

Environmental Information Regulations – Response - 27507

In light of your response, I would like to restructure my Freedom of Information request into three separate phases to ensure the information can be provided in a manageable format. This request constitutes Phase 1 (Financial Impact).

I intend to submit further related requests in due course with reasonable time gaps between submissions.

Phase 1 – Financial Costs and Expenditure

Please provide the following information relating to the anaerobic digestion (food waste processing) project at Reydon and any associated agreements with Bio Capital:

The total cumulative amount spent to date by Suffolk County Council in connection with the Reydon anaerobic digestion project.

To provide clarity to this and all other answers, it should be stated that Suffolk County Council's involvement in the Reydon AD facility was purely as a procuring authority for the provision of food waste treatment for food collected from households in Suffolk and delivered to a treatment facility. The Reydon AD project is/was a private arrangement between Adnams and Bio-Capital, with no financial, legal or indeed any other input or interest from Suffolk County Council.

Suffolk County Council (SCC) ran a procurement exercise for the treatment of food waste, for which a number of bids from operators with Anaerobic Digestion facilities were received, with the Bio-Capital bid being the winning bid.

Other than Suffolk County Council officer time to carry out the procurement exercise and associated tasks, no money has been spent in connection with the Reydon AD project.

As a matter of course Suffolk County Council does not log officer hours spent on procurement projects, so no total cost figure is available; however, this will have involved a portion of time from a procurement team officer, time from Waste Team officers, plus a much smaller amount of time from a Legal Team officer. For the avoidance of doubt, no officers were working purely on the procurement exercise, with the task being considered 'business as usual' alongside other activities.

A breakdown of costs (where recorded) including:

consultancy fees

legal costs

procurement costs

contract management costs

feasibility studies

environmental assessments

communications / public relations activity officer time attributable to the project (where separately recorded or reasonably attributable)

No costs were incurred for consultancy fees, feasibility studies, environmental assessments or communications/PR activity for this project. In line with the response to

the first question, the Reydon project was a private arrangement between Bio-Capital and Adnams; therefore, any costs relating to such items rest with these parties.

Suffolk County Council officer time will have been used for procurement, contract management and legal work; however, in line with the response above these hours are not logged as a matter of course and so costs are not recorded.

No costs were incurred by Suffolk County Council other than officer time.

The total amount spent on:

infrastructure

equipment

modifications

works

studies

undertaken specifically in anticipation of food waste being processed at the Reydon facility

No spend has been incurred in anticipation of food waste being processed at the Reydon facility. Suffolk County Council had not assumed that food waste would end up being processed at Reydon and indeed look to ensure future resilience by not being tied to a single facility option for future procurement exercises.

To reiterate the point made to the first question, Suffolk County Council's role in the Reydon facility was purely in procuring services: there was no involvement with or investment in the facility itself.

Any recorded figures for:

write-offs

sunk costs

termination-related costs

settlement payments or liabilities (if applicable)

No costs have been incurred for any of the above items. As per previous comments, SCC were not involved with nor invested in the facility itself. Any costs relating to these items will have been a private matter between Adnams and Bio-Capital.

Further, limited officer time was required to put in place alternative treatment arrangements for the food waste collected in Suffolk, which was arranged with unsuccessful bidders from the original procurement exercise which was originally won by Bio-Capital.