

# Environment, Development and Transport Committee

Item No.

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| <b>Report title:</b>  | <b>Norwich Depot Hub – Next Steps</b>  |
| <b>Date of meeting:</b>   | <b>18 May 2018</b>   |
| <b>Responsible Chief Officer:</b>   | <b>Tom McCabe – Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services</b> |
| <b>Strategic impact</b><br>A replacement recycling centre is required in the Norwich area from September 2021, the key driver behind the Norwich Depot Hub project. |  |

## Executive summary

A business case was prepared for a joint depot hub to include a household waste recycling centre, highways depot and Broadland District Council waste and street cleansing depot.

Co-locating these services could deliver benefits, however, the capital investment required combined with current discussion on future service strategy, means progressing a joint highways and waste services depot at this time is not feasible.

A replacement recycling centre for Norwich is required by September 2021, as this is when the contract for Mile Cross Recycling Centre ends and because the County Council does not own the Mile Cross site. Early consultation with residents on a replacement recycling centre is planned for summer 2018 and discussions on a suitable location for a replacement site are continuing.

### Recommendations:

- 1. Agree that the depot hub scheme is not taken forward at this time but that work continues on securing a suitable replacement site for a recycling centre.**
- 2. Agree that the member task and finish group established to oversee the depot hub project will now focus on overseeing the process to secure a suitable site for the delivery of the replacement recycling centre.**

## 1. Business Case Update

- 1.1. A business case has been developed for a joint depot hub on land near Norwich Airport. A summary of this is included as Appendix A. The scheme considered new facilities for the County Council and Broadland District Council to operate statutory functions including waste collection, street cleansing, provision of a recycling centre and highway maintenance.
- 1.2. At this stage it is not possible to demonstrate that revenue savings would be delivered for either the highways or district depot elements to offset the required capital investment. A revenue saving is expected to be delivered for the replacement recycling centre through improvements in recycling and diversion of waste.
- 1.3. Following the development of the business case senior officers at the County Council and Broadland District Council recommend that the depot hub is not

taken forward due to the identified issues and the high costs of development compared to the current arrangements.

- 1.4. There is still a need to deliver a replacement recycling centre for Norwich by September 2021 as this is when the contract for Mile Cross Recycling Centre ends and because the County Council does not own the Mile Cross site. Discussions are ongoing regarding a preferred site at Norwich Airport and further work is underway on alternative locations outlined in section 2.
- 1.5. It is recommended that the member task and finish group established to oversee the depot hub project will now focus on overseeing the process to secure a suitable site for the delivery of the replacement recycling centre.

## **2. Recycling Centre Provision**

- 2.1. The need to deliver a replacement recycling centre for Norwich by September 2021 means that alternative sites are being considered.

Reviews of available sites have been carried out by NPS and have considered a number of sites against criteria including size and location of plot, access and proximity to residential property.

- 2.2. Further investigations and detailed discussion with relevant stakeholders on available sites will be carried out. This will confirm suitability and deliverability within the programme should discussions not progress further on any preferred location.
- 2.3. A decision on the final site selection is expected to be needed by the end of 2018 to allow time for design, planning, permitting and construction by September 2021.

## **3. Communications and Consultation**

- 3.1. The first stage of public consultation is planned for June 2018. The consultation will seek views on what would be important on a new site. Further consultation on the proposed site design and location will be undertaken in late 2019, subject to securing an appropriate site.
- 3.2. The consultation will be supported by a communications plan including information on the Norfolk County Council website and social media.

## **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1. A bid as part of the One Public Estate programme for £95,000 towards feasibility and design work was unsuccessful. The initial feasibility study was funded by the partners and work on later phases identified as part of the One Public Estate project will not be undertaken at this time. Future design and planning work on the recycling centre will be funded through the existing waste budget.
- 4.2. £2.75m capital funding has been allocated for a recycling centre in the 2018/19 capital programme.

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

- 5.1. Key risks for the delivery of a recycling centre facility for Norwich from 2021 include securing land for development, obtaining planning consent and constructing the facility before the expiry of the current contract.
- 5.2. Failure to deliver a replacement recycling centre for Norwich could result in reputational damage to the County Council and compromise its ability to provide an efficient service in line with its statutory responsibility as a Waste Disposal Authority. All alternative sites are being considered to minimise this risk.

## 6. Background

### 6.1. Background Papers:

- [EDT Committee November 2017 – Norwich Depot Hub Project Initiation](#)

### Officer Contact

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

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