

**HERTFORDSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP**

**DIRECTORS' GROUP**  
**20<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

**Item 3 - In-vessel Composting Arrangements**

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**1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To provide an update on progress with the provision of in-vessel composting (IVC) facilities for all the ten District and Borough Councils. This report will also outline the contingency plans that are being put in place should any further unforeseen delays occur.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 HCC's Waste Management Unit is working towards achieving the provision of IVC facilities suitable to meet the needs of all ten District and Borough Councils. The table below sets out the arrangements that are currently in place.

IVC Facility	Councils Served
Cumberlow Green Farm	North Herts District Council
WLC – Harefield, West London	Hertsmere Borough Council Three Rivers District Council Watford Borough Council
Envar - St. Ives, Cambridgeshire	Dacorum Borough Council St Albans City & District Council

- 2.2 This leaves four councils - Broxbourne, East Herts, Stevenage and Welwyn Hatfield – without access to a facility and one – Hertsmere – dissatisfied with its arrangements. A further contract has been taken with a company called Agrivert for the provision of a large facility at Ridge, near South Mimms in south Hertfordshire and this, together with a planned expansion at Cumberlow Green will complete a network that will allow all ten councils to add kitchen waste and cardboard to their green waste collections. The progress on providing these facilities is outlined below.

### **3 Planned expansion of the network**

3.1 Cumberlow Green Farm expansion – which will double the capacity of the existing IVC elements of the plant such that both East Herts as well as North Herts, will be able to use the facility for their mixed organic wastes on a permanent basis. The timeline for completion of the construction of the additional IVC capacity is as follows:

- Groundworks - 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009
- Tunnel Walls - 17<sup>th</sup> July 2009
- Tunnel Roofs - 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2009
- Aeration System - 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2009
- Doors - 24<sup>th</sup> September 2009
- Plant validation – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2009
- EHDC waste acceptance – 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2009

3.2 Agrivert's Ridge IVC Plant – when available, this facility will cater for the needs of the Broxbourne, Hertsmere, St. Albans, Stevenage and Welwyn Hatfield councils. The timeline for completion of the various elements of the construction and commissioning of the plant is as follows:

- Detailed design (already underway)
- Legal agreement on land and bridleway issues – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2009
- Due diligence and judicial review resolution – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2009
- Tunnel Walls - 11<sup>th</sup> November 2009
- Aeration System - 10<sup>th</sup> December 2009
- Office - 4<sup>th</sup> January 2010
- Drainage - 14<sup>th</sup> January 2010
- Weighbridge - 18<sup>th</sup> January 2010
- Tunnel Roofs - 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010
- Reception Building - 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010
- Plant validation begins (using Herts waste) – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2010
- Plant fully operational – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2010

3.3 Progress on the above will be monitored by HCC's Waste Management Unit and regular updates on progress will be reported on a monthly basis to the HoWG and to all of the Directors' Group and full HWP meetings up until the time when both plants are fully operational. Exception reports will be e-mailed to the Directors' Group on a weekly basis.

### **4. Interim / contingency arrangements**

4.1 In the context of the Cumberlow Green Farm expansion, it is important to understand that delays to the construction of the new tunnels will not prevent East Herts' ability to commence deliveries at the beginning of November 2009. The reason for this is that, because of the seasonal variations in the generation of waste of this nature, there will be sufficient capacity in the existing plant at that time for it to treat East Herts' waste as well as that from North Herts.

- 4.2 As a means of overcoming any adverse impacts of any delays in the delivery of the Ridge facility, arrangements have been made with Envar for the temporary transfer of mixed organic wastes to St. Ives from the Waterdale transfer station. Substantial changes to the level of waste inputs at St. Ives are subject to three months written notice and, therefore, it is possible for arrangements to be made for this service to become effective from as early as the beginning of August this year.
- 4.3 This new arrangement will be offered to Hertsmere Borough Council immediately and then made available to Broxbourne, Stevenage and Welwyn Hatfield as and when they decide to add kitchen waste and cardboard to their green waste collections. In the meantime, these three councils will be asked to continue with their existing arrangements.
- 4.4 St. Albans City & District Council will be diverted from their current transfer arrangements at Dacorum's Cupid Green depot to the new facility at Ridge once it becomes fully operational.