

Cheshire East Council

Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 11th July 2017
Report of: Peter Bates | Chief Operating Officer
Subject/Title: Implementation of Household Waste Recycling Centre
Review: Arclid.
Portfolio Holder: Cllr Don Stockton

1 Report Summary

- 1.1 This item tabled at full Council of the 23rd Feb 17 was deferred to allow time for Cheshire East Council to work in partnership with Sandbach Town Council and local members in evaluating alternatives to the closure of Arclid Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC). Cheshire East has worked with the Town Council in reviewing their proposals which are listed within this report.
- 1.2 In 2014, Cabinet adopted its Municipal Waste Management Strategy, identifying how we plan to manage waste to 2030. The Strategy included a recommendation to undertake a review of the Household Waste Recycling Centre network.
- 1.3 The review sought to examine the service provision against best practice and our strategy objectives. In doing so, it identified a need to consider a more commercial approach to operating, these were:
 - Opening key sites for trade/commercial waste
 - Charging for some items such as construction/rubble waste
 - Reducing opening hours
 - Closing Arclid HWRC.
- 1.4 Following extensive consultation, full Council agreed on 23rd February 2017 to take forward three of the four proposals and that the fourth, the closure of Arclid be paused for a 6-month period. In the minutes, it states - Managing waste: amendment. Agenda item 8: Corporate Plan & MTFS 2017 – 2020 [page 42]

“During the paused period, Cheshire East works in partnership with Sandbach Town Council, and also local members, to establish and evaluate viable and workable alternatives to the closure of the Arclid site, along with an appropriate strategy”.

- 1.5 This work with Sandbach Town Council and local members has taken place and concluded that a viable and suitable alternative to closure is not available and therefore the strategy going forward is for Arclid site to close on September 30th 2017.

2 Recommendation

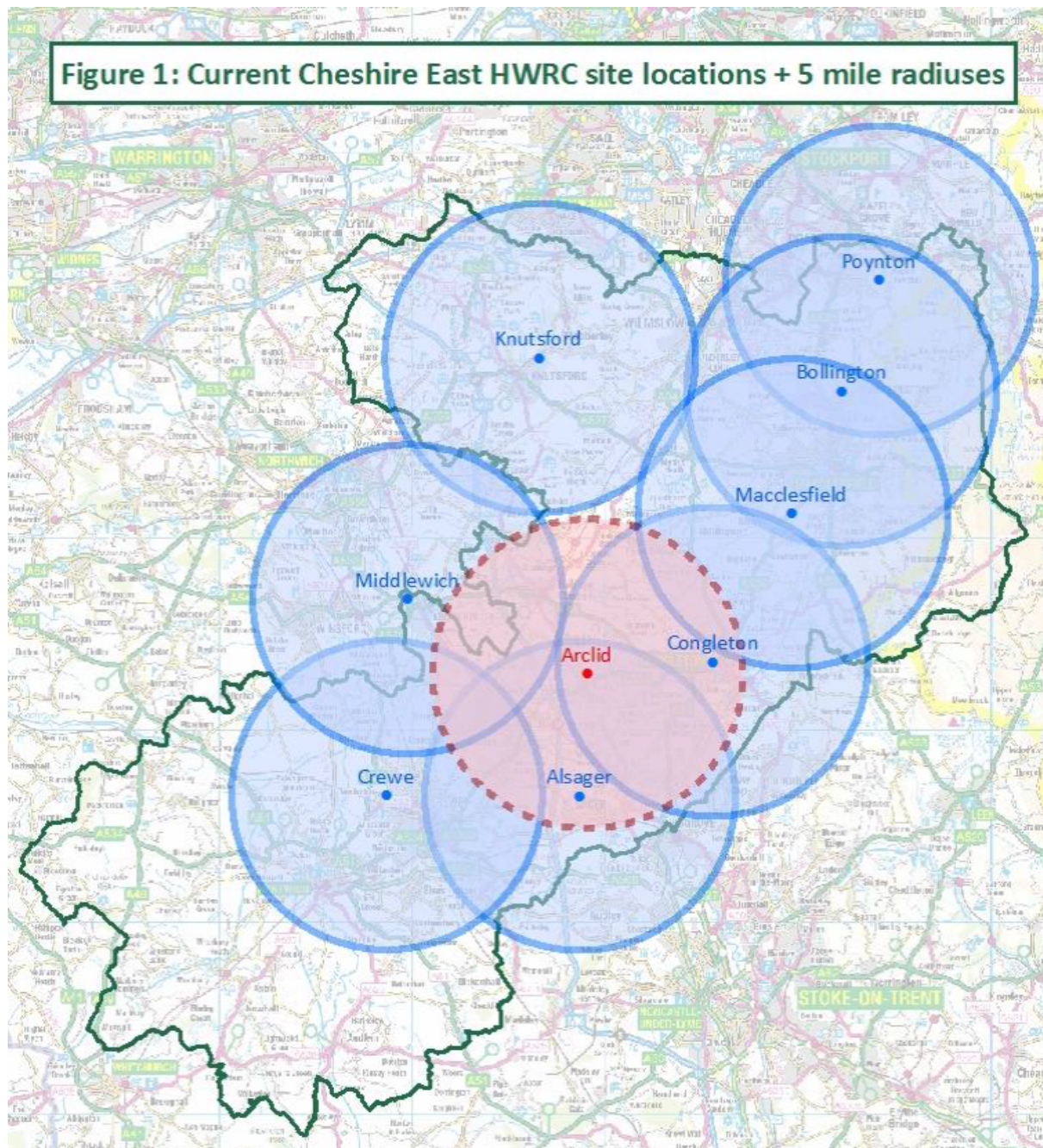
- 2.1 That Cabinet note the questions posed from Sandbach Town Council and the Council's response.
- 2.2 Having reviewed submissions from Sandbach Town Council, Cabinet support the closure of Arclid Household Waste Recycling Centre from September 30th 2017.
- 2.3 That Cabinet authorise the Corporate Manager for Waste and Environment Services in consultation the Chief Operating Officer and Director of Legal Services to take the necessary actions to close the Arclid site.

