Proposed Integrated Solid Waste Management System

Why is there an Outline Business Case (OBC)?
The OBC assesses the overall affordability, implementation and delivery options for the Integrated Solid Waste Management System (ISWMS) project. The OBC was prepared in accordance with UK Treasury Green Book standards, which set out the guidelines by which outline business cases are compiled. The OBC builds upon the now-approved National Solid Waste Management Policy and the National Solid Waste Management Strategy (NSWMS) which were published over the last two years. This is an ongoing process in which the publication of the business case is the latest part. Inevitably, it draws heavily on the two preceding documents, as the business case represents the means by which the previously developed strategy will be delivered and implemented.

What are the recommendations of the OBC?
The OBC concludes that national solid waste management in the Cayman Islands would be best dealt with through a public private partnership (PPP) and that the PPP arrangement to “design, build, finance, operate and maintain (DBFOM) contract” offers the best value for money.

What exactly is an Integrated Solid Waste Management System (ISWMS)?
According to United Nations Environmental Programme, “Integrated Solid Waste Management refers to the strategic approach to sustainable waste covering all sources and aspects, covering generation, transfer, sorting, treatment, recovery and disposal in an integrated manner, with an emphasis on maximising resource use efficiency”.

What is the main objective of the ISWMS?
The main objective is to have a national system in place that will incorporate the waste hierarchy as outlined below in the following diagram:

The waste hierarchy is at the heart of the modern approach to managing waste. The hierarchy firstly focuses on waste reduction, and then examines each subsequent option before disposal as follows:

- **Reduction**: Using less material in design and manufacture, keeping products longer; re-using and using less hazardous materials;
- **Reuse**: Checking, cleaning, repairing, refurbishing, repair, whole items or spare parts;
- **Recycling**: Turning waste into a new substance or product, including composting;
- **Recovery**: Energy is recovered from waste through a variety of methods such as thermal treatment and gasification; and
- **Disposal**: Landfill

Why was mining of waste at the George Town landfill not included in the future ISWMS project moving forward?
The potential of long-term nuisance conditions from mining waste, such as odours, outweigh the benefit of gaining back the small area of the existing landfill space. Therefore a policy decision has been made to exclude mining of waste from the ISWMS project.

Is Government looking to partner with the private sector because it does not have the resources to pay for the construction or operation of the ISWMS project?
The OBC recommends that the project should be delivered through a partnership with the private sector and it has nothing to with whether or not the Government has the resources. Rather, it is because that approach gives better value for money than the Government seeking to deliver the project itself, largely because it allows significant risk transfer to the private sector.

A questionnaire will be provided at the open house sessions. We invite the public to complete the questionnaire on or before 7 October 2016.

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