

## Household Waste Recycling Centre Strategy

### Briefing note

1. This issue was considered by Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2011. The report presented by the Deputy Director for Growth and Infrastructure is attached as Appendix A to this briefing note, along with an extract from the minutes of that meeting.
2. Comments from the Communities and Partnership Scrutiny Committee, made at our meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> March, were considered as part of the County Council's consultation on this matter. Our comments are attached in full as Appendix B to this note.
3. A summary of our comments and the County Council's views is shown below.

Summary of our comments	County Council response (where given)
<p>Welcome for the proposed new recycling centre at Kidlington</p>	<p>Committed to investment in Kidlington – provisional opening date is April 2012. This will have a dedicated re-use store where people can donate or purchase items of reasonable quality.</p> <p>The new facility will service Oxford City, along with Redbridge at limited times (see below)</p>
<p>Committee noted that the Strategy had been amended from its original form which proposed the closure of Redbridge to all domestic waste to allow it to take domestic waste at weekends. This is a step in the right direction.</p> <p>Concern remained about the service gap when Redbridge closed for refurbishment; efforts should be made to find a temporary site closer to the City</p> <p>However the Committee remained concerned that the proposals were not fully adequate for the City's needs. 40% of visits were on weekdays, and there was concern that poor or changed access would</p>	<p>Redbridge will accept domestic waste at weekends and over Bank Holidays when it re-opens in January/February 2013.</p> <p>Redbridge will close for refurbishment 1 month after Kidlington opens. Kidlington is scheduled to open in April 2012 (provisional date). No direct comment made about finding a temporary site during the service gap.</p> <p>New trade waste facilities at Kidlington and an improved facility at Redbridge should help discourage fly tipping.</p>

<p>lead to more fly-tipping. This is expensive to clear, a better use of money would be to support the full opening of Redbridge to domestic waste.</p> <p><i>(Note: 26% of all comments received in the Consultation expressed concern that fly tipping would increase)</i></p>	<p>Security measures will be introduced at all waste sites to control fly tipping at sites that are set to close. Oxfordshire County Council is working through the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership to support enforcement officers and this will continue to be a priority as part of the wider strategy on waste.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that concern was expressed in the consultation that restricted hours would be confusing, but support was given to the proposal as long as traders were not allowed to use the Redbridge site at weekends.</p> <p>The County Council feels that the Kidlington site is well placed for residents in North Oxford and that this will reduce pressure on Redbridge, The Drayton facility could increase its use and thus also reduce pressure on Redbridge.</p>
<p>It was felt that some people who would normally take bulky rubbish to Redbridge would ask for a kerbside collection, this increasing pressure on this service in terms of both affordability and customer service</p>	<p>Improved kerbside collection services have reduced the number of visits to the waste sites, but there was support for the strategy expressed in the consultation provided that bulky waste collections remained at a reasonable cost and garden waste was collected at the kerbside.</p> <p>The County Council would continue to work with District Councils via the Waste Partnership to ensure that pressures on kerbside collections are managed</p> <p>The County Council is continuing to explore opportunities to recycle more items, such as mattresses and carpets, and all sites will have a re-use area for furniture and bric-a-brac.</p>
<p>It was noted that the refurbishment at Redbridge was to be supported by private investment. Should this not appear, then all efforts to bridge the gap should be made.</p>	<p>It was acknowledged that the maintenance of a weekend opening at Redbridge, along with other measures, would result in additional costs being incurred compared with</p>

<p>The position whereby Oxford had no recycling facility for domestic waste was insupportable.</p>	<p>the Directorate's original Business Strategy. But it is possible that additional costs could be absorbed is overall waste arising continues to fall.</p> <p>There is a pressure arising from the decommissioning of sites in 2012/13 and 2015/16. In the absence of additional funding, pressures from 2014/15 onwards will need to be addressed inn the next round of service planning in autumn 2011.</p> <p>Capital pressure for the maintenance of opening at Redbridge is £1.5million with management fees of £130,000 for a 7 day opening. To undertake the work at both Redbridge and Stanford in the Vale, the £1.8million of capital savings currently shown in the savings plan would have to be released, plus further pressure of £450,000. It is anticipated that some of this could be made from revenue savings if landfill reductions can be made.</p> <p>Capital budget has been secured for Kidlington and a new facility near to Banbury (total of £3.75million)</p>
<p>Comments were made about traffic – with weekend opening, some weekday visits would probably move to the weekend, leading to increased traffic pressure around Redbridge or increased waiting time to enter the facility. This would cause disruption to those living in, or travelling through, this area.</p> <p>If there are increased visits to Kidlington there would be increased traffic flows and congestion in the north of the City.</p> <p>These issues need to be planned for within the strategy.</p>	<p>It was acknowledged that 21% of comments in the consultation related to impact on the local environment and increased traffic. Monitoring shows that the number of visits to sites is reducing.</p> <p>There are opportunities for recycling at sites other that HWRC, such as battery recycling at supermarkets and DIT stores</p> <p>By ensuring that sites are well located to the main centres of population, overall levels of accessibility will be improved.</p> <p>The proposals for Redbridge were supported provided that traders were limited to weekdays only in order to reduce congestion. The</p>

	<p>redevelopment of Redbridge would enable greater throughput and reduce congestion on site.</p> <p>The remaining sites offer scope for redevelopment and increased capacity should the need arise.</p> <p>Expansion of kerbside collections (supported via the Waste Partnership) should mean fewer visits to Waste Sites.</p>
<p>The Committee would like confirmation that the strategy has no intention of charging domestic waste customers.</p> <p>Consideration could be given to differential charging for trade customers in an effort to encourage recycling</p>	No comment made
<p>Further information required for Oxford residents , including clear information and signposting in plain English</p>	No comment made

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The meeting of the Cabinet on 19<sup>th</sup> April resolved to:

*a) Approve the Household Waste Recycling Centre Strategy as detailed in this report;*

*b) Authorise detailed implementation plans, including minor changes to the strategy, to be approved by the Director for Environment and Economy in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure.*

Information from Oxfordshire County Council is that the strategy is now being taken forward. County Officers are currently working with City Officers on issues at Redbridge and that there have been meetings at senior level. Further information on this is not known at present.

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23<sup>rd</sup> May 2011