



# Preliminary      Market Engagement

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|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Reference   | ocds-h6vhtk-06936d<br>AP/CORP/LCC/26/001                                                |
| Title       | Provision of Treated Residual Waste Recovery<br>Services - Thornton Waste Recovery Park |
| Return date | 07 August 2026 at 12 noon                                                               |



## **Preliminary Market Engagement (including Questionnaire)**

Lancashire County Council (the Authority) is the waste disposal authority for the administrative county of Lancashire. The Authority operates and manages fifteen (15) Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs), one (1) Community Recycling & Re-use Centre (CRRC), two (2) transfer stations and is also responsible for the management of wastes collected by Waste Collection Authorities from households in Lancashire, including fly-tipped waste.

Lancashire County Council is also the majority shareholder of Lancashire Renewables Ltd, who operate two (2) Waste Recovery Parks, one based at Farington and the other at Thornton.

It is the fourth largest Local Authority in England and Wales and employs approximately 35,000 staff. It serves a population of 1.1 million which is rich in cultural diversity, and covers an area of 3,070 sq. km.

Further information about Lancashire County Council can be found at:  
<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk>

As the Waste Disposal Authority for Lancashire, the Authority currently directs some Waste Collection Authorities to deliver residual waste to Thornton Waste Recovery Park, Fleetwood Road, Thornton Cleveleys, Lancashire, FY7 8RY, where it is treated.

The treated residual waste output stream from MBT 1 consists of a:

- combination of a >80 mm to <160 mm waste fraction and >160 mm to (approximately) <400 mm waste fraction; and
- >20 mm to <80 mm dried waste fraction.

The treated residual waste output stream from MBT 2 consists of a:

- *>100 mm to <400 mm (approximately) waste fraction; and*
- *>20mm to <100 mm waste fraction.*

### **MBT1 – Thornton WRP**

The residual waste treatment MBT1 process is detailed below:

Residual Waste is passed through a bag splitter and then conveyed into a scalping trommel, which separates the waste into oversize and undersize fractions of >160 mm and <160 mm.

The >160 mm to (approximately) <400 mm waste fraction is then conveyed directly to a storage bunker for subsequent supply to off-takers, whilst the <160mm waste fraction is conveyed into an organic removal trommel which separates the waste into oversize and undersize fractions of:

- >80 mm and <160 mm; and

- <80 mm.

After separation the:

- >80 mm to <160 mm waste fraction is passed under an over-band magnet and over a non-ferrous separator before being conveyed to a storage bunker for subsequent supply to off-takers; and
- <80 mm waste fraction is conveyed to a composting hall where it is turned, constantly aerated and dried over a period of four to five weeks.

After treatment in the composting hall the dried <80 mm waste fraction is conveyed into an organic removal trommel which separates the waste into oversize and undersize fractions of:

- >20 mm and <80 mm; and
- <20 mm (compost like output).

The >20 mm to <80 mm dried waste fraction is then conveyed to a final screening machine (star screen) to be further separated into <10mm and >10mm and <20mm fractions.

The two fractions are then conveyed into storage bunkers for subsequent supply to off-takers.

The <10mm and <20 mm dried waste fraction (compost like output waste fractions) is stored separately before being sent to other markets.

## **MBT 2 – Thornton WRP**

The residual waste treatment MBT2 process is detailed below:

Residual Waste is passed through a pre shredder to produce a target fraction size of < 400mm. The shredded waste is then passed through a scalping trommel that separates the waste into oversize and undersize fractions of:

- >100 mm to <400 mm (*approximately*) waste fraction; and
- <100 mm waste fraction.

After separation the:

- The >100 mm to <400 mm (*approximately*) waste fraction is passed through metal recovery equipment before being conveyed to a storage bunker for subsequent supply.
- The <100 mm waste fraction is passed under metal recovery equipment before being conveyed to an in-vessel composting hall where it is turned, constantly aerated, and dried over a target period of three to four weeks.

After treatment in the composting hall, the *dried <100 mm dried waste fraction* is then conveyed into additional screening equipment which separates the waste into oversize and undersize fractions of:

- *>20 mm and <100 mm dried waste fraction; and*
- *<20 mm (compost like output) fraction.*

The *>100 mm to <400 mm (approximately) waste fraction* and *>20 mm and <100 mm dried waste fraction* are blended within the process and transferred into a storage hall for subsequent supply.

The *<20 mm (compost like output) fraction* is stored separately for subsequent supply.

The estimated tonnages of treated residual waste material per annum is in the region of 60,000 to 75,000 tonnes.

The Authority has three agreements in place with Lancashire Waste Recycling Limited to collect, transport and recover this material. These arrangements are due to expire on 31 May 2027 and the Authority will be inviting tenders for new contracts later this year.

