

<b>4 February 2014</b>		<b>ITEM: 6</b>
<b>Cleaner Greener Safer Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>Working Group Review of Future Provision of Civic Amenity Sites</b>		
<b>Report of:</b> Cllr Victoria Holloway – Portfolio Holder for Environment		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> Non -key	
<b>Accountable Head of Service:</b> Mike Heath – Interim Head of Environment		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Darren Henaghan – Director of Environment		
<b>This report is Public</b>		
<b>Purpose of Report:</b> To report to Members of Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview and Scrutiny		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The 2013 Working Group Review and</li> <li>b) Proposals for future Civic Amenity service access controls.</li> </ul>		

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report sets out

- a) Current standards of Civic Amenity site provision for Thurrock together with relevant details of the legislative background within the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
- b) The results of the Civic Amenity Working Group which considered future service provision, housing growth, waste volumes and funding.
- c) Proposals for future access controls to deter unauthorised waste to improve recycling and control operating costs.

### **1. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1.1 That Members note and agree the recommendation of the Working Group.**
- 1.2 That this Committee recommends that Cabinet approves the report and that delegated authority be given to the Head of Environment in consultation with the Portfolio Holder Environment to agree the access control scheme details and implementation.**

## **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 Waste 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 boundary.
- 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.
- 2.4 Individual Authorities are able to set criteria such as opening hours, provision of recycling containers, site layouts, the acceptance of commercial waste, charging systems for non-household waste and access controls for themselves.
- 2.5 Many of today's sites have derived from former County Council waste sites which pre-date current legislation and which have been subject to a number of upgrades and improvements to meet the increasing level of public expectation and waste volumes.

## **3. ISSUES, OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS:**

### **Report of Working Group**

- 3.1 The current level of service provision within Thurrock meets the minimum standards set out within the Act (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.
- 3.2 The site does not accept commercial or industrial waste.
- 3.3 Waste types which are received for disposal and recycling follow good practice for a modern Civic Amenity service. The recycling rate at the site is 40.53 (2012/2013)
- 3.4 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 as the anticipated demand for a location to the West of the Borough did not materialise and budget constraints meant that an un-utilised location was not sustainable.
- 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.
- 3.6 Future plans for Civic Amenity provision within the Borough will be required to deal with both medium and long term impacts of growth and regeneration. These should be developed to take account of factors such as future housing,

population growth and changes in the amount and types of waste produced by residents. It is proposed that local circumstances should be monitored and that further reviews should be carried out at three year intervals to assess whether the Linford site continues to be suitable as a local resource

**Proposals for Future access controls**

- 3.7 As part of the on-going monitoring of the site the throughput of waste is carefully monitored and it has been noted that during the past year there has been a significant change in the patterns and volumes of waste being delivered to the site. As waste that is delivered to the site costs up to £105 per tonne for processing and disposal it is essential that the Council maintains strong controls over materials that are accepted, taking only those items that it is the Councils duty to accept. Anecdotally it is understood that other local authorities have placed much more rigorous controls on the waste that they accept and that this had lead to a number of traders and businesses as well as residents of other boroughs visiting the site to dispose of their waste.
- 3.8 In order to mitigate against these activities and working with the contractor who operates the site on the councils behalf we have funded an employee on the site whose role is to meet and greet users, assisting residents to separate their waste for recycling and prohibiting entry to traders and unauthorised users. This action already shows a reduction in the volume of waste being brought to the site.
- 3.9 The Council has for a number of years indicated on its website that members of the public visiting the site may be required to show some form of identification such as a council tax or utility bill to gain access to the site and it is now proposed that this rule is more rigidly enforced and that those site users that are unable to comply with these requirements be turned away and told to return with some evidence of residency.
- 3.10 A number of local authorities are now introducing charging mechanisms that allow non-authorised users to deposit waste at their sites and it is recommended that officers should research the various approaches that are taken along with the charges that are levied and collection methodologies and that a future report consider these options.

**4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 4.1 To provide clarity and stability to support and develop the current service together with provision for further reviews.

**5. CONSULTATION (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

- 5.1 Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview & Scrutiny Committee 12 July 2012
- 5.2 Environment Portfolio Holder – February 2012 and September 2013

**6. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES, PRIORITIES, PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT**

6.1 No impact

## **7. IMPLICATIONS**

### **7.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Michael Jones**  
 Telephone and email: **01375 652772**  
[mxjones@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:mxjones@thurrock.gov.uk)

There are no financial implications contained in this report. Future options for increasing the provision of sites beyond the present site at Linford will have unbudgeted financial implications for future years.

### **7.2 Legal**

Implications verified by: **Alison Stuart**  
 Telephone and email: **01375 652 040**  
[astuart@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:astuart@thurrock.gov.uk)

There are no legal implications contained in this report. Legal requirements supporting the provision of the service are set out in the Environmental Protection Act 1990 as described in the main body of this report.

### **7.3 Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Samson DeAlyn**  
 Telephone and email: **01375 652472**  
[sdealyn@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:sdealyn@thurrock.gov.uk)

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.

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

There are no other implications

**BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):**

- Report to Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview & Scrutiny Cttee 12 July 2012

**APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:**

- There are no appendices to this report

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