

CABINET MEETING: 15 FEBRUARY 2018

**REVIEW OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE
PROVISION**

**CLEAN STREETS, RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENT
(COUNCILLOR MICHAEL MICHAEL), INVESTMENT &
DEVELOPMENT (COUNCILLOR RUSSELL GOODWAY)**

AGENDA ITEM: 3

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Reason for this Report

1. To obtain Cabinet authority to explore the business case for the provision of additional Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) facilities in Cardiff in anticipation of a future growth in demand as the city expands through the phased delivery of the Local Development Plan strategic housing sites.
2. To obtain Cabinet authority to undertake a site options appraisal to identify a preferred location in Cardiff for the potential future provision of additional HWRC facilities.

Background

3. The new Cabinet formed following the 2017 local government elections has committed to:
 - Boost city recycling rates through, amongst other things, the opening of a new re-use centre in partnership with a third sector partner;
 - In due course, to establish Household Waste Recycling Centres to meet predicted future growth in residential development across the county area.
4. In response to significant budgetary pressures, the previous Cabinet decided to reduce the number of HWRCs from four to two. The decision reflected the outcome of a detailed analysis of the actual operational use of the existing facilities available at that time which demonstrated that the four facilities were operating at 60% capacity such that the continued operation of all four facilities could not be justified. The Waungron Road facility was closed in April 2014, shortly after the policy was approved.

5. A Recycling Waste Management Strategy 2015 -2018, approved by Cabinet in April 2015, outlined the delivery of new household waste collection services designed to meet the target recycling levels and to deliver financial savings. In particular, it updated the service provision/targets for the Household Waste Recycling Centres and the reuse of unwanted goods as follows:
 - Identify new markets and re-use options to deliver an additional 5000 tonnes of recyclate;
 - Implement the move to two HWRC sites with stronger controls for cross boundary visitors and van users, including reallocated resource to encourage the public to recycle more;
 - Secure new recycling markets such as carpets, mattresses and hygiene waste to recycling.
6. The then Cabinet agreed that, in order to meet existing demand and to provide overall improved recycling infrastructure for Cardiff residents, facilities should continue to be provided at Bessemer Close and at Lamby Way. In September 2015 a further report was considered and it was approved that the existing Lamby Way facility would be replaced by a much larger modern facility and that Wedal Road facility was to close; conditional upon:
 - The opening of a new and improved recycling Centre at Lamby Way to complement the current Bessemer Close facility at Leckwith.
 - A free home collection service for recyclable and reusable items that would service the whole city.
 - Provision of reuse facilities that would receive and process reusable items and make them available back into the community at a reasonable charge is fully established.
7. All three conditions were delivered by the end of 2017.

Issues

8. The Wedal Road site is not regarded as suitable for the long-term provision of HWRC facilities due primarily to the size and access constraints to the site. These are the cause of significant congestion at peak times and have raised health and safety concerns as a result of the road being blocked by long queues and resulting dangerous driving behaviours reported. There are also significant environmental concerns that have been raised with the Council by Natural Resource Wales (NRW) regarding the impact of noise pollution on adjacent residential homes.
9. As a result, the previous administration included the disposal of the Wedal Road HWRC site in the 2017/18 Asset Management Plan with the consequential capital receipt being used to fund the 2017/18 capital

programme commitments. The site is being marketed and will be sold at auction on 6 March 2018 with the disposal being completed on or before 31 March 2018. In order to facilitate the disposal the site will close on Friday 2 March 2018.

10. In terms of making provision for future growth in demand for HWRC services resulting from the planned growth in the population of the city, the evidence base for the development of the Local Development Plan did not, at the time, identify any requirement for additional HWRC provision as a consequence of allocating new strategic housing development sites.
11. However, the phased nature of delivery of the strategic housing sites suggests there remains potential to work with the land owners/developers to identify an area of land within the strategic development sites, that would address any future requirement for additional HWRC facilities and/or to secure a financial contribution through future planning applications.
12. In order to justify investment in new HWRC provision a business case is required to understand the point at which demand will exceed current supply; the scale of provision required to futureproof the service; the associated capital costs for implementation; and the financial implications of on-going operation.
13. In addition to the business case, there is also a need to identify an alternative site that is suitable for the provision of HWRC facilities that can be secured to allow a new facility to be introduced as and when it is demonstrated through the business case to be required.

Reasons for Recommendation

14. To review the provision of HWRC facilities in Cardiff in the context of the anticipated future growth of the city.

Legal Implications

15. The Council has a statutory duty pursuant to the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to provide places for residents to dispose of their household waste. Any such place must be situated in the Council's area or be reasonably accessible and must be open at all reasonable times. The Council has a duty to ensure value for money in acquiring land and procuring associated works.

Financial Implications

16. The costs of developing the business case recommended in the report will be met from existing directorate revenue budgets. The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan Capital and revenue budgets proposed by Cabinet for Council approval, includes allocations towards developing and the operating costs of a New Household Waste Recycling Facility. These are subject to outcome of the site options appraisal and business case which should be developed and considered with financial services at an early

stage including additional funding options considered. Any business case will need to be developed in the context of impact on recycling targets and potential liabilities in the form of fines in relation to the targets.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Authorise the preparation of a business case relating to the potential future requirement for additional HWRC services in Cardiff and to present the findings of the business case to a future Cabinet meeting for consideration.
2. Authorise the commencement of a site options appraisal to identify a preferred location for potential future provision of additional HWRC facilities subject and to present the results to a future Cabinet meeting for consideration.

NEIL HANRATTY

Director of Economic Development

9 February 2018

The following background papers have been taken into account

- Response to Call-In for the New Household Waste Recycling Centre and Reuse Facility – Cabinet 1 October 2015
- Recycling and Waste Restriction Programme - Cabinet 2 April 2015
- Recycling Waste Management Strategy 2015 -2018