

## **Environment and Communities Committee**

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> March 2022
<b>Report Title:</b>	Congleton recycling centre (notice of motion)
<b>Report of:</b>	Jayne Traverse, Executive Director of Place
<b>Report Reference No:</b>	EC/35/21-22
<b>Ward(s) Affected:</b>	Congleton East, Congleton West

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### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1. At the full Council meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021, a notice of motion was submitted in relation to a replacement recycling site at Congleton. This report responds to that notice of motion.

### **2. Executive Summary**

- 2.1. On 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021, a Notice of Motion was proposed to Council in relation to the investigation of costs and feasibility of a replacement recycling site at Congleton. The motion was proposed by Cllr Denis Murphy and seconded by Cllr June Buckley. Council referred the motion to the Environment and Communities Committee.

- 2.2. Notice of Motion: Investigation of Costs and Feasibility of a Replacement Recycling Site at Congleton.

*This Council authorises the full Environment and Communities Committee to carry out a full investigation to ascertain the detailed costs and feasibility of an alternative replacement recycling site for the residents of Congleton and surrounding areas following the closure of the former Congleton recycling site in September 2021.*

*This detailed investigation should also give full consideration to the replacement recycling site to include the provision of a reuse and repair facility as part of this Council's policy and commitment to work with communities to reduce carbon.*

*This investigation should also fully consider all potential suitable locations for such a permanent replacement recycling site including all those sites identified as being suitable in the report issued by consultants to the previous Cheshire East Council Administration in 2018 at a cost of about £ 50,000.*

*The full Environment and Communities Committee to provide a full report of its conclusions from these detailed investigations to full Council for its consideration no later than 30th June 2022.*

- 2.3. On 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021, Cabinet considered a report on Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) provision. The report advised that the current contract for the provision of HWRCs ends in March 2023. The report also advised that the facility in Congleton operated on a site leased by the Council which was due to expire in September 2021 and that the owner of the site had informed the Council that they would not consider a renewal of the lease.
- 2.4. Cabinet resolved that the Congleton HWRC would not be replaced while the procurement of the new contract for the provision of HWRCs is undertaken and a decision is taken regarding the overall provision for the borough.
- 2.5. The procurement of the new contract is progressing and will be brought to the Environment and Communities Committee in August 2022 for consideration.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1. The committee decide what action, if any, they wish to take in response to the Notice of Motion.

### **4. Reasons for Recommendations**

- 4.1. The Cheshire East Council Constitution sets out the procedure for Notices of Motion submitted to Council. A motion referred to the relevant decision-making body must be considered within two meeting cycles. At the meeting to which the motion has been referred for consideration, the proposer of the motion if present shall be invited to speak first, followed by the seconder. The matter will then be opened up to wider discussion.

### **5. Other Options Considered**

- 5.1. None. The Constitution sets out the procedure for responding to Notices of Motion.

### **6. Background**

- 6.1. At the Council meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021 a notice of motion was proposed in relation to the investigation of costs and feasibility of a replacement recycling site at Congleton. The full motion proposed was as follows:

*This Council authorises the full Environment and Communities Committee to carry out a full investigation to ascertain the detailed costs and feasibility of an alternative replacement recycling site for the residents of Congleton and surrounding areas following the closure of the former Congleton recycling site in September 2021.*

*This detailed investigation should also give full consideration to the replacement recycling site to include the provision of a reuse and repair*

*facility as part of this Council's policy and commitment to work with communities to reduce carbon.*

*This investigation should also fully consider all potential suitable locations for such a permanent replacement recycling site including all those sites identified as being suitable in the report issued by consultants to the previous Cheshire East Council Administration in 2018 at a cost of about £ 50,000.*

*The full Environment and Communities Committee to provide a full report of its conclusions from these detailed investigations to full Council for its consideration no later than 30th June 2022.*

