

From: David Brazier - Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport
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To: Environment & Transport Cabinet Committee – 17 September 2014

Subject: 14/00102 Sittingbourne Household Waste Recycling Centre and Waste Transfer Station Redevelopment

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: None

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member for decision

Electoral Division: Swale Borough Council area divisions

Summary: To seek Cabinet Committee endorsement for capital expenditure for the redevelopment of the Sittingbourne Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) and Waste Transfer Station (WTS) facility, to enable the County Council to efficiently and effectively manage waste arising from the Swale area.

Recommendations: That the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee consider and endorse the letting of contracts for the redevelopment and re-provision of the Sittingbourne Household Waste Recycling Centre and Waste Transfer Station as set out in this paper.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides information concerning a capital project which KCC Waste Management is seeking to undertake to redevelop Sittingbourne Household Waste Recycling Centre and Waste Transfer Station to ensure the effective receipt of waste from Waste Collection Authorities and householders in accordance with statutory duties.
- 1.2 Kent County Council as the statutory Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) owns the Waste Transfer Station (WTS) and co-located Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) in Gas Road, Sittingbourne. This is a strategic waste management facility providing the primary disposal point for a Waste Collection Authority's (WCA) kerbside collected residual waste, dry recyclate and food waste. In this instance the primary WCA is Swale Borough Council. The facility also provides a Household Waste Recycling Centre service for the residents of Sittingbourne and the surrounding areas. Trade and business wastes are also accepted on a commercial basis.
- 1.3 The facility is approaching the end of its designed life expectancy and is consequentially considered no longer "fit for purpose", in particular in relation to safety considerations concerning the deposit of multiple waste streams.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 The Capital allocation provided in the capital programme for the scheme is £3.38m. Whilst this sum is the maximum cost of the redevelopment of this site, the Waste Management team will be actively exploring innovative alternative options which seek to reduce overall capital expenditure through working in partnership with stakeholders in the public and commercial sectors.
- 2.2 The proposed redevelopment will reduce the cost of maintenance for a number of years (estimated at £50k per annum reduction) through providing a better quality and fit for purpose facility.
- 2.3 The redevelopment of this site will negate the need for any compensatory payments to the Swale Borough Council in respect of any requirement to deposit a proportion of their collected waste at alternative sites. A current claim for compensation is under negotiation with Swale BC in respect of a requirement to tip food waste at an alternative site, and this is estimated to be in the order of a minimum £200k per annum.
- 2.4 The redevelopment of the site will enhance KCC's ability to develop its trade waste offer at this site, thus creating potential for further income generation in the order of £50k per annum.

3. The Report

- 3.1 This is a capital project identified in Waste Management's operating plans as a priority for 2014 - 2016 (subject to obtaining Planning Approval and a variation to the Environmental Permit). This project is to maintain service continuity rather than reduce budget, however, the proposed investment in the site will provide additional capacity and future-proofing, and reduce short to medium term maintenance costs compared to the existing facility. By renewing the site, annual maintenance (revenue) costs can be avoided, estimated at £50k per annum.
- 3.2 New statutory waste regulations, which take effect from January 2015, require that municipal waste is separated into a variety of fractions, and thus any municipal waste transfer station must be capable of enabling such separation in a safe and effective manner. The Health and Safety at Work Etc. Act 1972 requires that the operation of such a site is conducted using safe working practices.
- 3.3 Temporary facilities will be provided for both Swale Borough Council and members of the public to ensure that waste can be properly disposed of during the construction phase. This phase, subject to necessary approvals, is expected to take place from spring 2015 for approximately 12 months.

4. Conclusions

Capital expenditure is required to ensure KCC meets its statutory duties in a safe, compliant and efficient manner. Robust procurement processes will be undertaken to identify providers of construction works for this project.

5. Recommendations

That the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee consider and endorse the letting of contracts for the redevelopment and re-provision of the Sittingbourne Household Waste Recycling Centre and Waste Transfer Station as set out in this paper.

6. Background Documents

Proposed Record of Decision

EqlA Sittingbourne HWRC TS Redevelopment

HWRC Service consultation February 2012:

<https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/environment-and-planning/recycling-and-rubbish/HWRC%20Consultation%20-%20December%202011/PUBLIC%20-%20Post%20consultation%20report%20approval.pdf>

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