

**ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 10 NOVEMBER 2021**

**QUESTIONS ASKED BY AN ELECTED MEMBER UNDER
STANDING ORDER 7**

Question asked by Mr Max Hunt CC

“Newhurst Energy from Waste (EfW) Incinerator Contract:

1. What is the cost of the contract with Biffa?
2. Has the risk of a future tax on incineration been addressed?
3. Are there any constraints, either way, on the Local Authority regarding volume or residual waste provided?
4. Are there any constraints on the Local Authority regarding materials (e.g., plastics)?
5. Will the LA be sharing capacity of the Newhurst EfW Incinerator with other Local Authorities or any commercial providers?
6. What figures has the Local Authority obtained with regard to the emission of Greenhouse Gases and Particulates from their use of the plant?”

Reply by the Chairman

- “1. The contract gate fee is commercially sensitive information which cannot be disclosed.
2. Any Government decision on a future incineration tax remains outstanding. In terms of risk management, this issue would be subject to further engagement between the parties and dealt with in accordance with the terms of the contract.
3. The County Council has committed to delivering a minimum of 40,000 tonnes of residual (black bag) waste per year. As a Waste Disposal Authority during 2021/22 the County Council managed over 300,000 tonnes of household waste and recycled approximately 43% of this.
4. The County Council is able to deliver anything that would normally be present in residual black bag waste i.e., items of a size that would fit in a household wheeled bin and that are not hazardous in nature. Items such as gas canisters, tree stumps, mattresses etc would not be intentionally delivered to the Newhurst facility.

5. The majority of the capacity available at Newhurst EfW will be used by Biffa's own commercial waste inputs and other Biffa commercial contracts.

The County Council is only required to deliver 40,000 tonnes of waste to the Newhurst facility per year. A number of neighbouring Waste Disposal Authorities were listed on the contract notice and therefore could access the County Council's contract in the future by agreement.

6. When the facility is operational, the County Council will be delivering a proportion of the total waste into the Newhurst EfW facility. A condition of the procurement process was that the solution would achieve/have obtained the 'R1' energy efficiency rating.

Biffa Waste Services will be subject to emissions monitoring and be required to report emissions levels to the Environment Agency in order to evidence that they are operating in accordance with their environmental permit."