

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Mr David Brazier, Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport

DECISION NO:

14/00102

For publication**Subject:**

Sittingbourne Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) & Waste Transfer Station (WTS) Redevelopment.

Decision:

That the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport commit to expenditure on relevant construction contracts for the redevelopment of Sittingbourne HWRC and WTS.

Reason(s) for decision:

Kent County Council as the 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 HWRC service for the residents of Sittingbourne and the surrounding areas. Trade and business wastes are also accepted on a commercial basis.

The facility is approaching the end of its designed life expectancy and is consequentially considered no longer "fit for purpose", particularly in relation to safety considerations concerning the deposit of multiple waste streams.

This project is to deliver both of these facilities (HWRC and WTS) to offer sufficient flexibility and operability for the next 15 years. 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.

This capital 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 – 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.

The Capital allocation for the scheme is £3.38m. Whilst this sum is the maximum cost of the redevelopment of this site, the Waste Management team shall be actively exploring innovative alternative options which will seek to reduce overall capital expenditure through working in partnership with stakeholders in the public and commercial sectors.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

HWRC Service consultation February 2012 - included a question regarding customers' views about the adequacy of the existing Sittingbourne HWRC. 84% of respondents' views supported a redevelopment of the facility.

Key stakeholders will be engaged including the relevant Waste Collection Authorities, local landowners and equality and diversity organisations (to inform facility design).

Any alternatives considered: Yes – reduced expenditure options discounted due to significant negative impacts on the authority’s ability to provide the statutory services in a safe and efficient manner.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:
None.

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signed

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date