

The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP
Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place
LONDON
SW1E 5DU

7 April 2011

Dear Eric,

**Planning Appeal by SITA Cornwall Limited
Reference: APP/D0840/A/09/2113075**

You may already have before you a report from the Planning Inspector for your decision on the planning appeal referenced above. While I appreciate that all your decisions on such Appeals are critical, I am very keen that you appreciate the dire financial consequences for this Council if you do not uphold this particular appeal.

This is a matter that I, as the Conservative Leader of the Council, and my Cabinet colleagues have inherited from the previous Liberal Democrat administration. It concerns a PFI Agreement that was reached in 2006 between the old county council and Sita Cornwall Ltd for the provision of integrated waste management services, including the construction and operation of an energy from waste facility in Cornwall.

In 2009, in the run up to the unitary council elections, the County Council's Planning Committee refused to grant permission for the waste facility. It is this decision that is the subject of the appeal.

I and my Cabinet colleagues are unanimously of the view that the appeal needs to be upheld and strongly urge you to uphold it.

I really cannot over emphasise the dire financial, environmental and operational consequences for the Council if the appeal is dismissed, particularly because we are already having to deal with the harsh reality of the current budgetary restrictions. If the appeal is not upheld we would likely face the very high cost (of the order of around £30 million) of terminating the contract, increased costs of landfill of some £12 million a year and long delays in developing any other alternative.

We are already committed to making savings of £170 million over the next four years, and have budgeted to achieve this mainly through efficiencies and with minimal impact to front line services. We would not be able to do this with the additional costs of an appeal failure so I urge you to uphold the appeal.

Yours sincerely



Alec Robertson CC
Leader of the Council



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