

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CABINET**

DATE: **TUESDAY, 23 JUNE 2015**

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

SUBJECT: **HOPE HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To provide Cabinet with the outcome of the extended dialogue and discussions with County Councillors and local Community Councils over the future of Hope Household Recycling Centre (HRC)

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 On 23 April 2015 Cabinet considered the new waste collections policy. The policy included a proposal to rationalise the Councils HRC provision which included the closure the HRC facility in Hope.

2.02 The new policy was approved by Cabinet with the inclusion of the following additional recommendation

“To allow for further public consultation and discussion with the new member for the Caergwrle ward, a decision about the future of Hope Household Recycling Centre be deferred until June 2015”

2.03 In the period since the April Cabinet meeting, the following additional consultation meetings have taken place.

May18th 2015 – Cabinet Member and Chief Officer met with all of the local County Council members (Including the new member for Caergwrle)

June 2015 - Cabinet Member and Chief Officer attended the following Community Council meetings

- Leeswood
- Hope and Caergwrle
- Treuddyn
- Penyffordd
- Kinnerton
- Llanyfynydd

2.04 The Cabinet Member and Chief Officer were well received at each of the meetings and despite the obvious local concerns within the communities, were provided with the opportunity to provide the background to the recommendation to close the site at well managed meetings. At each of the events those in attendance asked a number of questions, which were subsequently summarised in a document of Frequently Asked Questions and passed to those in attendance through the Community Councils. **(Appendix 1)**

2.05 The Council received numerous requests for further information during the period. This included breakdowns on footfalls, recycling rates and the cost of operating the site and projected savings from the closure. This information was provided and two members of the community were invited to attend Alltami depot to go through the figures provided in a greater level of detail.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 During the meeting with County Councillors in May, an alternative option which would involve the transfer of the facility to the community under asset transfer arrangements, was suggested.

3.02 The proposal would result in the site continuing to operate as a community asset, with local volunteers or community groups taking on responsibility for the site and all the daily activities there.

Details were as follows:

- The site would transfer to a group of interested Community Councils or community groups, following the Councils Asset Transfer protocols
- The site would remain open as 'Recycling Only' facility at weekends only - staffed and operated by the community

Note – Local members preferred a residual waste disposal option to be provided at the site but this would not be possible given the ever increasing cost of landfill and national recycling targets imposed by Welsh Government on each County Council

- County Council officers would provide support and guidance to the community groups for permit applications etc.
- The County Council will continue to service the site and provide access to the recycling markets used by the Council. The value of the recycling products received at the site would be passed onto the new operating organisations

3.03 If a notice of intent (expression of interest) was received from one or more of the local Community Councils or community groups to

proceed on this basis, the Council would operate the above arrangements (Recycling and weekend only) in the interim period to allow the asset transfer to take place and the new operating arrangements to be introduced

3.04 The proposed timelines for the proposal are as follows:-

Closing date for receipt of notice of intent (Expression of interest EOI) – 1st September 2015

Target hand over date – subject to completion of Asset Transfer documentation following receipt of EOI – 1 January 2016

The new arrangement (Saturday / Sunday & 'Recycling Only') would commence under County Council control on 1st July 2015 until the hand over takes place on 1 January 2016.

The site will close completely on 1st September 2015 if a notification of EOI is not received from the Community Councils or community groups.

3.05 All Councillors present at the meeting in May agreed that this was a sustainable route forward for the facility and agreed that the proposals should be presented to each Community Council for their consideration.

3.06 The information and the new proposed operating model was then presented to each Community Council and during the period of the meeting schedule a second option was also put forward by one of the Community Councils for the site – as follows

As option detailed in 3.02 - The site becomes a 'Recycling only' and 'Weekend only' from 1st July 2015

Subject to the receipt of an EOI from one or more Community Councils or community groups by August 31st 2015, the site will remain open on this basis to allow the community to develop a volunteer's rota to operate the site. Following receipt of the rota, the site would then remain in the ownership and management of the Council, with the site staff provided through the community to run the facility at weekends.

The Council will provide full training, risk assessments etc. for the volunteers who would work at the facility.

3.07 The two options were confirmed to each Community Council with a request that any expression of interest is received by 31st August 2015.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01** That Cabinet approve that Hope HRC site operates on weekends only basis from 6th July 2015 and receives only recycled material at the facility after this date
- 4.02** That Cabinet approves the proposed closing date for the receipt of expressions of interest from any Community Council (s) or community groups indicating interest in operating the facility or providing volunteers to operate the site in future.
- 4.03** That Cabinet approves the closure of the site on 1st September 2015 should no expressions of interest be received or at a date between 1st September and 1st January 2016, if there is no evidence during the period that the expression of interest received is likely to progress
- 4.04** That Cabinet approves extending the period of operations at the facility on a weekend/recycling only basis, subject to the receipt of an expressions of interest from any Community Council (s) or community groups to operate the facility as a community asset

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

- 5.01 The proposals will reduce the expected savings from the rationalisation of HRC's in the period that the site remains open and before it is transferred to the community

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 No impact

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 Increasing recycling levels and reducing landfill volumes will positively impact on the environment

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.01 The proposal will not disproportionately impact on any individual or protected group

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.01 None – staff will transfer to other sites replacing current temporary agency staff

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

None

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

As detailed in the report

12.00 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – FAQ's and briefing note

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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