

CAMBRIDGE AND NORTHSTOWE HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE PROVISION

To: **Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee**

Meeting Date: **7 July 2015**

From: **Executive Director - Economy, Transport and Environment**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Forward Plan ref: **2015/002** *Key decision:* **Yes**

Purpose: **To inform Members of the proposed Cambridge and Northstowe Household Recycling Centre (HRC) provision.**

Recommendation: **Committee is asked to approve the arrangements for the Household Recycling Centre (HRC) provision for Cambridge and Northstowe as set out in Section 3 of this report.**

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report considers the issues surrounding the Household Recycling Centre (HRC) provision for Cambridge and Northstowe, taking account of Section 106 (S106) contributions for the household waste recycling service already secured. It also considers issues around seeking further funds following new restrictions introduced by the recent Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulations on 6 April 2015. Separate confidential legal advice on the matter has been obtained (see **Appendix 1**).
- 1.2 The current County Council waste planning policy identifies that new HRCs will be located in the following broad locations to serve the future growth generated in Cambridge and Northstowe areas:
- Cambridge North;
 - Cambridge South;
 - Cambridge East;
 - Northstowe.
- 1.3 S106 contributions have been sought on this policy. (Appendix 2 shows a map identifying all S106 catchment areas across Cambridgeshire). The policy incorporates the need that the existing Milton HRC is linked to the life of the landfill where the current planning permission expires in 2019.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 The County Council is needing to save revenue costs in providing its Waste Services to meet the savings identified within the Council's business plan. As part of this a Household Recycling Service Review was undertaken in 2014 to consider whether we would have to reduce the existing network of 9 HRCs across Cambridgeshire. Each existing site costs approximately £200,000 per annum to operate and maintain, with the more modern facilities costing significantly more. Although this work has now been incorporated into a wider waste review, the issue still remains as to whether we can afford to maintain the existing 9 HRC sites, let alone add a further four.
- 2.2 Over £2 Million of S106 funds have been secured for the provision of four new facilities in the Cambridge and Northstowe area (see Appendix 3). However, additional funds would still need to be identified to build the facilities and more revenue funds would be needed to operate and maintain them. Consideration has therefore been given to whether greater benefits could be obtained by using the existing S106 contributions to create one facility capable of serving the whole area, rather than creating four smaller ones.
- 2.3 Although creating one facility would not be in line with the Council's current waste planning policy and Development Plan, it would create a pragmatic approach. To amend the current policy would require a significant period of time and resources including a necessary public consultation. It would require a future planning application for a single facility to demonstrate that it has been planned to allow for the growth anticipated and is capable of serving the developments from which the funds have been obtained. By providing one facility, it would also allow us to use all the funds secured to date (albeit some of the S106 contributions are time limited). All S106 contributions will be used on

one facility which will require less additional funding from the County Council than would be required for four smaller facilities.

- 2.4 Although we have secured land for a new HRC at Northstowe, it is situated at the northern end of the site and in the employment area close to the Guided Busway at Longstanton. This means it is close to the existing Bluntisham facility and is not best placed to serve the needs of the wider area that Milton currently serves. It is important to note that the monies secured from Phase 1 of the Northstowe development for an HRC at Northstowe will require a negotiation with the developers to allow the secured land to be returned to them in exchange for funds that can be used on the single facility for the wider area.
- 2.5 The new CIL regulations cap S106 contributions per project. This means that by using the existing S106 contributions for one HRC facility no further funds will be able to be sought from any new agreements for known developments at this time in this catchment area.

3. THE WAY FORWARD

3.1 The proposed way forward is to:

- Combine all strategic waste S106 contributions in the Cambridge and Northstowe area secured prior to 6 April 2015.
- To provide one new HRC facility in the Cambridge and Northstowe area instead of the current four smaller facilities contained within the existing waste planning policy.

4. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

4.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

- S106 planning obligations help to develop the local economy, and in this instance help provide Household Recycling Centres which are seen as a key service to local communities.

4.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives

- S106 planning obligations help to fund infrastructure, such as Household Recycling Centres. Providing an effective recycling service is important in facilitating a high quality of life, by meeting the needs of the individual, whilst remaining responsive to the changing needs for the wider communities.

4.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people

- Make the best use of resources / services to support the new communities and the vulnerable within Cambridgeshire and in particular those people in most need of access to facilities such as Household Recycling Centres.

5. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

5.1 Resource Implications

- This proposal seeks to use resources to their maximum benefit.

5.2 Statutory, Risk and Legal Implications

- If a one larger facility approach is undertaken this will involve departing from existing waste planning policy where at present four smaller Household Recycling Centres are proposed for the growth in the 'Cambridge and Northstowe' area. There may be a risk of a challenge from Developers who made their contribution on the basis of 4 facilities for this area.
- The Northstowe S106 agreement for Phase 1 will need to be successfully renegotiated to ensure the best outcome for the Authority and its communities is reached.
- The S106 cap for a single project / facility has been reached meaning no more can be added to it.

5.3 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

5.4 Engagement and Consultation Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

5.5 Localism and Local Member Involvement

Members have been provided with briefing sessions on S106, Household recycling service and CIL developments.

5.6 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

Source Documents	Location
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Development Plan Document (July 2011);	http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20099/planning_and_development/49/water_minerals_and_waste/7
RECAP Waste Management Design Guide (February 2012);	http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20099/planning_and_development/49/water_minerals_and_waste/6