

Report of the Director of City Strategy

WASTE UPDATE

Purpose of report

1. To provide and update to Members on the relocation options for Beckfield Lane HWRC requesting funding for additional feasibility work and to update on negotiations on the interim contract for waste disposal.

Background – Beckfield Lane HWRC

2. As part of the policy prospectus for 07/08, members via the groups leaders agreed that options relating to Beckfield Lane HWRC should be considered largely because of the position of the site within a residential area and the traffic congestion associated with the site.
3. A full analysis of the options available was undertaken in May 07 taking into account work undertaken by external consultants; this was considered by Corporate Management Team. It was clear there was no option that provided an ideal solution, because of the criteria considered.
4. Following further consultation, the options analysis was narrowed to considering 3 options. Initial feasibility work has been undertaken on these options, funded from within existing budgets. However in order to progress this work to the position where members have sufficient information to make a decision it is estimated that a further £35,000 is required to cover preliminary design work, specifications, topographical surveys and further analysis of planning issues around the short listed options.
5. Members are therefore requested to consider the priority of this work in the current financial year. In order to fund the additional feasibility work which will be carried out by the engineering design team, supported by external advisors as appropriate, a funding request will be required, as no funds are currently allocated to this work. If Members consider this work to be a priority a request can be made by Executive to full Council for the release of funds from reserves. Alternatively a growth bid can be made for funding from 09/10 budgets.
6. If Members are minded to support the work, a capital growth bid will need to be submitted for future years capital expenditure.

Background – Interim Waste Disposal Contract

7. As Members are aware the Council has entered into an Inter Authority Agreement with NYCC to provide long term waste disposal facilities through the PFI scheme. Until this contract is operational there is a potential LATS liability in target years (please refer to report to Executive on 27 March 2007) and consequently the two authorities have been working together to find an interim solution to cover the period until the PFI contract is operational in 2013/14.
8. It had been anticipated that the outcome would have been known at this stage, enabling a recommendation to be put to members on whether CYC should participate in joint arrangements with NYCC. However negotiations have not yet been completed and a report will be brought back for members consideration when the evaluation has been completed
9. Members are therefore asked to note the latest position.

Options on HWRC relocation

10. Option 1 Do nothing. This would involve continuing to use the facilities available at Beckfield Lane for the foreseeable future, and is not recommended because of ongoing anti-social behaviour issues, traffic congestion and proximity to residential housing
11. Option 2 Undertake additional feasibility work in 08/09. This would inform members on preferred options and estimated costs and would enable an accurate bid to be submitted for capital funding in 09/10
12. Option 3 – Request Council to prioritise funding for the feasibility work identified as part of the 09/10 budget process, with associated estimated capital costs.

Way Forward – HWRC

13. From the work undertaken to date it is clear that the HWRC at Beckfield Lane is not longer fit for purpose as currently operated. Given the significant resources investments needed to deliver a suitable facility, it is vital to undertake additional feasibility and costing work to the initial studies that have already taken place.

Corporate Priorities

14. Corporate Priority Number 1 is to decrease the tonnage of biodegradable waste and recyclable products going to landfill. A contribution to this priority would be made by providing improved facilities over and above that of the existing Beckfield Lane HWRC.
 - a. Corporate Priority Number 10 is to improve our focus on the needs of customers and residents in designing and providing services. This would be achieved by providing a more accessible, and easier to use facility.
 - b. Corporate Priority Number 12 is to improve the way the council and its partners work together to deliver better services for the people who live in York. This would be achieved by consulting with contractors on

optimisation of facility design, and continuous monitoring of contractor performance.

Implications

Financial

15. The cost of undertaking the additional work is approximately £35,000 for which there is not budget. If Members wish to proceed, either a request should be made to release funds from contingency in 08/09 (this requirement has not previously been highlighted) or a growth bid should be submitted as part of the 09/10 budget process.
16. Whichever route is followed a bid for capital funding would be required for the capital works that would need to be undertaken for the year of implementation.
17. The General Contingency for 2008/09 was set at £800k. Potential areas that might require funding during the year were identified as part of the budget process, and totalled over £2m, which included £750k for costs connected with the Highways PFI bid. To date £14k has been released leaving £786k available although there is a further request elsewhere on the agenda for £32k. It is too early to know yet how many of the identified areas of financial pressure will be brought before Members for funding. The key pressures identified where there may be a need for additional funding included within the £2m, are: downturn in parking pcn income, concessionary fares and children's social care costs. This request was not included in the £1.989m identified as possible recurring pressures in the budget. Any release from the contingency will obviously reduce sums available for distribution during the remainder of the year. The balance available, if this application is approved, will be £751k. It should be noted however that this sum is for one-off purposes so therefore will not impact on future years revenue budget.

Human Resources (HR) (Contact – Head of HR)

18. There are no HR implications.

Equalities (Contact – Equalities Officer)

19. One of the key concerns about the current arrangements at Beckfield Lane is the customer access issues. Whilst there is a proportion of visitors 'on foot', the majority use individual vehicles. One of the key criteria in the evaluation of options will be the impact on customers; this will involve liaising with the Equalities section to ensure appropriateness of the criteria used and the evaluation methodology.

Legal (Contact – Head of Legal and Democratic Services)

19. At this stage there no Legal implications, but if and when sale and purchase of land proceed, there will be Legal involvement required.

Crime and Disorder (Contact - Senior Partnerships Support Officer, Community Planning & Partnerships)

20. Crime and Disorder implications require further investigation. HWRC's are vulnerable to vandalism, theft and abusive behaviour.

Information Technology (IT) (Contact – Head of IT)

21. There are no IT implications.

Property (Contact – Property)

22. There is currently an outline planning application for residential development pending for the Beckfield Lane site, and the site is HRA owned. Property will be involved in the options appraisal work to be undertaken

Risk Management

23. The reduction and recycling of waste is a high priority for the Council, because of the potential exposure to government penalties. The development of the HWRC's is part of this overall strategy.
24. The Council's 3 HWRC's play a significant role in meeting the future recycling and composting targets, agreed in the York & North Yorkshire Waste Partnership strategy. By doing nothing, there is a risk that the Council may not be able to meet its future statutory targets and obligations to the Partnership (SLA's).
25. In doing nothing there is a significant reputational risk to the Council as there is public expectation of a new site being provided, also implied by the sale of Northfield School site for housing development. This may be interpreted by the public that the Council are less than committed to recycling.
26. There is financial risk in doing something, as the one-off costs are likely to be higher than anticipated, and there will be increases in operating costs as well.

Recommendations

27. Members are recommended to
 - a) Note the position on the interim waste contract
 - b) Consider which option identified in paragraph 10 –12 above they wish to support, including the release of funding as required.

Contact Details

Author:

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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

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Director of City Strategy

Report Approved

tick

Date *Insert Date*

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Financial
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Wards Affected: Skelton, Rawcliffe and Clifton Without; Holgate;
Acomb; Westfield; Dringhouses and Woodthorpe; Rural York West

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Planning Feasibility Report, Assessment of Short listed Sites for Beckfield Lane
HWS, Spawforth Associates, September 2005
Executive Report: Household Waste Sites – Relocation and Site Development, 1st
June 2004.
CIWM Scientific & Technical Review, April 2005
National Assessment of Civic Amenity Sites, 2004