

4 October 2018		ITEM: 7
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Linford Household Waste & Recycling Centre – Site Redevelopment Update		
Wards and communities affected: All		Key Decision: N/A
Report of: Daren Spring - Assistant Director of Street Scene and Leisure		
Accountable Assistant Director: Daren Spring - Assistant Director of Street Scene and Leisure		
Accountable Director: Julie Rogers – Director of Environment and Highways		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

Thurrock Council operates a single Household Waste and Recycling Centre at Linford. The site is operating significantly over capacity with the layout and infrastructure not being in keeping with modern sites. This reduces the opportunities to encourage re-use and recycling. The site was bought back in-house in June 2017 after the incumbent contractor rejected the opportunity to renew the contract for operating the site. This presented the Council with an opportunity to improve the site and take measures to encourage recycling and prevent unauthorised waste disposal at the site.

Subject to planning approval the Committee agreed to recommend to Cabinet and Cabinet approved to delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Environment and Place (now the Director of Environment and Highways) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment for the procurement of contracts up to a value of £2.6 million for the redevelopment of the Household Waste and Recycling Centre.

This report provides an update on progress.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the report.

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 Thurrock Council has a statutory obligation under section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to provide residents with a facility for the disposal of bulky household waste. Thurrock Council currently operates a single site at Buckingham Hill Road in Linford Household Waste and Recycling Centre which is situated on a former Essex County Council Landfill Site. The land that the site sits on is fully owned by Thurrock Council. In line with Environmental Permitting Regulations Linford Household Waste and Recycling Centre is operated under licence from the Environment Agency with regular inspections being undertaken to ensure that the site is being run in accordance with the law. The site licence governs the site operations and the waste types that the site can accept; it also imposes requirements for site competent persons. Failure to comply with the terms of the licence can lead to the Council being prosecuted under Environmental Legislation or the restriction or closure of the site.

3. Current status of the site

- 3.1 The current Household Waste and Recycling Centre is not in keeping with modern facilities at other boroughs. The size of the site is struggling to meet current demand and will not be able to support the boroughs projected growth agenda. As it currently stands the site would not be able to be re-configured to support charged commercial waste deposits, a greater range of recycling containers or a dedicated re-use facility.

3.2 Land Management and Environmental Issues

The site is located on a former Essex County Council municipal landfill site and there is paucity of data relating to ground conditions, surface water drainage and gas migration issues. Site redevelopment will need to include further ground condition surveys.

3.3 Services and Utilities

The site has a mains supply of water and a landline telephone and a Network connection. The site does not however; have mains sewerage or electricity. The workarounds to this include a portable generator to provide power which is costly and caused significant problems with powering site CCTV and security measures.

4. Current status of the Redevelopment Project

- 4.1 A Planning application has been finalised and will be submitted by the end of September. Completion of the Planning process is estimated to take 2 months, Procurement and build is estimated to take 14 months. The timeline will be confirmed following completion of the Planning and subsequent Procurement Stage.
- 4.2 Consultancy support is being undertaken via procurement framework call off contract services. The procurement of the site redevelopment contracts will be

undertaken in line with the processes required under EU Procurement Regulations.

4.3 Highways Access Improvements

As part of the scheme a dedicated right turn lane to reduce the queuing traffic on Buckingham Hill Road is being proposed. In addition the increased site area will allow for additional 'on-site' stacking to reduce queuing on the Public Highway. The exit for Commercial Vehicles and HGV's servicing the site will also be segregated from car access and egress which will greatly improve site safety.

4.4 Connect the Site to Mains Power and Sewerage

Connecting the site to mains utilities will reduce revenue costs and will increase the reliability of site equipment and machinery. It will also allow for adequate lighting to be put in place during the winter months as well as removing the requirement for a septic tank, reducing costs and allowing for the drainage that will be required for site expansion. Recent commercial and residential redevelopments at Stanford-Le-Hope West mean that connection to mains service is now a viable option.

4.5 Significant Increase in Recycling and Re-use Facilities On-site

An increased range of recycling and re-use containers on-site will allow for a greater amount of waste items to be recycled or re-used instead of them being disposed of via more expensive methods. Increased space will allow for greater opportunities for partnership with local re-use community groups which will allow a greater number of items such as furniture, bicycles, electrical items and even items such as crutches to find new homes.

4.6 Introduction of a dedicated Commercial Waste Disposal Facility On-site

The site throughput data prior to the permitting scheme being implemented showed that a large amount of commercial waste was being disposed of at the site. An improved site layout and infrastructure will allow for the site to apply for an environmental permit for commercial waste disposal on-site. This will include the introduction of an electronic weighbridge with a dedicated commercial waste lane. This will provide an avenue for income generation and will provide commercial waste producers with a further avenue to dispose of their waste legally and responsibly.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

5.1 Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee October 2017 and Ward Members prior to that meeting.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 This report supports the Councils priority a clean environment that everyone has reason to take pride in.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Mark Terry**
Senior Financial Accountant

Capital approved by Cabinet for site redevelopment is £2.6 Million.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **David Lawson**
Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Under section 51 of the Environment Protection Act 1990 the Council has statutory obligation as a waste disposal authority to provide a facility for 'persons resident in its area' to dispose of household waste. Section 51(3) of the act makes provision for an authority to make changes for the deposit of Commercial or Industrial Waste.

The proposed value of the contracts for the redevelopment of the site is above the thresholds for the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and therefore a full and compliant EU Procurement process must be followed. In addition to the requirements of EU Procurement legislation the Procurement will be required to meet the Councils Contract Rules which sit within the Councils Constitution

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**
Community Engagement and Project Monitoring Officer

The redevelopment site will result in improved access to the site for those with accessibility requirements. The removal of stepped access to container and dedicated parking bays will resolve significant impediments that currently severely restrict site access by disabled and elderly people. A full Community Equalities Impact Assessment will be required as part of any redevelopment.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

Reduction in illegal waste disposal at Household Waste and Recycling Centre, the proposed Commercial Waste avenue at redeveloped site has the potential to reduce fly-tipping.

8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- Surrey County Council commercial vehicle access guidance
<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/apply-for-a-van-and-trailer-permit>
- Essex County Council Household Waste and Recycling Centre changes to waste acceptance policy at Waste & Recycling Centres:
<http://www.recycleforessex.com/our-waste-strategy/changes/>
- WRAP Household Waste and Recycling Centre guidance for Local Authorities:
http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/INH0449_HWRC_Guidance_2015_7%20FINAL.pdf

9. Appendices to the report

None

Report Author:

Daren Spring
Assistant Director, Street Scene and Leisure
Environment and Highways