Please note that in 2025, the Authority let two other treated residual waste contracts for Thornton Waste Recovery Park with SUEZ Recycling & Recovery UK Ltd and Envirofuel (SRF) Limited. These agreements are in their initial term which run to 31 March 2028 and have the option to be extended up to 31 March 2030. The treated residual waste tonnages relating to these agreements are not in scope of this procurement exercise.

### **The tender procedure, the form of contract, and the project timetable**

The tender procedure is anticipated to be an Open above-threshold services procurement, although a Competitive Flexible Procedure may be utilised. The evaluation weightings will likely be a mixture of quality / technical and price considerations. The Authority is currently drafting suitable contract terms.

The tender will likely be advertised in late September 2026. Ideally, the Authority will award the tender no later than mid-December 2026. Services are anticipated to commence from 01 June 2027. The Authority is currently considering any flexibility to this and will confirm the timelines in the tender procedure.

### **Questions & Topics – requiring your response:**

Please share your responses to all or any of the questions in the **Questionnaire** at the end of this document.

### **Contact and return:**

Please respond to the questionnaire no later than **07 August 2026 at 12 noon**.

Completed questionnaires must be returned electronically to the Authority's procurement team via email at: [contractscorporate@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:contractscorporate@lancashire.gov.uk)

The Authority is not obligated to review any late responses to this market engagement.

### **Important Notes**

This preliminary market engagement exercise does not constitute a formal tender or pre-qualification process. It is issued for the sole purpose of market engagement and information gathering to help shape the final procurement approach.

Participation in this preliminary market engagement exercise is not mandatory and will not affect eligibility to participate in the formal procurement process once launched.

Responses to the preliminary market engagement exercise will not be scored but will be reviewed by the Authority to understand market appetite, delivery capability, and preferences regarding contract terms and risk allocation.

Submission of a response to this preliminary market engagement exercise does not constitute a contractual offer and shall not be construed as creating any obligation on the part of the Authority to proceed with a formal procurement or to award any contract.

The Authority reserves the right to:

- Make changes to the scope or timing of the procurement process.
- Hold informal engagement discussions with respondents to this preliminary market engagement exercise to clarify responses where required.
- Proceed or not proceed with the procurement process at its absolute discretion.

All information shared in responses will be treated in confidence and used only for the purposes of refining the procurement strategy. All information issued by and provided to the Authority should and will be treated as confidential and used only for internal purposes relating to project planning and procurement preparation.

### **Local Government Reorganisation**

The Government has announced its ambition to dissolve Lancashire's existing councils and create new unitary councils to deliver all services through single authorities. More information is available on the Authority's website:

[Local government reorganisation - Lancashire County Council](#).

## Questionnaire

Providers are invited to enter responses to **all or any** of the following questions:

| No. | Question                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | Company name                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 2   | Contact details for queries about this engagement exercise.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 3   | Please indicate if you are happy for the Authority to contact you about the responses provided?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 4   | Briefly describe your organisation's involvement in, and experience of<br>(a) recovering treated residual waste; and/or<br>(b) collecting and transporting treated residual waste.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 5   | <p>Please describe your organisations proposed recovery process and route(s) for the treated residual waste, noting whether the material will be used as RDF, further treated into SRF, used as direct fuel feedstock, or any another recovery route that may be utilised.</p> <p>Please also describe the level of traceability and reporting that your organisation can provide in relation to the final destination of treated residual waste, including any downstream supply chain arrangements.</p> |
| 6   | <p>If you are a treated residual waste recovery company, please provide details of your provider facility recovery location(s).</p> <p>If you are an intermediary, such as operating a transfer station, please provide details of your transfer station location(s).</p> <p>If you are a haulier, please provide details of your fleet and ability to provide a collection and transportation service.</p>                                                                                               |
| 7   | What is the approximate maximum volume of treated residual waste tonnage that your facility(ies) have the capacity to accept for this contract?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 8   | What are the minimum volumes of treated residual waste tonnage you would be looking to secure to make it worth your while to tender for the contract?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 9   | <p>The Authority currently pays a flat contract rate per tonne of treated residual waste collected by the provider, subject to annual indexation linked to CPI inflation.</p> <p>Please share your views about any alternative approaches to setting rates or specific indices that could be used.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

| No. | Question                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10  | <p>Please describe your current understanding of the potential impact of UK ETS expansion to waste incineration and energy from waste facilities, including how this may affect your gate fees, outlet availability and commercial risk allocation.</p> <p>What other emerging legislation, regulation or policy developments do you anticipate could materially impact your ability to deliver this service between 2027 and 2031?</p> |
| 11  | <p>Are you considering utilising sub-contractors to deliver any part of the services?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 12  | <p>In what ways could service resilience be strengthened, particularly during peak periods, facility downtime or disruptions, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What contingency facilities are available to you; and/or</li> <li>• How is fleet resilience ensured?</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                 |
| 13  | <p>Would extension options or volume guarantees influence your willingness to bid?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 14  | <p>Are there any other specific issues that would either encourage or discourage you from bidding to deliver these services to Lancashire County Council?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |