

12 July 2012		ITEM 5
CLEANER, GREENER AND SAFER OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE		
REVIEW OF CIVIC AMENITY SITES		
Report of: John Gilford – Waste and Recycling Manager		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non Key	
Accountable Head of Service: John Gilford – Waste and Recycling Manager		
Accountable Director: Andrew Murphy – Director of Environment		
This report is Public		
Purpose of Report: To report to Members the current Civic Amenity site provision in the Borough together with options for future sites and service delivery.		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report sets out the present Civic Amenity site provision in Thurrock together with options to be considered for future sites.

The report also sets out the legislative background within the Environmental Protection Act 1990 for the provision of the Civic Amenity service.

- 1. RECOMMENDATIONS:**
 - 1.1 That Members establish a working group to prepare Terms of Reference for and undertake a study for future Civic Amenity service provision in Thurrock.**

- 2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**
 - 2.1 The provision of a Civic Amenity service is established by the Environmental Protection Act 1990: Section 51 (the Act).
 - 2.2 This requires Disposal Authorities to provide facilities to their residents to meet the requirements and standards set out in the Act. For Thurrock the

requirement is that there should be a minimum of one facility provided within its administrative boundaries.

- 2.3 Whilst the Act establishes the minimum standards for the provision of the service in terms of the minimum number of sites, it does not contain any information or guidance regarding the standards by which the sites should be operated.

Individual Authorities are able to set criteria such as opening hours, provision of recycling containers, site layouts, the acceptance of commercial waste and charging systems for non-household waste for themselves.

- 2.4 Many of today's sites have derived from former County Council waste sites which pre-date current legislation which have been subject to a number of upgrades to meet the increasing level of public expectation and waste volumes.

3. ISSUES AND/OR OPTIONS:

- 3.1 The current level of service provision within Thurrock meets the minimum standards set out within the Act, i.e. one site. The service is provided to residents for the disposal of their Household Waste and is a service for which there is no charge at the point of delivery.

The site does not accept commercial or industrial waste.

- 3.2 Waste types for disposal and recycling follow good practice for a modern Civic Amenity service. The recycling rate at the site is 67.51% (2010/11).

- 3.3 To meet the anticipated demands created by future housing a second site was built in St Clements Way, West Thurrock and operated from September 2009 until its closure in November 2010.

- 3.4 Options for future service provision fall into the following broad categories

- Do nothing: remain with the current site based at Linford, carry out limited selective improvements as and when required.
- Redevelop: the Council owns land adjacent to the Linford site and could expand or build a new larger site designed to meet future service requirements.
- Reopen St Clements: the closed site remains intact and could be reopened at relatively short notice. This would meet future service demands particularly to the west of the Borough.
- New Build: this would retain the Linford site and would provide a new site at a location in the Borough to meet housing growth. The St Clements site would not be reopened to the public but would remain in the ownership of the Council as an operational depot.

- Gerpins Lane: use of this L.B. Havering site would require an annual payment for use by Thurrock Residents. In the longer term, this site may be subject to permanent closure.

3.5 The Civic Amenity service is a highly visible front-line public service frequently used by many residents to dispose of their bulky household waste items.

Future plans dealing with both short and long term scenarios should be developed taking account of factors such as future housing, growth in the amount and types of waste, the potential closure of sites adjacent to Thurrock and both revenue and capital funding.

4. CONSULTATION (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

4.1 Environment Portfolio Holder – February 2012

5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES, PRIORITIES, PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

5.1 These will be addressed in the report of the working group.

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Michael Jones**
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Options for increasing the provision of sites beyond the present site at Linford will have unbudgeted financial implications for future years. These will be a combination of both revenue and capital costs and will depend on the preferred option. The report of the working group should be inclusive of all financing requirements.

6.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Alison Stuart**
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astuart@thurrock.gov.uk

The legal requirements are set out in the Environmental Protection Act 1990 as described in the main body of this report. The report of the working group should include a commentary on compliance with current and known future legislative requirements.

6.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Samson DeAlyn**
 Telephone and email: **01375 652472**
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The Equalities Act places a duty on the Council to have due regard to the principles of equality in all of its decision making processes. Consideration should be given to issues such as fair access to services, dealing with residents who have varying levels of mobility and vision.

Information and literature should be available in a range of formats and languages. The report of the working group should include a commentary on compliance with the requirements of the Equalities Act.

6.4 **Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental**

Other significant implications will be included in the report of the working group

7. **CONCLUSION**

7.1 The establishment of a working group would support and participate in an evaluation of both short, medium and long term options including costs, for the provision of future Civic Amenity services in the Borough.

BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT:

- There are no background papers used in the preparation of this report.

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:

- There are no Appendices

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