3 Other Options Considered

- 3.1 The Council has worked in partnership with the Town Council to consider alternative options listed in paragraph 4.3 below however none of these have been identified as workable alternatives.
- 3.2 The Council could leave the Arclid site open by funding the site through virement of budgets from other budgets. The outturn for 2016-17 however demonstrated an adverse variance of 1.7 million and the Council is dealing with further reduction in grant and ongoing budget pressures in 2017-18

4 Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 Cheshire East Council, working with specialist consultant Resource Futures, has reviewed its Household Waste Recycling Centres provision through analysis of site location, usage and tonnage; all benched marked with other authorities.
- 4.2 Under the review, spatial analysis of Cheshire East's Household Waste Recycling Centres suggested the network of nine sites is an over-provision, for the size of the authority and the number of residents. (see Figure 1). When benchmarked with a number of other English authorities, Cheshire East Council has more sites than most and the highest density of sites per 100,000 residents.



- 4.3 On February 23rd 2017, full Council requested discussions in partnership with Sandbach Town Council and local members, to explore a viable and workable alternative to the Arclid closure. During the subsequent meetings seven questions were posed, the answers to each are given below (questions in italics):

Q1. Consider the scope, and benefits, in reviewing the housing growth assumptions, for all Household Waste Recycling Centre sites, in the Consultant's report – Even if the number of households in the four Sandbach wards were to double from its current 11,000, there remains ample capacity within the system to cope with the increase.

Q2. Consider whether there is scope, and it is appropriate, to launch a feasibility study into the viability of developing a new Household Waste Recycling Centres at the ANSA waste hub in Middlewich - The current vehicle movement restrictions and public concerns about these, from the existing permitted Cledford Environmental Hub facility, mean that we would discount this site for a new Household Waste Recycling Centre.

Q3. Provide more detail, for all Household Waste Recycling Centres sites, on the current operational functions, and future opportunities, in particular that relating to the potential for stripping and sorting metals - The current contract was created to encourage the contractor to recycle and reuse as much as possible and therefore it was determined that all materials arriving at site are to be their responsibility. Under the existing contractual arrangements, there is no further value and hence further contractual savings to be made from additional recycling.

