

# Environment, Development and Transport Committee

<b>Report title:</b>	<b>Recycling Centre Improvement Programme</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>8 March 2019</b>
<b>Responsible Chief Officer:</b>	<b>Tom McCabe – Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services</b>
<b>Strategic impact</b> The County Council provides 20 recycling centres across Norfolk in its statutory role as a Waste Disposal Authority. Planning for replacement sites and identifying site improvements and service enhancements will allow the delivery of an improved service.	

## Executive summary

In November 2018 Committee agreed to support four improvement schemes for Sheringham, Ketteringham, Wymondham and Morningthorpe Recycling Centres. £7.425m of capital funding has been included on the Council's forward plan to support the delivery of these schemes and is in addition to the £2.75m allocated for the replacement of the Mile Cross Recycling Centre in Norwich. The proposal to relocate King's Lynn Recycling Centre is subject to development of the adjacent power station and would be developer funded.

A further £2.64m has been allocated for the improvement and extension of Caister Transfer Station to ensure the site can accommodate the effects of planned growth in the area and is fit for purpose for future residual waste contracts.

The programme for delivery will see the planning and construction of these schemes phased over a three-year period, subject to securing land (where required), planning permission and permits for operations.

Land agreements for the preferred site to replace the Mile Cross Recycling Centre are being secured and a planning application will be prepared for submission in summer 2019 with the intention to open the new site in 2021.

### Recommendations:

- 1. Agree that the member task and finish group for the Norwich Recycling Centre replacement is concluded following successful completion of the land agreements.**

## 1. Proposals

- 1.1. In addition to the relocation of Mile Cross Recycling Centre, Committee agreed in November 2018 to support a number of recycling centre improvements. The proposed programme for the recycling centre improvements is outlined in table 1 below. Delivery of the schemes is planned over a three year period, commencing in April 2019, subject to securing the necessary land (where required) and required consents. The capital costs reflect a construction estimate with allowance for planning and design work.

**Table 1 Summary of Recycling Centre Improvement Programme**

	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
King's Lynn Recycling Centre relocation	Developer Funded	Planning			
Mile Cross Recycling Centre Replacement	£2.750m		Planning	Construction	
Sheringham Recycling Centre upgrade	£1.650m		Planning	Construction	
Ketteringham Recycling Centre relocation	£1.925m		Planning	Construction	
Wymondham Recycling Centre replacement	£2.200m			Planning	Construction
Morningthorpe Recycling Centre upgrade	£1.650m			Planning	Construction
Caister Transfer Station upgrade	£2.640m		Planning	Construction	

### 1.2. King's Lynn Recycling Centre

The relocation of King's Lynn Recycling Centre is being funded by EP UK Power Development Ltd., as part of a wider scheme to build a power station on land currently occupied by the existing recycling centre. A planning application was submitted by the developer to Norfolk County Council for the relocation of King's Lynn Recycling Centre in October 2018, which is due to be determined by the Planning (Regulatory) Committee. The relocation is subject to development of the adjacent power station and has not yet been confirmed.

### 1.3. Mile Cross Recycling Centre Replacement

A member task and finish group was established by this Committee to oversee the original Norwich depot hub project which featured the replacement recycling centre. As the project developed the group's sole focus became securing a suitable site for the delivery of the replacement recycling centre. Following the successful agreement of heads of terms for the preferred site it is proposed that the member task and finish group is concluded.

1.4. Business and Property Committee approved the land acquisition for the preferred replacement in January and land agreements are now being finalised to secure the preferred location and an access road. The site is on land immediately to the north of the Broadland Northway, accessed off the northern roundabout junction of the A140 and Broadland Northway.

1.5. We are now working to prepare a planning application for a recycling centre and access road, along with a permit application to the Environment Agency for the operation of the recycling centre. The planning application is expected to be submitted to Norfolk County Council in summer 2019.

1.6. An initial public consultation was undertaken in summer 2018 seeking views on what people would like to see at a new site. A second public consultation will be undertaken in May to June 2019 prior to the submission of a planning application providing further detail and seeking views on the proposals.

1.7. The new site is expected to be operational from September 2021 following the end of

the current contract for the Mile Cross Recycling Centre and subject to securing the necessary consents. The operation of the new recycling centre will be brought under the existing recycling centre Service Level Agreement Contract with Norse Environmental Waste Services Ltd. (NEWS). This will allow all 20 of Norfolk's recycling centres to operate under the same contract conditions and to be operated on open book principle which has delivered significant savings to the service.

1.8. Sheringham, Ketteringham, Wymondham and Morningthorpe Recycling Centres

Capital funding for improvement schemes totalling £7.425m has been approved for Sheringham, Ketteringham, Wymondham and Morningthorpe Recycling Centres and is included in the capital forward plan.

Following the approval, the Council are procuring a sole contractor for the four schemes to support the process to secure planning permission and permit to operate, as well as for design and development of specifications. Planning applications are expected to be submitted in 2019/20 for the extension at Sheringham as well as for the relocation of Ketteringham to the Harford Park and Ride.

1.9. Planning applications for the schemes at Wymondham and Morningthorpe are expected to be submitted in 2020/21 once further work has been undertaken to secure suitable solutions. Land searches are underway for a suitable site to replace the current Wymondham Recycling Centre.

1.10. Improvements to these sites will include a reuse shop to increase material diverted from the waste streams and provide a separate operational area to reduce site closures for servicing and bin movements and to further improve the safety of operations. The improvements will also ensure the sites have sufficient capacity to deal with future housing growth.