- 6.2.** On 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021, Cabinet considered a report on HWRC provision. The report advised that the current contract for the provision of HWRCs ends in March 2023 and that a key consideration for the commissioning of these facilities from 2023 onwards would be the cost of running such facilities in the future. It is expected that the costs will rise owing to the volatility of the global market for recyclables. The report also advised that the facility in Congleton operated on a site leased by the Council which was due to expire in September 2021 and that the owner of the site had informed the Council that they would not consider a renewal of the lease.
- 6.3.** Cabinet resolved not to replace Congleton HWRC until the procurement of the new contract for the provision of HWRCs across the borough is concluded.
- 6.4.** The Council have already carried out a detailed investigation of costs and feasibility. When it became clear that the owner of the site of the former Congleton HWRC was unwilling to consider a renewal of the lease, a feasibility study was commissioned to identify the key requirements of a HWRC. This feasibility study is provided as appendix 1. Once the requirements were confirmed, a site search was commissioned to identify suitable alternative sites. A suggested layout for a HWRC was prepared along with a cost estimate for each site.
- 6.5.** The Council will use this information if a decision is made to build a new HWRC in Congleton. The current procurement includes the flexibility to add an additional site or reduce sites if required to meet the budget cost envelope.
- 6.6.** To undertake the investigation and feasibility study proposed by the motion would not be a prudent use of the Council's resources to repeat this work when the procurement process is incomplete.
- 6.7.** The procurement process is progressing led by Ansa Environmental Services on behalf of the Council. Informal engagement with potential bidders has been carried out which has informed the tender documents that are now in the public domain. The process will result in a preferred bidder being identified and this will be brought to the committee for ratification in August 2022.

- 6.8.** In order to determine the impact of the closure on nearby sites the Council carried out a visitor number count before and after the closure – see table below.

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

- 6.9.** The situation at Alsager and Macclesfield continues to be monitored and it is noted that over the busy Christmas period there were no particular issues at either of the sites. A traffic management system has been designed for Macclesfield HWRC to reduce queues of traffic on the highway waiting to enter the site at peak times but it has not been required since the closure of Congleton HWRC.
- 6.10.** Officers have engaged with representatives of Congleton Town Council and local ward members since the closure of Congleton HWRC to review the impact of the closure. There have been no incidents of protest fly-tipping at the gate whilst the site was being cleared. The number of fly-tipping incidents within the area remains low but where there is evidence the Council will take enforcement action.
- 6.11.** A review of recycling banks in the area has also been carried out and an additional bank has been installed at Royle St car park. The location of recycling sites in Congleton can be viewed via [Recycle Now](#) website.

## **7. Implications**

### **7.1. Legal**

- 7.1.1. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

### **7.2. Finance**

- 7.2.1. If the notice of motion is accepted, a new investigation and feasibility study would cost an estimated £30,000, for which there is no current budget. There is a risk that the subsequent report could compromise the Council's ability to negotiate a cost-effective site in the future.

### **7.3. Policy**

- 7.3.1. 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.

### **7.4. Equality**

- 7.4.1. There are no equality implications arising from this report.

## **7.5. Human Resources**

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

## **7.6. Risk Management**

7.6.1. If the notice of motion is accepted, a report will be prepared that will reveal to local landowners the intentions of the Council. Such a report, revealing potential sites, could compromise the Council's ability to negotiate a cost-effective site in the future.

## **7.7. Rural Communities**

7.7.1. There will be no implications on rural communities. The current procurement will, however, explore the option to provide a mobile 'pop up' service to those rural communities that are a significant distant from any sites.

## **7.8. Children and Young People/Cared for Children**

7.8.1. There are no implications for children and young/cared for people.

## **7.9. Public Health**

7.9.1. There are no implications for public health.

## **7.10. Climate Change**

7.10.1. There are no climate change implications arising from this report. The report to Cabinet in May 2021 acknowledged that the decision to not replace Congleton HWRC would have a moderate adverse effect from higher carbon emissions associated with transport as Congleton residents now have to travel further to their nearest site in Alsager or Macclesfield. Although the total number of trips is likely to reduce with residents making fewer trips with larger quantities of materials.

<b>Access to Information</b>	
Contact Officer:	Andrew Dunstone, Waste Contract Manager
Appendices:	Appendix 1 – Congleton HWRC Replacement Site Search Feasibility Paper, October 2018
Background Papers:	<a href="#">Household Waste Recycling Centre Provision – Cabinet 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021</a>