

13. ORGANICS PROCESSING PLANT

Mr Simon Collin, Solid Waste Manager, provided a report updating the Committee on the status of the in-vessel compost plant tender process. The report provided background to the decision to seek requests for tenders for an organics processing plant based on the concept of extending the capability of the Council's outdoor composting plant at Bromley to provide for both processing of greenwaste and putrescibles. Initially a start-up plant capable of handling approximately 15,000t of material (4,000t of putrescibles and 11,000t of green waste) was envisaged with the potential to be developed in later stages to a plant capable of handling 55,000 tonnes of garden green waste and putrescibles.

An expected benefit of this approach was that the odour and dust issues associated with the current Windrow Composting Plant could be entirely resolved.

The report noted the different types of processing plants for which tenders were received and the consideration undertaken of these by the Waste Initiatives Subcommittee.

It noted that the Waste Initiatives Subcommittee had resolved at its meeting on 8 March 2002:

1. *That all tenderers be advised that their tenders had not been accepted, but that the Council wished to continue investigating the existing proposals, including other options.*
2. *That staff be instructed to make the appropriate adjustments to budgets to allow for the project to be delayed by one year.*

The recommendations of the Subcommittee had been based on the assessment that the tenders received had no clear cost or environmental advantages and that it would be best to delay this project by up to a year in order to further investigate these and other possible organic processing technologies.

The Committee **decided** to endorse the recommendations of the Waste Initiatives Subcommittee to the Annual Plan Subcommittee as described in the report.