

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD**

**27 May 2014**

**Report of the Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health**

**Part 1- Public**

**Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)**

**1 TONBRIDGE ODOUR UPDATE**

**Summary**

**This report provides an update on the issue of odour emissions in Tonbridge and specifically on the developments that have occurred since the previous meeting of this Board in March 2014.**

**1.1 Background**

- 1.1.1 My report to the last Board meeting provided details of the Liaison Group Meeting held on 5 February 2014, which, importantly, included Drytec's statement of intent to install bespoke odour abatement equipment and a timetable for its installation and commissioning by the end of May.
- 1.1.2 A second meeting of the Liaison Group was held on 9 April 2014 which, again, provided residents with the opportunity to discuss their concerns directly with Drytec, Council Members and officers and for the group to hear an update on the installation of the odour abatement equipment from the Company.
- 1.1.3 At this meeting, the Drytec Managing Director confirmed that an order had been placed to purchase a Regenerative Thermal Oxidiser (RTO). We have sought advice from our consultants who have been able to advise us that this technology is recognised as being one of the most effective in the removal of odours from emissions.
- 1.1.4 I am pleased to be able to confirm that the RTO was delivered to the Drytec site on 29 April 2014 and is now undergoing installation which will involve some external works. The Managing Director remains confident that the RTO will be fully installed, commissioned and operational by the end of May and to monitor progress officers are making frequent visits to the site.
- 1.1.5 It was the original intention that the RTO would be installed within the existing building, however, this has not proved to be possible, so the unit will be located externally. A consequence of this change is that planning permission became

necessary. The application has been submitted and it is envisaged that it will be determined by the end of the month.

## **1.2 Sale of Drytec**

1.2.1 A significant change has recently taken place in the ownership of Drytec and I can advise that Drytec Contract Processing had been sold to Summit Custom Spray Dry of New Jersey, USA. The Managing Director has confirmed that he will remain as MD and the General Manager on site will also be unchanged. It is his expectation that the business will be better funded, going forward, enabling many of the improvements officers would like to see to be put in place.

## **1.3 Legal Implications**

1.3.1 Following the installation of the odour abatement equipment it is essential that we continue to monitor the situation to assess the degree to which improvements in odour abatement have been achieved. If we are satisfied that a statutory nuisance exists we will give full consideration to the service of an abatement notice. This decision would be undertaken with the further advice of Counsel.

## **1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

1.4.1 Whilst the various work has been completed within budgets the intensive nature of the odour issue has, of course, impacted on some aspects of the Team's work over the last two years.

## **1.5 Risk Assessment**

1.5.1 We will continue, through dialogue, to ensure the timetable to which the Managing Director has committed will be achieved and to ensure the review of the production scheduling in the meantime continues until the RTO is operational.

1.5.2 As stated in paragraph 1.3.1 above the Team will have an ongoing role in ensuring the equipment is being operated correctly to achieve the best results

## **1.6 Equality Impact Assessment**

1.6.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

## **1.7 Recommendations**

1.7.1 It is **RECOMMENDED** that the Cabinet **ENDORSE**:

- 1) the progress made to date with the installation of the Regenerative Thermal Oxidiser at Drytec; and
- 2) the approach officers are adopting to endeavour to ensure the installation is completed within the agreed timetable and to monitor the subsequent performance of the RTO by way of ongoing odour monitoring.

The Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

contact: Jacqui Rands  
Jane Heeley

Nil

Steve Humphrey

Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health.

Brian Luker

Cabinet Member for Environmental Services

<b>Screening for equality impacts:</b>		
<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>	<b>Explanation of impacts</b>
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	Officers have a duty to investigate complaints of statutory nuisance.
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	No	The work described in this report is primarily concerned with the duty detailed above.
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		

*In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.*