

Minutes from Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee –  
25 March 2010

**SCOSC/09/44 Central Bedfordshire Energy and Recycling (BEaR) Project - Business Case Approval**

Prior to consideration of this agenda item the Chairman reminded the Committee that there was an exempt Appendix A and if any discussion of these pages was to occur the meeting would be taken into closed session with the Press and the Public being asked to leave the Chamber as the information was exempt from publication by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Prior to consideration of the item the Committee received representations made under the Public Participation Scheme as set out in Annex 1 of Part A4 of the Constitution.

A presentation was made to the Committee highlighting the options available to the authority following the withdrawal of Luton Borough Council and Bedford Borough Council from the Project. Also included was an overview of the financial appraisal undertaken for the Project which provided a direct comparison of the costs associated with taking the Project forward or continuing to landfill waste. A copy of the presentation is attached to these Minutes at Appendix A.

Following a lengthy and detailed question and answer session, the Committee were satisfied with the answers provided by the Assistant Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities & Healthier Lifestyles and the BEaR Project Officers and endorsed the recommendations which would be considered by the Executive at their meeting to be held on 6 April 2010.

**RECOMMENDED TO THE EXECUTIVE:**

- (a) that the recommendations (a) to (f) contained in the Executive report of the Director of Sustainable Communities be endorsed; and**
- (b) that the scope of the Project and the additional infrastructure elements as follows be endorsed:**
  - (i) Kitchen Waste Treatment Solution, treat food waste collected across Central Bedfordshire Council area;**
  - (ii) Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) refurbish three existing HWRC sites and relocate fourth to new location;**

- (iii) Waste Transfer Station, for Central Bedfordshire Council to improve haulage efficiencies;**
- (iv) Highways Depot, delivery vehicle parking, storage and maintenance.**