

Neighbourhood Services & Community Involvement Scrutiny Commission Report

New Household Waste Recycling Centre Update Report

Assistant Mayor Councillor Sarah Russell
Lead director: John Leach

26th January, 2015

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: Rushymead, Hamilton & Humberstone and City wide
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- Report version number plus Code No from Report Tracking Database:

1. Purpose of report

To provide an update report regarding the construction and completion of the new Household Waste Recycling Centre to be located on Gypsum Close, Leicester.

2. Summary

This report provides an update on the construction and completion of the new Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) located on Gypsum Close, Leicester. It covers in outline the progress with respect to this development since construction commenced in June 2014 and work towards the planned opening in spring 2015.

The Neighbourhood Services and Community Involvement Scrutiny Commission previously received a report relating to this matter on 4th July, 2013.

The facilities for the new site will include:-

1. Household waste delivered by residents as a replacement site for Bridge Road HWRC.
2. Trade/Commercial waste reception and sorting facilities to generate revenue and provide a registered recycling/disposal facility for the smaller businesses in the City, such as landscape gardeners, builders etc.
3. A reuse facility. To work with a local partner/charity to salvage reusable items and for them to either donate or sell them on at discounted costs to disadvantaged individuals.

The construction programme is scheduled to be completed on time in line with the opening in Spring 2015.

The budget for the facility is £3,533,500 and is funded from the Government's Weekly Support Fund. The project will come in within the overall budget.

The Trade Waste business will be operated in house with Leicester City Council staff handling the revenue and customer database and sourcing the most cost effective outlet for the material.

The reuse building will be rented out to a local charity following conclusion of a tendering exercise.

3. Recommendations

To note the current progress with respect to the construction of the new Household Waste Recycling Scheme to be located at Gypsum Close, Leicester and the associated communications campaign.

4. Report/Supporting information including options considered:

The Council decided on 15th July 2013 to build a new Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) in Leicester. The new facility, costing £3.5Million is being funded from the Government's Weekly Support Fund and will consist of reception facilities for both household domestic and trade/commercial waste in addition to the salvaging of useful household items for use by the voluntary sector.

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1. Household waste delivered by residents as a replacement site for Bridge Road HWRC.
2. Trade/Commercial waste reception and sorting facilities to generate revenue and provide a registered recycling/disposal facility for the smaller businesses in the City, such as landscape gardeners, builders etc.
3. A reuse facility. To work with a local partner/charity to salvage reusable items and for them to either donate or sell them on at discounted costs to disadvantaged individuals.

The new facility is being built on land on Gypsum Close which is owned by Leicester City Council and is the site of a former brick works/allotments.

Construction work is being undertaken by GF Tomlinson who commenced on site in June, 2014. All work is on schedule for completion in Spring 2015.

The reuse building will be rented out to a local charity following conclusion of a tendering exercise.

Leicester City Council will operate the Trade Waste Business and Weighbridge. This includes responsibility for the acceptance of revenue and payment of disposal at suitable local outlets. The Council will employ two weighbridge staff under the title of "Waste Management Officer" to be responsible for the daily operations of the business. There will also be an overseeing manager responsible for the business with their time divided between the business and the "Pass it On" furniture re-use scheme.

Biffa will also support the operation through the provision of three on-site staff to aid the trade customers with their recycling and waste in order to help minimise contamination and material going to landfill.

Local suppliers, sourced through a framework agreement, will be used for the transport, recycling and disposal of the materials.

The HWRC area, where the members of the public will dispose of their unwanted

items, will be operated by Biffa with the staff from the Bridge Road site relocated when it closes.

It is envisaged that the site will have a press launch in March 2015, with the opening date to be confirmed.

The following provides proposals for a communications campaign to further support this initiative:

Planned Communications	Timeline
Signage and literature at Bridge Road and Freeman's Common HWRCs, advertising the new site at Gypsum Close and informing users of the closure of the Bridge Road site.	January - March
Leaflet drop to households in the area surrounding Gypsum Close and Bridge Road HWRCs to promote the opening of the new HWRC and Reuse Shop and closure of Bridge Road.	Late February – Early March
New literature and updates to existing literature	January - March
Press Release	March
Advertising in local newspapers, publications and Council tax bills.	February - March
Editorial information in LINK	February
New pages and updates on the Council Website and via social media	January - March
Develop in conjunction with new Reuse partner set of external signage for the Reuse Shop and promotional literature.	February - March
<i>Public Communications</i>	
<p>Business communications plan:</p> <p>This plan will run concurrent to the public communications plan to promote the services of the new HWRC to local Small and Medium Enterprises and potential trade customers.</p> <p>Communications to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information in Council tax bills • Local business/trade publications • Links to local business forums/groups <p>Working with other internal LCC departments to encourage them to use the new Council facilities at Gypsum Close.</p>	January - Ongoing
<i>Business Communications</i>	

