

**Submission to Cabinet**  
20<sup>th</sup> November 2020



From Max Hunt CC, on behalf of the Labour Group

## **Item 12: RESIDUAL WASTE PROCUREMENT**

This is a welcome document given the significance to the long term treatment of the county's waste.

Residual waste, by definition, represents a failure of other treatments - notably re-use, repair and recycling. Recycling rates and residual waste are the "ying and yang" of municipal waste. The more we recycle, the less residual waste arises.

As you know, we currently struggle to reach the 50% recycling target in the Leicestershire Municipal Waste Management Strategy for 2020 which when reviewed will be updated with the new Government target of 65% of municipal waste by 2035.

A good contract would be one that was responsive to increased levels of recycling. We therefore need a contract which does not discourage us from reducing residual waste, or better still facilitates and encourages more recycling.

This is supported by our Waste Disposal Plan states that "our aim is to deliver a waste management service that *encourages prevention, reuse, recycling and reduces waste to landfill*" and sets a circular economy and monitoring carbon impacts as a priority.

The Minimum Requirements of the procurement might tell us where or priorities lie in this regard but on enquiry earlier this month the E&T OSC minutes record that *contractual documents, including the minimum requirements, are only available to the bidders that expressed an interest in, and subsequently qualified for, the procurement.*

Accepting this at face value I am surprised to see paragraph 28 releases publishes three of the minimum requirements. How is this?

The three requirements quoted are all laudable. I would add:

- Social Action is welcome but should not be used as an excuse for any environmental harm derived from the contract.

- Treatment should endeavor to minimize carbon emissions from energy-from-waste incineration by reducing the burning of plastics.
- Recycling targets are programmed to reach 65% by the current Government and to reach 70% by 2030 as the Committee on Climate Change recommends in order to meet the UK carbon budgets.