Q4. Consider whether there is scope to investigate the potential opportunity for business/trade waste to be processed at the adjoining empty site to Arclid Household Waste Recycling Centres - The adjoining site closed, following extensive pressure from residents, their main concerns being the noise and vehicle movements along a narrow country lane. The additional traffic from traders and service vehicles along this narrow lane is only likely to exasperate this and make the site unsuitable for additional vehicle movements

Q5. Investigate, again, any additional financial savings for all Household Waste Recycling Centres sites – the full independent review, carried out by Resource Futures, presented all the available options. No additional savings to be made in the current contract.

Q6. Consider whether it would be viable not to close the Arclid Household Waste Recycling Centres until the future income stream from rubble/construction waste charging becomes apparent - The savings associated with rubble charging are an estimate. In the event of a higher figure being realised this would offset the further £200k of non-allocated savings within this year's environmental services budget.

Q7. Calculate how much it would cost to keep the Arclid Household Waste Recycling Centres open, post September 2017 - Arclid closure annual savings are as stated, £100,000 per year. This cost is as part of the wide network of Household Waste Recycling Centres that are managed by the contractor and does not reflect what it may cost if it were being run in isolation.

We have also previously advised, Arclid is in need of capital investment to the order of:

- Replacement porta cabin including welfare facility approx. £20k
- Replacement of steps (5 of) approx. £37.5k

- Replacement of existing hardstanding approx. £175k
- Interceptor approx. £30k
- Should sewer connection not be possible then a need to install a tank to retain surface water (plus ongoing requirement to empty the tank) approx. £ 30k
- Existing septic tank needs addressing, currently fills with rain water

Expenditure on this site would take away from capital released to enhance the service to the rest of the network.

- 4.4 With ever-increasing budgetary pressures, the closure of the Council's least efficient site with the lowest tonnage throughput is a sensible, well-balanced measure that has public backing – 60% of over 2,100 respondents supported the proposal to close Arclid.

5 Background/Chronology

- 5.1 The Council has a statutory duty to provide sites at which residents can deposit their household waste free of charge and that are reasonably accessible to residents. The legislation does not specify how many sites an authority should provide and therefore the responsible authority is able to determine what is reasonably accessible based on local circumstances.
- 5.2 A national organisation, WRAP, published a Household Waste Recycling Centres Guide in 2012, which identified guidance for the level of provision of HWRC:
- Maximum catchment for a large proportion of the population of 3-5 miles (7 in very rural areas)
 - Maximum driving times for the great majority of residents in good traffic conditions of twenty minutes (30 in very rural areas)
 - Maximum number of inhabitants per Household Waste Recycling Centres of 120,000
 - Maximum number of households per Household Waste Recycling Centres of 50,000
 - In Cheshire East, there is one site for approximately 19,000 households and one site for every 41,575 inhabitants.
 - All residents can reach a site within twenty minutes' drive (over 98% can reach a site within 15 minutes) in normal traffic. This would suggest that CEC currently has more sites than are necessary.
- 5.3 Arising out of the waste strategy and the need to make efficiency savings across the Council, the review revealed how to improve services and deliver medium term savings for the Council.
- 5.4 The area that Arclid services is covered by surrounding sites, the site does not meet accessibility requirements of a modern split level site and has the lowest tonnage throughput and hence is the most expensive to run.

- 5.5 Between 17th November 2016 and 10th January 2017, Cheshire East Council consulted on proposals for the future of Household Waste Recycling Centre provision in the borough. Proposal 1 of the consultation was to close the Arclid Household Waste Recycling Centre from the 1st April 2017, maintaining service through the surrounding sites of Middlewich, Congleton and Alsager - 60% of respondents supported this proposal. For full details of the consultation please see para 9.1.

