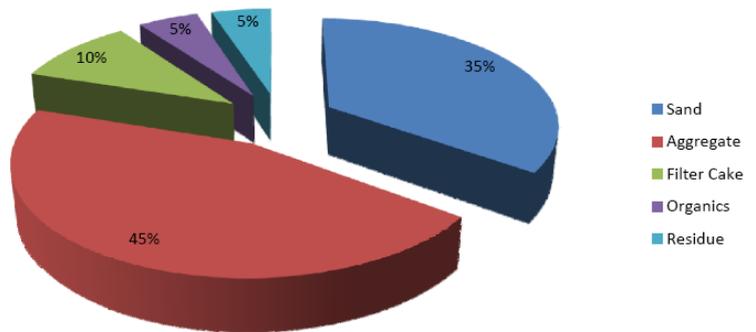




Public Sector **Sustainability** Awards 2012

Award Category: Best Procurement Project



*Working for
Warwickshire*

The recycling of road sweepings and gully emptyings

Saving seven Midland councils more than £10 million pounds over seven years

A collaborative procurement between Warwickshire County Council (lead authority) and Coventry City Council. Other authorities named in the OJEU Contract Notice are:

- Staffordshire County Council
- Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
- Herefordshire Council
- Worcestershire County Council
- Leicestershire County Council

BACKGROUND

Like many waste disposal authorities, Warwickshire has traditionally landfilled its road sweepings. However, the escalating cost of Landfill Tax (set to rise to £80 per tonne by 2014) and a strategic aspiration of diverting waste material away from landfill prompted the authority to examine alternative treatment processes. Recent advances in treatment technology, soft market testing and informal dialogue with neighbouring authorities suggested that a recycling rate of 85% was achievable coupled with a gate fee approaching half the rate of Landfill Tax alone.

GOING OUT TO TENDER FOR TREATMENT OF ROAD SWEEPINGS

Coventry City Council entered the procurement process through a Joint Working Agreement with Warwickshire while each of the remaining named authorities agreed to signing a back-to-back agreement with the latter in order to take advantage of the contract. Each authority is also required to have a separate bolt-on contract with the successful contractor.

The Contract Price is determined by the total tonnage deliverable in each year of the contract by all participating authorities, i.e. all get the benefit of volume discounts from pooled tonnage.

An OJEU Contract Notice and an invitation to tender were issued in mid 2011. The requirements of service stipulated that the successful tenderer would be required to achieve a recycling rate of at least 70% (in accordance with National Indicator 192 or equivalent) coupled with a maximum gate of £35 per tonne. The gate fee ceiling was set through benchmarking against a potential small scale, in-house treatment plant.



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CONTRACT AWARDED

Following a one-stage Open Tender process, SITA UK Ltd was awarded a £9.3 million contract to treat up to 30,500 tonnes a year road sweepings and gully emptyings at its new £750,000 state-of-the-art processing facility in Wolverhampton.

Around 98 per cent of the material passing through the facility is being recovered and graded into sand, washed aggregate and compostable material. The recycled sand and aggregates are suitable for use in road construction, pipe bedding materials or blended with rock salt and used as grit on roads in the winter months. Meanwhile composted organic material – rich in nutrients – is suitable for blending with soils in land remediation projects.

VITAL STATISTICS & KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 300,000 tonnes of material is being diverted from landfill by Warwickshire County Council and its partner authorities across the life of the contract.
- The initiative is delivering savings of £10 million for seven Waste Disposal Authorities in the West Midlands and East Midlands Regions.
- Recycling rates for participating authorities are being boosted by around 3% per annum.
- The procurement exercise was showcased at the October 2011 meeting of the West Midlands Waste Alliance and is now being chronicled as an Improvement and Efficiency West Midlands (IEWM) case study.
- Media coverage of Warwickshire's innovative £9.3 million contract has included a filmed report for BBC TV's regional news magazine programme, Midlands Today as well as articles published in trade and industry titles.
- The project was highly commended at this year's National Procurement Awards (Procurement Innovation or Initiative of the Year) and won the Sustainability Award at the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) West Midlands Annual Awards.
- The scheme was also a finalist in the National Recycling Awards 2012 and the Awards for Excellence in Recycling and Waste Management 2012, and has been shortlisted for an APSE Service Award – Best Efficiency (September 2012).
- Reduction in CO₂e emissions – compared to landfill – are estimated to be at least 10,000 tonnes a year¹ while negating the need to extract virgin sand and aggregate will further boost savings in greenhouse gas emissions.

¹ Depending on composition of inputs.

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S PROJECT TEAM

Glenn Fleet	Group Manager, Waste Management
David Whitehouse	Project Manager
Heidi Carr	Procurement Officer
Louise Wall	Head of Sustainable Communities
Monica Fogarty	Strategic Director Communities Group
Michaela Meeraus	Solicitor



Warwickshire County Council honoured at national procurement awards. Project Manager David Whitehouse (centre) with Morven MacNeil, GO Content Editor and Grahame Steed, GO Managing Editor.

WHAT THEY SAY

<p>“That sounds like a really good idea.” Nick Owen, BBC TV Midlands Today</p> <p>Visit http://youtu.be/opKRGkMFh8k</p>	
<p>“This contract represents an excellent example of neighbouring councils working together to improve performance and save money. It will help boost our recycling performance by two or three per cent and supports a more sustainable approach to waste management which benefits all our residents.” Julia Jessel, Deputy Leader for Built Environment, East Staffordshire Borough Council</p>	
<p>“We are justifiably proud that we have achieved such a groundbreaking deal. This kind of joined-up working between local authorities will deliver a more efficient service across the Midlands region and ultimately save money from the public purse.” Cllr Alan Cockburn, Warwickshire County Council’s Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Communities</p>	
<p>“The initial procurement led by Warwickshire was a huge economic success with significant cash savings and reductions in landfill.” Keith Gordon, Assistant Director Efficiency & Delivery, Improvement & Efficiency West Midlands (email broadcast to waste authorities in the West Midlands Region)</p>	



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