

Environment and Communities Committee

Date of Meeting:	29 th September 2022
Report Title:	Household Waste Recycling Centre Contract
Report of:	Jayne Traverse, Executive Director of Place
Report Reference No:	EC/10/22-23
Ward(s) Affected:	All wards

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The contract to run the Council's household waste and recycling centres has been procured to ensure service continuity from 1st April 2023. This report provides an update to the committee on the range of services that will be provided through the new contract.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The Council provides 7 household waste and recycling centres (HWRCs) across the borough that enable residents to manage items that cannot be dealt with through the normal kerbside collection. The sites receive around 30,000 tonnes of waste per year with 15,000 visits per week.
- 2.2. On 7th March 2022 the committee considered the Notice of Motion lodged at Council on the 15th December 2021 in respect of a Replacement Recycling Site at Congleton. The Committee resolved to await the report regarding the procurement of the HWRC service contract and decide then whether to establish a Member Advisory Panel to look at what the future service provision across the borough will look like.
- 2.3. This report shows that the cost of the core services, in the new contract, of running 7 sites, will be affordable within the existing budget.
- 2.4. Several service enhancements were included within the scope of the procurement focused on the Council priorities of being fairer and greener, these include - two re-use shops, improved re-use facilities at all sites, greater access for local traders, and mattress recycling. The introduction of automatic number plate recognition and proof of address checks will also encourage fairer use and limit site use to Cheshire East residents.

- 2.5.** There is also the option for a mobile pop-up household waste service each week for low car use and rural areas to provide fairer access. This element is currently not affordable at contract commencement. It is hoped, however, that this will be introduced during the latter half of the first year, if affordable, as the enhancements to the service take effect and inflation and fuel costs decrease, reducing the overall running cost.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1.** That the committee note the successful procurement to maintain the current seven Household Waste Recycling Centre sites through the new contract from 1st April 2023.
- 3.2.** That delegated authority be granted to the Head of Environmental Services to take all necessary actions to implement the new Household Waste Recycling Centre Services contract.
- 3.3.** That delegated authority be granted to the Head of Environmental Services to introduce the service enhancements under the new contract as and when they can be afforded within the available budget.
- 3.4.** That the committee consider whether to establish a member advisory panel or working group to look at future household waste and recycling centre provision, and what the scope and remit of that group should be.

4. Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1.** That continuity of household waste recycling centre provision is required from the 1st of April 2023 and opportunities for enhanced service provision, subject to affordability, are available during this contract period.

5. Background

- 5.1.** The provision of household waste recycling centres is a statutory duty of the council and forms an important part of the recycling and waste service to the public. These centres are open 7 days per week, deal with 30,000 tonnes of material, through 15,000 visits per week and are equipped to enable reuse, recycling, and disposal of materials from both the public and small trader building material waste.
- 5.2.** The Council's household waste recycling centres are currently run by HW Martin. This contract was procured in 2008, by Cheshire County Council, and subsequently transferred to Cheshire East Council on its formation in 2009. The contract had the option of a 5-year extension, and this was enacted in 2018, when management of the contract was also novated to Ansa. As there was no possibility of a further extension to the contract Ansa have carried out a compliant procurement.

