

Report of the Chief Executive

WASTE ISSUES – WOLLASTON HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE

1 Purpose of report

The report outlines some progress in relation to waste collection matters and seeks decisions in relation to Wollaston Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) and a capital finance bid relating to replacement waste bins.

2 Executive summary

In March 2015 Resources Committee considered a report on Waste Collection. The Committee agreed, amongst other things, to set up a Waste Collection Member Working Group and to operate the Wollaston HWRC for a 12 month trial period. This report provides an update on these matters.

3 Appendices

None.

4 Proposed action:

- 4.1 The Committee is invited to note that the Member Working Group will now be convened to consider strategic matters in relation to waste collection.**
- 4.2 The Committee is invited to RECOMMEND to Resources Committee that the Wollaston HWRC is operated for a further 6 months at an approximate cost of £45,000 to be funded from reserves.**
- 4.3 The Committee is invited to RECOMMEND to Resources Committee that a Capital Bid of £15,000 is agreed to enable the purchase of additional waste receptacles in the short term.**

5 Background and Discussion

- 5.1 As explained in the report to Resources Committee in March 2015 Waste Collection and Waste Disposal have been subject to a number of discussions between the County Council (the Waste Disposal Authority) and the District and Borough Councils (the Waste Collection Authorities).

- 5.2 There are still several unresolved strategic matters and so far the Member Working Group has not even met. It is considered that it will be possible to convene a meeting of the group in the near future. However, there are two more immediate issues to address.
- 5.3 Firstly the Wollaston HWRC has now been operated for 12 months by Wellingborough Norse.
- 5.4 At the time members agreed to take over the operation of the HWRC for a trial 12 months the financial risks were pointed out and considered. As we approach the end of the financial year the gross costs appear to be around £90,000. Income from recycling income has been very low at less than £5,000.
- 5.5 Local people, particularly via Wollaston Parish Council value the service and wish it to continue. There is a good understanding that this is a significant additional financial burden for the Borough Council. Discussions on how to reduce the cost have taken place with Wollaston Parish Council. They have indicated that they are prepared to contribute £5,000 per annum to the costs and feel that perhaps other Parishes could also consider contributions.
- 5.6 In addition Wellingborough Norse have agreed to contribute £10,000 to the running costs.
- 5.7 This reduces the BCW net cost element to approximately £70,000 per annum. This is still a substantial amount and members will need to consider how to prioritise this against other costs and expenditure. As members are aware the Council's overall financial position remains challenging.
- 5.8 As a further interim position it is recommended that the existing temporary arrangement be continued for a further 6 months to allow for further discussions with Parish Council colleagues about possible contributions.
- 5.9 A further report will be brought back to Committee in September 2016.
- 5.10 The second issue relates to a need to purchase additional waste bins to replace stolen, lost or damaged bins and to provide for the increasing number of new property completions. This is a longer term issue which requires detailed consideration by the Working Group. However, in order to relieve the immediate financial pressure a Capital Bid for £15,000 has been completed and is recommended to members.

6 Legal powers

Environmental Protection Act (EPA) 1990 and associated regulations.

7 Financial and value for money implications

Covered within the body of the report.

8 Risk analysis

Risks associated with the issues outlined in this report are primarily financial, and have been outlined in the report.

9 Implications for resources

Any changes to policy or consideration of changes will result in a level of work for officers involved. Changes to policy will also have resource implications and these will be outlined when reports are submitted.

10 Implications for equalities and stronger and safer communities

- 10.1 The immediate decision in relation to Wollaston HWRC does not have any immediate impact on equalities because the same facilities are available elsewhere if it were to close; since any visits to the HWRC would be by car there is no discernible difference.
- 10.2 Wellingborough Norse have been concerned about the level of crime (theft and break-ins) associated with the HWRC site. They do take all reasonable measures to reduce it, but it is a consideration in relation to the costs of operating this site.
- 10.3 In relation to other matters considered in this report, any changes to policy would need to be considered in relation to the impact it may have on different sectors of the community. An assessment will be carried out if appropriate and dependent on the discussions of the working group.

11 Author and contact officer

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12 Consultees

Bernard Gallyot, Operations Director, Wellingborough Norse
Liz Elliott, Head of Finance
Bridget Lawrence, Head of Resources
Julie Thomas, Head of Planning and Local Development
Paul Burnett, Principal Property and Facilities Manager

13 Background papers

Report on Waste Collection to Resources Committee on 18 March 2015.

