

Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR

Telephone 08459 335577
Email Helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Website www.defra.gov.uk



Derrick Murphy
Leader of the Council
Norfolk County Council
County Hall
Martineau Lane
Norwich
NR1 2DH

7. November 2011

From the Secretary of State
The Rt Hon Caroline Spelman MP

Dear Derrick,

We have recently exchanged letters in relation to the opposition to the proposed Energy from Waste plant at King's Lynn. Thank you for your response which I have subsequently considered.

Since then my officials have received and evaluated the Final Business Case for the project which your officers submitted to support the Council's application for Waste Infrastructure (WI) Credits.¹

In your letter of 10 June 2011 you advised me that you consider that the broad consensus for your waste management strategy remains and that your proposed solution reflects that strategy, despite the opposition that the project faces. However on the basis of the evidence I have seen to date I am not satisfied that the relevant criterion has yet been met. I have reached this view for the following reasons:


- I continue to be concerned by the large volume of objections to the proposal;
- I understand that Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council withdrew their support from the Waste Strategy. I have recently received a letter from the Norfolk Waste Partnership that the Waste Strategy objectives have been revised and that Kings Lynn and West Norfolk, although potentially supportive of the revised objectives, remain withdrawn from the waste strategy and feel that it should be revised to look at other technologies and practices.

I am therefore not currently in a position to confirm the provisional allocation of WI Credits. I further note that there is a Judicial Review ongoing against your authority which relates to the award of your waste management contract.

I am prepared to give you an opportunity to submit additional evidence in relation to the existence of a broad consensus. If that evidence is satisfactory I would then be in a position to consider the allocation of WI Credits.

Whilst you should feel able to provide anything you consider to be relevant, further information should include fuller details on the most recent consultations you cited in your letter that relate to the Waste Strategy and its delivery but also any additional and more recent evidence as to whether there is currently a broad consensus around the Waste Strategy.

I do recognise that the closure of complex residual waste management projects to divert biodegradable waste from landfill is extremely challenging. However I am sure that you understand that I have to apply the criteria rigorously and consistently and therefore I am obliged to seek this further information.

Yours ever,

CAROLINE SPELMAN

1. Formerly PFI Credits