks and exhibits such as a "mini MRF" for use by schools and community groups visiting, with the aim of increasing education about waste and the benefits of minimising waste through the movement of waste up the waste hierarchy.

				<p>The contract will explore the potential for modifications to the MRF which would expand the range of materials currently accepted and reduce the numbers of types of materials classed as contamination/non-acceptable wastes, which then go through an alternative processing facility – prioritising landfill avoidance.</p>
<p>Council plan priority: a city that takes a leading role in tackling climate change</p>	✓			<p>As part of their submissions, bidders were required to submit a Carbon Reduction Plan. This plan detailed the preferred bidder's corporate plan to drive a 2050 net zero carbon goal.</p> <p>The carbon measurement and targets used are defined in line with the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard and is aligned with the DEFRA guidance on how to measure and report GHG emissions. This includes a commitment to reducing electricity and fuel usage at their MRF's by 2% per year from 2022 onwards.</p>
<p>Overall conclusion on the environmental and sustainability impacts of the proposal</p>	<p>The contract will ensure a closed environmental journey for DMR material streams so that there is a transparent audit trail for the movement of DMR materials across the contract and the supply chain. The contract focusses, where possible, on supporting and helping develop the local supply chain market so that more materials are able to be processed closer to the point of origin, rather than processing outside of the UK.</p> <p>Despite the impact that haulage and processing of waste materials has, it is felt that the contribution recycling makes in moving waste up the waste hierarchy (which reduces the need for raw materials), and the strong emphasis on ensuring that minimal levels of contaminated material end up in landfill all outweigh any negatives from the award of this contract.</p>			