1.11. Caister Transfer Station

Caister Transfer Station, owned by Norfolk County Council and operated by NEWS, has come under increasing pressure due to the condition of the existing infrastructure, limited available space and increasing demand due to increases in waste levels and improvements and development of the local recycling service. The facility has been identified as a key piece of infrastructure in east Norfolk and soft market testing on the future residual waste contract has shown there is currently no viable available alternative. The publication of Government's national Resources and Waste Strategy in December 2018 highlights the potential for separate collections of material and mandatory food waste collections which would generate additional pressure on existing waste infrastructure regardless of local growth. A programme to redevelop and extend the existing transfer station before the start of the next residual waste contracts in 2021 has been established and, to facilitate the expansion, work is progressing on the scope and nature of associated work on the adjacent County Highways Depot site.

## **2. Evidence**

2.1 A Recycling Centre Service Review considered by this Committee in September 2015 identified expected impacts resulting from housing growth on some recycling centres of increased visitor numbers and associated traffic numbers and an increase in waste throughput requiring additional site servicing.

Sites along the A11 corridor (notably Wymondham) and North Norwich (Mayton Wood) were identified as being likely to come under significant pressure due to housing growth. The selection of the preferred site to replace the Mile Cross Recycling Centre now allows a wider strategy for sites around Norwich to be established to ensure that service provision is appropriately sited for residents with a modern site located to the north and south of Norwich.

- 2.2 Government released the Resources and Waste Strategy in December 2018. The strategy complements the 25 Year Environment Plan and sets out a policy framework aimed at ensuring that resources are used more efficiently in the UK economy, and that waste is minimised and deployed as a valuable source of raw materials. Many of the key measures it contains are subject to further consultation, meaning that much of the detail on implementation is lacking at this stage.
- 2.3 Much of the strategy focuses on the top end of the waste hierarchy – waste prevention and reuse – but it also addresses key aspects of recycling, energy recovery, landfill and waste crime. The strategy also confirms that the European Union Circular Economy legislation agreed earlier this year will be transposed into UK law in full.
- 2.4 Local authorities are encouraged to increase reuse at recycling centres. Relocation or extension of the sites at Sheringham, Wymondham and Morningthorpe will allow additional reuse facilities to be introduced, as well as a larger reuse facility at the replacement sites for Mile Cross and Ketteringham Recycling Centres.
- 2.5 There is ambition within the Government's Strategy to achieve greater consistency of materials recycled at the kerbside, with potential mandatory food collections from 2023. Consultations will address the approach to collections and how to improve the quality of materials collected for recycling. Changes to the collection system are likely to impact the required infrastructure across the waste service, including transfer stations and potential Recycling Centres, which highlight the need for ensuring waste infrastructure is future proof and fit for purpose and can offer sufficient flexibility to accommodate future waste service changes.
- 2.6 Many of Norfolk's recycling centres are old facilities historically linked to closed landfill sites. These facilities have come under increasing pressure as the drive to improve recycling has resulted in a significant increase in the volume of materials separately collected for reuse and recycling.
- 2.7 In April 2018 the DIY Pay As You Throw service was extended to all recycling centres as part of a move to increase the services offered to householders across the whole network.
- 2.8 A change to the charges for DIY type construction and demolition waste introduced at Recycling Centres in April 2018 has not led to the increase in reported incidents of fly-tipping that many were concerned about. For the first nine months since the changes incident numbers are 15% lower than for the same period the year before and the lowest for the last three years.
- 2.9 From spring 2019 Home compost bins will be on sale at all sites and the extension of the reuse shop network will also contribute to increased opportunities for householders to compost, recycle and reuse more waste.

### **3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1 £2.75 million had already been allocated for the replacement site for Mile Cross Recycling Centre. An additional £7.425 million for the redevelopment or relocation of four recycling centres and £2.64 million for the extension of Caister Transfer Station has recently been approved and included on the Council's capital programme.

### **4. Issues, risks and innovation**

- 4.1 Failure to secure a replacement site for the Mile Cross Recycling Centre would place surrounding sites under significant pressure with capacity and queueing, which could compromise the County Council's ability to deliver an efficient service under its statutory duty as a Waste Disposal Authority and to comply with planning and permitting requirements of the sites.
- 4.2 It is necessary to ensure that the recycling centre network is fit for purpose and has sufficient flexibility to deal with future waste requirements. Failure to do so may impact the ability to deliver an efficient service for the public and prevent further service improvements, such as innovation around materials collected for reuse and recycling.
- 4.2 As an integral part of Norfolk's waste infrastructure, failure to carry out the required improvement and extension to Caister Transfer Station could result in loss of the facility. Waste collected in the Great Yarmouth Borough Council area would have to be delivered to an alternative site some distance away causing considerable disruption to the management of its waste collection services as well as significant cost increases and a requirement for the County Council to make payments to Great Yarmouth Borough Council to assist with the costs of the longer journeys required.

### **5. Background**

- 5.1 Norfolk County Council provides twenty recycling centres across the county for the free disposal of household waste and paid disposal of non-household waste. Trade waste is accepted for payment at seven recycling centres.
- 5.2 The recycling centre service budget is £6.4m and it handles around 75,000 tonnes of waste a year with around 1.2m customer visits. The busiest site, Mile Cross Recycling Centre, accepts around 19% of that waste.

### **Officer Contact**

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper or want to see copies of any assessments, e.g. equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

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