6 Wards Affected and Local Ward Members

- 6.1 The closure of Arclid affects the wards of Brereton Rural, Sandbach Heath & East and Sandbach Town.
- 6.2 Local ward members: Cllr John Wray, Cllr Sam Corcoran, Cllr Barry Moran

7 Implications of Recommendation

7.1 Policy Implications

- 7.1.1 The recommendation is in line with the Council's Municipal Waste Strategy 2030 in which there is agreement to undertake a review of the Household Waste Recycling Centre network
- 7.1.2 The closure supports the Council's corporate objectives.

Outcome 4: Cheshire East is a green & sustainable place

By promoting waste, reuse and recycling and by providing modern appropriate disposal facilities for household waste.

Outcome 6: A Responsible, Effective & Efficient Organisation

By providing an efficient service focussed on promoting waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and providing new opportunities for expanding the service provision to small traders.

7.2 Legal Implications

- 7.2.1 The Council is under a duty under s.51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to arrange for the disposal of controlled waste collected in its area and for places to be provided at which persons resident in its area may deposit their household waste and for the disposal of waste so deposited. These arrangements shall be such as to secure that:
- Each place is situated either within the area of the authority or so as to be reasonably accessible to persons resident in its area
 - Each place is available for the deposit of waste at all reasonable times
 - Each place is available for the deposit of waste free of charge by persons resident in the area; but arrangements may restrict the availability of specified places to specified descriptions of waste.

- An authority may include in its arrangements for the places provided in its area for the deposit of household waste free of charge by residents in its area for these to be available for the deposit of household or other controlled waste by other persons on such terms as to payment (if any) as the authority determines
- Local authorities also have a duty of care to manage and transfer waste in a way that enables its safe recovery or disposal and a duty to implement the waste hierarchy in priority order. These are in addition to the Council's general duty to provide equal access to services.

7.2.2 Final decisions on permanent changes to the Household Waste Recycling Centre service have been subject to a public consultation. There is no statutory duty to consult on proposals to change the way in which a local authority carries out its duties but there is an expectation enshrined in case law that any local authority making decisions affecting the public will do so fairly and in a way that cannot be said to be an abuse of power.

7.2.3 Such consultation has involved those directly affected by the changes, together with the relevant representative groups. The responses to the consultation have been conscientiously taken into account and can be viewed on the Councils website. Following representation the decision to close Arclid household waste recycling centre was paused to allow further discussion with Sandbach Town Council. During this pause, meetings took place between Sandbach Town Council, local members, Cheshire East Council with the express purpose to establish and evaluate viable and workable alternatives to the closure of the Arclid site.

7.3 Financial Implications

7.3.1 Proposals for future savings, associated with Household Waste Recycling Centres are accepted as part of the Council's current budget setting cycle that was approved on 23rd February 2017. The current contract costs are approximately £3 million per annum. The closure of Arclid will deliver £100,000 of efficiencies per annum by 2018-19. The preferred option changes would be phased in over 2017-18 achieving a partial delivery of savings in year with a target for full savings achieved from 2018-19 onwards.

7.4 Equality Implications

7.4.1 Proposals will result in the closure of the facility at Arclid, which currently does not meet accessibility standards for Household Waste Recycling Centres due to the use of gantries and steps to access skips.

7.5 Rural Community Implications

7.5.1 Careful analysis of travel times to Household Waste Recycling Centres has ensured adequate provision of sites to service all areas of Cheshire East.

7.6 Human Resources Implications

- 7.6.1 There will be no implications for Council employees because of this change as the sites are run by an external contractor.

7.7 Public Health Implications

- 7.7.1 None

7.8 Implications for Children and Young People

- 7.8.1 None

7.9 Other Implications (Please Specify)

- 7.9.1 The proposed changes may have an impact on fly tipping and therefore short-term measures will be required to prevent tipping and undertake enforcement as required.
- 7.9.2 Proposal to open key larger sites to small traders is likely to reduce commercial fly tipping by providing an affordable disposal route for small quantities of trade waste.

8 Risk Management

- 8.1. Proposed changes could meet with public opposition and a communications strategy will be prepared to deliver this service change.

9 Access to Information/Bibliography

- 8.2. A report of the consultation - http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/waste_and_recycling/waste-strategy-and-performance/waste-strategy-and-performance.aspx

10 Contact Information

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