

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CABINET**

DATE: **TUESDAY 21 APRIL 2015**

REPORT BY: **CHIEF OFFICER (STREETSCENE AND TRANSPORTATION)**

SUBJECT: **WASTE TRANSFER STATION AND BIOMASS PRODUCTION/ STORAGE AREA IN GREENFIELD**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.01 To seek Cabinet approval to progress proposals to develop a proposed waste transfer station and biomass production/ storage facility on land adjacent to the existing HRC site in Greenfield.

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 The area of land is owned by the Council and currently designated a 'Brown Field' site and has recently been leased to an engineering company to recycle the arisings from their work to lay the high voltage cable along the A548.
- 2.02 The Council holds a NRW waste permit for the site and there are currently a number of Council activities on going at the site.
1. HRC Site – The site is the location for the most modern, effective and high performing HRC in the County
 2. Composting facility – The open windrow composting facility treats all of the County Councils residential garden waste and also similar material imported from Denbighshire County Council. Approximately 8,000 tonnes of PAS 100 compliant compost is produced at the site each year.
 3. Winter maintenance rock-salt storage. – Approximately 7,000 tonnes of rock-salt is stored at the site to supplement the material held in the operational salt barns at Alltami depot
- 2.03 The Council were successful in bidding for Welsh Government funding to construct a compliant dewatering system for its gully and sweeper waste at the site. The material is currently disposed of in landfill. The funding (£235k from the WG's Waste Collaborative Change Programme) will allow for the construction of a licensed and permitted facility on the extended slab which is currently used to store the winter

maintenance rock-salt.

- 2.04 A second bid to rationalise the Councils waste collection and disposal arrangements has also been accepted by WG. The value of this bid is £519k and can be used to develop the site in Greenfield further to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the waste service.
- 2.05 A third 'Invest to Save' Bid of £750k has been submitted to WG for funding to complete the construction of the recycling facility. The bid was unsuccessful during the first consideration however it will be considered again by the WG panel in May 2015
- 2.06 All of the Councils waste and recycling vehicles currently use the depot and transfer stations in Alltami or Buckley to off load the waste material collected from kerbside. The material is then bulked up and sent to landfill or in the case of the recycling material to the appropriate merchant facility. The current tipping points are as follows:
- Food waste – At Alltami depot (on receipt of permit)
Residual waste – At Brookhill Transfer Station
Recycling material – At the Materials Recycling Facility in Standard Industrial Estate Buckley
- 2.07 Every vehicle is required to empty its contents at least twice a day and in many cases three visits to the tipping off point are required by vehicles. When vehicles are collecting in the North of the County it can take as long as one hour to travel from the residential collection points to the disposal point and back again. The delay has a financial cost in terms of fuel and obviously reduces the capacity of the rounds with the number of properties collected per day on rounds in the North of the County being considerably less than those on rounds in the South.
- 2.08 Each year approximately 8,000 tonnes of wood is brought to the HRC sites in Flintshire. Currently the material is sent to local companies who charge the authority for its ultimate disposal.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 A robust business case can be made to construct a second bulking up facility in the North of the County, which would only be used when vehicles are collecting in the local area. The business case has been produced from the Councils route optimisation software which calculates the fuel and time saved by utilising two 'drop off' points rather than the current single facility.

- 3.02 The business case indicates two benefits

1. Direct financial benefit from fuel savings which will deliver the

saving identified in the 2016- 17 Portfolio Business Plan.

2. The proposals will deliver additional capacity to the current waste rounds, which will negate the need to introduce an additional waste round to deal with the ever growing number of properties being constructed in the County
- 3.03 In addition the facility would offer the opportunity for neighbouring authorities to operate into the facility in a similar manner to ourselves i.e. when collections take place in the area of their County which is closest to the site.
 - 3.04 The proposed facility would comprise of a Waste Transfer Building, internally segregated to receive the following waste streams
 - Residual waste
 - All recycling types
 - 3.05 The building would be operated only when collections take place in the immediate area and during these periods the material would be bulked up and transferred for treatment as follows:

Residual waste – Directly to treatment or landfill
Recycling material – Directly to the Councils Materials Recycling Facility in Standard Industrial Estate, Buckley
 - 3.06 The estimated cost to construct the facility is £1.0m which will be funded as follows:
 - £235k from the initial successful Waste Collaborative Change Programme bid
 - £200k from previously approved Council Prudential Borrowing for improving recycling facilities at HRC and other waste sites
 - £519k From the second successful Waste Collaborative Change Bid
 - 3.07 In addition to the waste transfer station, the remaining area of the site can be surfaced to provide a storage area for the timber material which is currently brought to our HRC sites for disposal. The timber would need to be covered to allow it to dry before being eventually chipped or shredded to form Biomass.
 - 3.08 The Biomass material would become available for use in an appropriate boiler at a Council owned facility or sold directly to merchants for use nationally.
 - 3.09 The cost of the groundwork required to create the storage area is estimated at £750k and forms the basis of the Invest to Save bid to WG.

- 3.10 The business case for constructing the Biomass treatment area is also robust and provides the Council with a sustainable energy source into the future

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 That Cabinet approves the continued development of the proposed Waste Transfer Station proposals in Greenfield
- 4.02 That Cabinet approves the continued development of the proposed Biomass storage and production facility in Greenfield
- 4.03 That Cabinet approves the use of the prudential borrowing funding previously allocated to HRC and waste improvements to part fund the scheme

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 Business Cases for each proposal form the details of the portfolio Business Planning proposals

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 Not applicable.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 Utilising Biomass would significantly reduce the Councils Carbon Footprint.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.01 Not Applicable.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.01 None – staff would transfer between the transfer stations as required.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

- 10.01 Prior to commencement with statutory bodies and local members.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

- 11.01 With Cabinet Member.

12.00 APPENDICES

None.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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