



Stratford Liberal Democrats Press Release 30th June 2009

Lib Dems question plans for billion pound waste incinerator

Stratford District Council's support for a new billion pound waste incineration project is being questioned by the Liberal Democrats.

Plans by the District Council to sign a 'Memorandum of Understanding' with Warwickshire County Council on the incinerator are to be challenged at a meeting of the District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee B on Friday 3rd July.

The Memorandum of Understanding expresses the District Council's support for 'Project Transform', a 25 year PFI scheme by Warwickshire County Council, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and Coventry City Council to build an incinerator with a capacity to burn 305,000 tonnes of waste a year. Due to become operational in 2015 the plant would have a planned life of 25 years, until 2040, with an expected capital cost of £210 million. Total costs over the life of the project are forecast at over a billion pounds, with the scheme being financed by a PFI deal.

'The District Council is being asked to express its support for the scheme, but we believe there are many unanswered questions,' said District Councillor Peter Mourse (Lib Dem Stratford). 'Waste processing technology is developing rapidly and who knows what the position will be by 2040. Our Councils are committing themselves at huge cost to an incinerator to burn over a third of our waste (1). Re-cycling rates are increasing all the time and new ways of handling waste are emerging. With a planned 25 year PFI deal to finance the scheme the Councils could be left in 20 years time with a hugely expensive white elephant.'

Notes:

1 Municipal waste tonnages for the 3 authorities are forecast at 660,000 tonnes in 2015 and 795,000 tonnes in 2040. Final incinerator capacity planned at 305,000 tonnes.

More information:

Cllr Peter Mourse 01789 269630.

Overview and Scrutiny agenda papers: Stratford District Council website

Project Transform: County Council website.