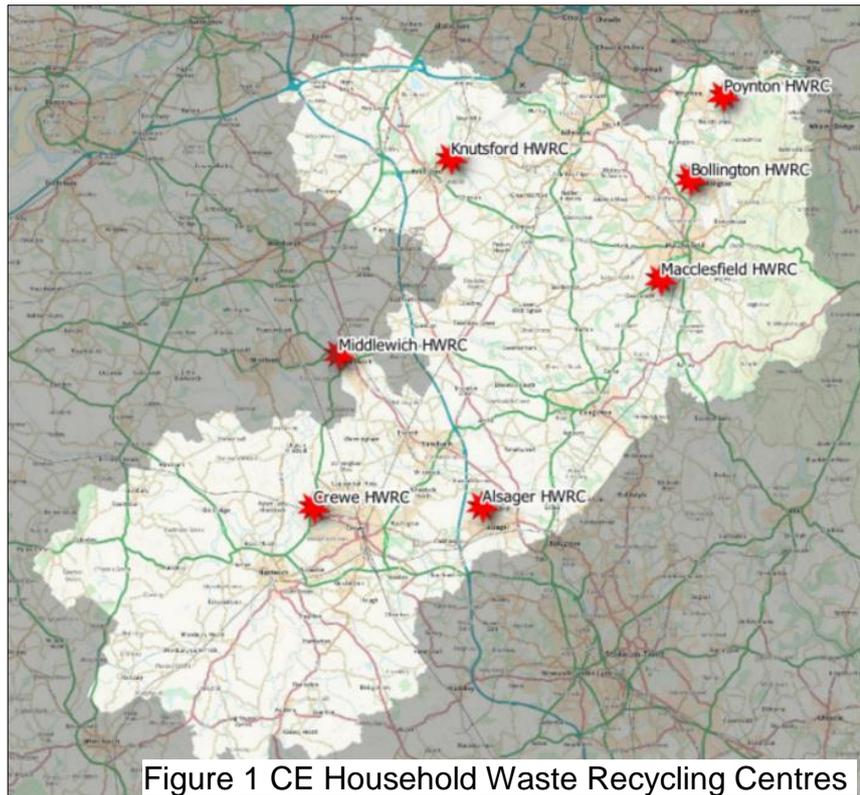


Figure 1 CE Household Waste Recycling Centres

- 5.3.** On 4 May 2021, Cabinet considered a report on household waste recycling centre provision. The report advised that the current contract for the sites ends in March 2023 and that a key consideration for the commissioning of these facilities, from 2023 onwards, would be the cost of running them in the future.
- 5.4.** The new contract from 1st April 2023 will provide continuity of service provision at the seven existing household waste recycling centres for period of five years with the option to extend for a further three years. The service contract will be managed by ANSA Environmental Services, the council's wholly owned company, and sublet to a service provider under a contract held and awarded by ANSA.
- 5.5.** In designing a new service, the council has worked closely with Ansa to provide opportunities to further the council's corporate objectives to reduce overall levels of waste and provide increased opportunities for waste to be treated in accordance with the waste hierarchy and to make access to the service fairer in rural and low car use areas.
- 5.6.** Affordability of the contract has also been a key consideration and hence the contract is designed to allow increase or decrease in service provision and site numbers during the contract period to maintain service provision costs within the current MTFS financial envelope.
- 5.7.** Enhanced services over and above the existing core service which are available under this contract, include:

- 5.7.1.** The introduction of automatic number plate recognition and proof of address checks. This will bring the council facilities in line with neighbouring authorities in focusing our provision only on Cheshire East residents and allowing a fair use policy for access to our sites. This will provide greater capacity, particularly at sites on the boundary of Cheshire East, for borough residents.
- 5.7.2.** The option for provision of a pop-up household waste recycling centre service, which in a similar way to our existing mobile library service, would provide fairer access to household waste disposal in places of low car use or rural areas. The contract allows the service to be operational 52 weeks a year with the route and frequency of the service to be agreed with the authority.
- 5.7.3.** The introduction, for the first time, of mattress recycling as part of our recycling provision which will have a positive effect on the council's recycling rate through more sustainable processing of these items, which currently form part of the residual waste stream.
- 5.7.4.** Two reuse shops, initially at Crewe and Macclesfield household waste recycling centres with provision for further reuse at other sites, enabling the council to prioritize reuse above recycling in accordance with the requirements of the waste hierarchy and strategy.
- 5.7.5.** Increasing existing provision for small trader access to sites to provide an affordable recycling and disposable route for material that can be a source of rural fly tipping.
- 5.8.** There is also the option for a mobile pop-up household waste service each week for low car use and rural areas to provide fairer access. This element is currently not affordable at contract commencement. It is hoped however, this will be introduced during the latter half of the first year, if affordable, as the enhancements to the service take effect and inflation and fuel costs decrease, reducing the overall running cost.
- 5.9. Former Household Waste Centre Congleton**
- 5.10.** The committee asked for an update following the closure of Congleton Household waste centre in September 2021. The table below shows the number of fly-tipping incidents in each month in recent years. The highlighted box indicates the month that the site closed.

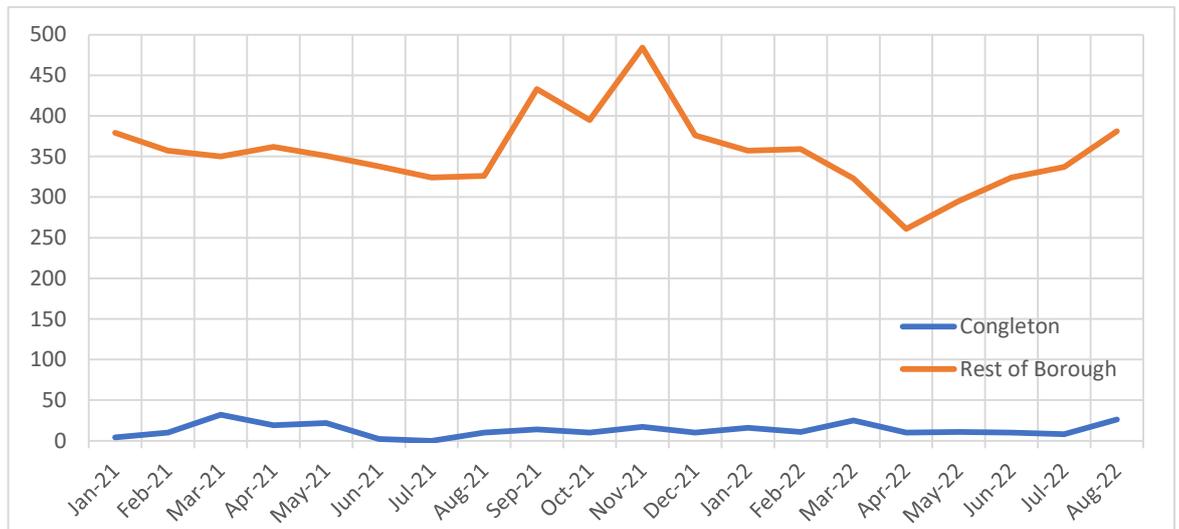
Table 1 – Fly-tipping incidents reported by Congleton Town Council