<p>New information and directional signage at Gypsum Close HWRC.</p> <p>New promotional space installed at Gypsum Close HWRC to allow for the display of LCC promotional information.</p> <p>Road signage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of new directional signs for Gypsum Close HWRC. • Removal of directional signage from Bridge Road HWRC. • Updating of directional signage to Freemen's Common 	<p>January - March</p>
<p>The proposed communications utilise a variety of media to target LCC's audiences to best maximise their impact and provide value for money. It is felt by joining communications for all elements of the new HWRC; public recycling and waste facilities; the trade waste facility and Reuse Shop, the Council will maximise impact and engagement with residents.</p>	

5. Financial, legal and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

There will be no direct capital finance implications for the City Council as the new HWRC site and the redevelopment of the Bridge Rd site have been designed and constructed within the available £3.533m grant for the Government's Weekly Collection Support Fund received from DEFRA.

The HWRC operational costs will be covered by the PFI unitary charge that is paid to Biffa for operating Bridge Rd HWRC which is to close, resulting with the relocation of the Biffa staff to Gypsum Close.

The Trade Waste business will be financed from the revenue generated through receipts from customers.

The reuse building will be a source of revenue to LCC through the rental of the premises to a suitable local charity appointed through a tendering process.

Colin Sharpe, Head of Finance 374081

5.2 Legal implications

In terms of the funding from the Government's Weekly Support Fund, the Council must comply with the funding conditions specified. Legal Services can advise on any terms

and conditions relating to the funding agreement if required. Such conditions must be built into the Council's contract with third party contractors associated with providing works or services to the Council in relation to this project as appropriate

Legal Services will provide advice and assistance to officers as required in connection with the procurement of the reuse outlet. If the rent paid for the reuse facilities is below market rate, there may be state aid implications. Further information will be required to assess any state aid implications.

In terms of the framework agreement used for local suppliers, due diligence should be carried out to ensure it provides value for money, meets the Council's requirements and the terms and conditions are robust.

Seema Patel, Solicitor 371406

From a Property perspective, the report identifies a number of potential property issues, for example, the management of the site which is City Council owned. The Property team within Legal Services will advise officers as and when required during the development and subsequent operation of the facility.

Alex Snowden, Legal Executive 371411

5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

As part our aims to reduce the area wide carbon footprint of Leicester, the Climate Change Programme of Action has a milestone target of achieving 48% of household waste being recycled by 2015, with further targets planned to be set for 2025. This is echoed by the proposed EMAS target to reduce the environmental impact of household and Council waste and minimise its landfill. The construction of a new household waste recycling facility in Leicester will be more energy efficient than the previous site, increase participation in recycling efforts through the provision of better facilities and encourage the re-use of household items – all of which will reduce the carbon emissions of the city.

As waste does not currently form part of the carbon footprint calculations for the city council's own operations, there will be no impact on these emission levels.

Louise Buckley, Graduate Project Officer (Climate Change), 372 293.

5.4 Equalities Implications

Providing easier ways for people to dispose of their waste will contribute to enhancing local quality of life in the city. Those unable to drive to the facility have access to alternative home collections of unwanted large items and garden refuse. Those able to drive to the facility but unable to unload waste will have help available to do so from staff on site. Thus all protected characteristics will benefit indirectly from the new facility, and mitigating actions are available to ensure the needs of disabled residents are still met.

The reuse facility will also provide social benefits to local people by providing low/no cost recycled furniture and household items. This will particularly benefit low income

households and households with children in poverty.

Irene Kszyk, Corporate Equalities Lead, ext. 374147.

5.5 Other Implications

Planning Permission for the site was granted on 9th January 2014.

An application for an Environmental Permit has been made.

6. Background information and other papers:

Not applicable

7. Summary of appendices:

Not applicable

8. Is this a private report (If so, please indicated the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No

9. Is this a “key decision”?

Not applicable

10. If a key decision please explain reason