

## Appendix 7.c

# Sustainability and Design Strategy

Appended below is the Sustainability and Design Strategy for Project Transform.

## **Sustainability and Design Strategy**

Project Transform is committed to the delivery of good design in line with Government Planning Policy Statement 1 which tells us that “Good design ensures attractive usable, durable and adaptable places and is a key element in achieving sustainable development.”

In order to deliver a high quality of design the following strategy will be adopted.

### **Planning and Procurement Process**

In accordance with the Planning Strategy, Project Transform will prepare and submit an Outline Planning Application for an Energy from Waste (EfW) facility. The Outline Planning Approval (which will also cover the decommissioning of the existing EfW and the after-use of that site) will establish the physical parameters and design principles for the development. The design standards which Project Transform is committed to achieving will be incorporated into the Design and Access Statement accompanying the application.

In order to deliver a high quality of design the Outline Planning Application will be progressed and tested against the following design criteria:

#### **1. Functionality:**

- Is the development suitable for its intended use?
- Does the development employ efficient use of space and resource?
- Does the development provide a quality environment for employees and visitors?
- Can the development cope with foreseen, and adapt to unforeseen, service changes?

#### **2. Build Quality:**

- Has the development been designed using life cost principles?
- Is the development constructed out of quality, robust materials?
- Does the development design incorporate sustainable construction, maintenance and operational methods?
- Is the development safe in construction, occupation and operation?

#### **3. Impact:**

- Does the development contribute positively to its contextual environment?
- Does the construction, operation and maintenance of the development consume resources in an efficient and sustainable manner?
- Does the construction, maintenance and operation of the development positively contribute to the local economy by use of local, human and material resources?
- Is the construction team deemed a “Considerate Contractor”?

The design will also comply with Coventry City Council's Urban Design Guidance (where relevant) further details of which are available on the Coventry City Council web site.

The bidders' response to the key design principles will be judged against compliance with the Design and Access Statement and Coventry's Design Guidance.

The discharge of Reserved Matters will be the responsibility of the successful bidder. The preferred bidder's detailed design of the facility will be required to meet the high standards

established in the outline planning process and encapsulated within the Design and Access Statement.

### **Assessing Design Quality**

The design quality will be assessed by using **Design Quality Indicator (DQI)** (or similar).

The DQI is an inclusive process involving all stakeholders for evaluating the design quality of buildings and developments. It can be used by anyone involved in the development process to contribute to improving the quality of the built environment.

The DQI assessment will be undertaken throughout the life of the project and at the following key stages:

- Outline Planning
- Bid Assessment
- The preparation of Reserved Matters Applications
- Immediately Prior to Occupation
- In Use (After 12 Months)

### **Design Champion**

CABE recommend that every public sector client undertaking one or more capital construction projects above an agreed threshold should appoint a senior Design Champion for the project.

The project will designate a Design Champion who will ensure that the project achieves an acceptable level of design quality. The Design Champion will:

- Articulate the vision and the desire for high quality design;
- Formulate client aims for quality of design and ensure these are clearly integrated within the Outline Planning Application and Design and Access Statement;
- Help to define, check and evaluate quality throughout the process; and
- Insist that quality is maintained throughout the project.

The Design Champion will enable the Project Team to deliver a high quality of design by working closely with the Local Planning Authority and by:

- Providing strong, clear leadership
- Giving enough time at the right time
- Allowing the project to learn from the Design Champion's own and other successful projects
- Developing and communicating a clear brief
- Adopting integrated and inclusive processes
- Finding the right people for the right job
- Responding and contributing to the context
- Committing to sustainability
- Signing off all key stages
- Including the architect/engineer in the selection and management of the supply chain.

The Client's Technical Advisor will monitor design delivery.

### **Sustainability**

The issue of sustainability is a pivotal part of good design, an integral part of government planning policy and an important consideration in the assessment and delivery of Project Transform. All bids will be assessed against the following checklist of social, economic and environmental criteria:

- Social – Does the development meet the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal well-being, social cohesion and inclusion, and creating equal opportunity for all? Does the development demonstrate effective, participative systems of governance, engaging people's creativity, energy and diversity?
- Economic – Is the development building a strong, stable and sustainable economy which provides prosperity and opportunities for all, and in which environmental and social costs fall on those who impose them and efficient resource use is incentivised?
- Environmental – Does the development show that the need to reduce the consumption of fossil fuels is central to the design ethos? Is it evident that every new building needs to make the greatest possible contribution to mitigating climate change, in construction and in use? Can it be shown that environmental sustainability has been fully integrated into the design process from the beginning?

### **Sustainability Assessment Tools**

There are assessment tools that can interrogate the sustainability credentials of developments. The Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) and Civil Engineering Environmental Quality Assessment and Award Scheme (CEEQUAL) are both designed to help designers assess the sustainability of a development. BREEAM and CEEQUAL assessments are similar in that they evaluate and quantify the environmental impact of a development and both use DQIs.

Project Transform will adopt the most appropriate tool for evaluating the environmental efficiency of the EfW facility.