Fly-tipping incidents	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
January	7	4	4	4	16
February	7	10	2	10	11
March	9	4	0	32	24
April	0	10	12	19	10
May	10	5	40	22	11
June	15	4	22	2	8
July	12	8	21	0	13
August	9	5	18	10	26
September	6	6	6	14	
October	2	5	3	10	
November	9	4	4	17	
December	8	5	4	10	
Total	94	70	136	150	

Source: Congleton Town Council

- 5.11. The chart below puts fly-tipping in the Congleton area in the context of the whole borough. On average Congleton fly-tipping represents 4% of the total incidents in the borough.

Figure 2 Fly Tipping Data Jan 21 - July 22



Source: Congleton Town Council and Cheshire East Council

- 5.12. Vehicle counts at each of the sites were carried out in 2021 and 2022 and the most recent study shows that there is a generally even spread of users per site. The table below shows the Macclesfield and Alsager site visitor numbers.

Table 2 - Visitor numbers

Date of sample	Number and % of visits in a week			
	Aug-20	Aug-21	Sep-21	Aug-22
Alsager	2,954	2,990	1,857	2,613
% share of all visits	17.61%	15.12%	15.16%	16.23%
Macclesfield	2,725	2,992	2,434	3,381
% share of all visits	16.24%	15.13%	19.88%	21.00%
All sites total	16,772	19,775	12,242	16,097

6. Implications

6.1. Legal

6.1.1. The Council has a statutory requirement to provide household waste recycling centres (HWRC) for its residents to deposit their own household waste, as set out in the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA 1990 part 2, 51b).

6.1.2. The procurement has been carried out in a legally compliant way. This report provides information for councillors to take a decision on the future levels of service.

6.2. Finance

6.2.1. The Household Waste Recycling Centres are managed as part of the council's contract with Ansa Environmental Services and paid for within the existing Operational Management fee, the revenue budget for which is held by Environmental Services. The council's current Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) contains an agreed waste contract inflation proposal to cover contract inflation as part of the Environmental Services' revenue budget. Annual contract costs vary with fuel prices, inflation and a small element related to the price received for recycling collected. In this way the council receives the best value through a shared risk model.

6.2.2. Ansa estimate the core contract provision will be affordable in 2023-24, the first contract year, within the existing MTFS budget allocation. They estimate, however, that the additional element of the mobile pop-up service will not be affordable at contract commencement. It is hoped, however, that this will be introduced during the latter half of the first year if affordable, as the enhancements to the service take effect and inflation and fuel costs decrease, reducing the overall running cost.

6.2.3. An investment programme with an agreed capital budget of £860,000, within the existing MTFS, is currently underway. It is necessary, as part of the award of this contract, to bring site accommodation up to the required standard for a waste facility. Ongoing maintenance will then be the responsibility of the contractor during the 5-year contract period.

6.2.4. There is awareness that capital works on the Macclesfield site, to address drainage issues, are likely to require additional capital funding over and above that provided in the current capital programme. Proposals will be brought forward following further investigation and feasibility works currently underway.

6.3. Policy

6.3.1. Household Waste and Recycling Centres support the vision within the Corporate Plan for an open, fairer, greener Cheshire East and the goal to improve recycling and reuse rates within the borough. This is reinforced through the Waste and Recycling Centre user guide and policy.

6.4. Equality

6.4.1. The potential introduction of a mobile service that is delivered in the more remote parts of the borough would ensure that residents have access to waste services that were previously not available.

6.5. Human Resources

6.5.1. There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

6.6. Risk Management

6.6.1. The content of this report does not pose a risk to the Council.

6.7. Rural Communities

6.7.1. There will be positive outcomes for rural communities because the new contract introduces an option for a mobile pop-up service and therefore delivers a service that had not been available previously.

6.8. Children and Young People/Cared for Children

6.8.1. There are no children and young people/cared for children implications arising from this report.

6.9. Public Health

6.9.1. There are no public health implications arising from this report.

6.10. Climate Change

6.10.1. Once the new contract is in place there will be enhanced opportunity to reuse items and introduce the recycling of mattresses for the first time reducing residual waste disposal. The new contract has the option to reach out to the more rural areas through the provision of a mobile unit.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Ralph Kemp, Head of Environmental Service Ralph.kemp@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Background Papers:	Resource Futures, July 2020, Review of Cheshire East Council HWRC network. Available on the Councils web site: HWRC New Contract Service Provision Report 2020 (cheshireeast.gov.uk)