

Meeting date: 28 November 2022

Report to: Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure

Report title: Petition Update

Report from: Head of Waste and Recycling

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Wards affected:

All Wards | Bickenhill | Blythe | Castle Bromwich | Chelmsley Wood |
 Dorridge/Hockley Heath | Elmdon | Kingshurst/Fordbridge | Knowle |
 Lyndon | Meriden | Olton | Shirley East | Shirley South |
 Shirley West | Silhill | Smith's Wood | St Alphege

Public/private report: Public

Exempt by virtue of paragraph: 6 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act - Information which reveals that the authority proposes:-
(a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.

7 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act - Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 To provide an update on a petition received relating to the Environment and Infrastructure portfolio.
- 1.2 The Petition was from Councillor Martin McCarthy and was on behalf of residents in Castle Bromwich.
- 1.3 Historically, Solihull residents living in Castle Bromwich with a B36 postcode were allowed to use the Tamar Drive Household Waste Recycling Centre, which is owned and operated by Birmingham City Council.

- 1.4 Following the Coronavirus Pandemic, and the implementation of a resident only booking system, this arrangement is no longer in place.
- 1.5 Officers were asked to explore the potential to reinstate this arrangement with Birmingham City Council.

2. Decision(s) Recommended

- 2.1 The Cabinet Member is asked to:
 - a) Agree that no further action is taken to progress this matter with Birmingham City Council due to the constraints identified in section 2.11 of this report.

Report Title: Petition Update

1. Matters for Consideration

- 1.1 At Full Council in April 2022, Councillor Martin McCarthy submitted a petition on behalf of residents, requesting that they be allowed to access the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) at Tamar Drive in Castle Bromwich. The site is operated by Birmingham City Council for Birmingham residents.
- 1.2 During the Coronavirus Pandemic all Household Waste Recycling Centres were closed for a period of time and when they re-opened many councils including Birmingham implemented a booking system for resident only access.
- 1.3 Since the booking system was introduced Solihull residents from Castle Bromwich have been unable to use the Tamar Drive site and have been required to use the HWRC provided by Solihull Council at Bickenhill.
- 1.4 The site at Tamar Drive is closer for residents in Castle Bromwich than the site at Bickenhill.

2. What options have been considered and what is the evidence telling us about them?

- 2.1 In 2010, an agreement was made between the Cabinet Members from Solihull MBC and Birmingham CC with the responsibility for waste services to undertake a 3-month trial to allow residents living in Castle Bromwich with a B36 postcode to use the Tamar Drive Household Waste Recycling Centre, located in Birmingham (Castle Bromwich).
- 2.2 The Tamar Drive site is provided and operated by Birmingham City Council for their residents. However, as the Tamar Drive site is nearer to residents in Castle Bromwich than the site provided for Solihull residents (Bickenhill), it was agreed that trial use of the Tamar Drive site would be allowed for Solihull residents.
- 2.3 The arrangement was only proposed to be temporary and then would be reviewed. Therefore, no formal arrangement was entered into and the arrangement continued due to the good will of Birmingham City Council.
- 2.4 It should be noted that Birmingham City Council has been very accommodating on this matter and has allowed Castle Bromwich residents unrestricted access to the Tamar Drive site at no additional cost to Solihull, with Birmingham City Council absorbing any additional costs arising from this arrangement.
- 2.5 In 2019 officers from Solihull started discussions with their counterparts at Birmingham regarding a review of the arrangement. This included potential remuneration options to compensate Birmingham for the cost of Solihull residents using the site. A proposal was drafted but discussions did not progress further due to the onset of the Coronavirus Pandemic.
- 2.6 In accordance with Government guidance both Solihull and Birmingham closed their household waste sites for a period of time during the Pandemic. When the sites

reopened it was under certain operating restrictions. Birmingham put in place a booking system for residents only when their sites reopened and similarly in September 2020, Solihull also put in place a resident only booking system for access to Bickenhill HWRC.

- 2.7 The booking systems mean that only residents in the City/Borough area can use the respective HWRC's. Appointments need to be made and proof of residency provided to allow access to the sites.
- 2.8 Following the petition from Councillor McCarthy, we approached officers at Birmingham City Council regarding the possibility of allowing Castle Bromwich residents back into the Tamar Drive site.
- 2.9 We have been advised by officers at Birmingham City Council that this will not be feasible for the foreseeable future for the following reasons:
 - (a) The Household Waste Recycling Centre at Perry Barr is no longer open and the closure of this facility is placing pressure on already pressurised capacity at the remaining Birmingham HWRC's. Any additional site capacity at other HWRC's including Tamar Drive is needed to meet the demands of Birmingham residents, therefore there is currently no capacity to allow Solihull residents to use the site at Tamar Drive.
 - (b) Officers at Birmingham are also assessing capacity at other sites with a view to potential redevelopment. This again will mean the closure or reduced capacity at other HWRC's and therefore all capacity will be required for Birmingham residents.
- 2.10 Following these studies and improvement works – we could potentially reopen dialogue with Birmingham again regarding this matter. However, any future arrangement would require Solihull to reimburse Birmingham for the cost of Solihull residents using the site.
- 2.11 It is worth noting that Birmingham (like Solihull) has an increasing population which is placing additional demands on capacity at HWRC's and there may not be any future capacity to accommodate Solihull residents.

3. Reasons for recommending preferred option

- 3.1 Taking into consideration the updated position from officers at Birmingham City Council, it is clear that there is little scope for Solihull residents to use the Tamar Drive site while other sites in Birmingham are closed or while there are capacity pressures at existing Birmingham sites.
- 3.2 Therefore, it is recommended that this matter is not progressed further with Birmingham City Council, but that officers from both authorities continue to maintain dialogue through their regular regional network meetings.

3.3

4. Implications and Considerations

4.1 State how the proposals in this report contribute to the priorities in the [Council Plan](#):

Priority:	Contribution:
<p>People and Communities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Improving outcomes for children and young people in Solihull.2. Good quality, responsive, and dignified care and support for Adults in Solihull when they need it.3. Take action to improve life chances and health outcomes in our most disadvantaged communities.4. Enable communities to thrive.	Not applicable
<p>Economy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">5. Develop and promote the borough's economy, with a focus on revitalising our town and local centres.6. Maximising the opportunities of UK Central and HS2.7. Increase the supply of affordable and social housing that is environmentally sustainable.	Not applicable
<p>Environment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">8. Enhance our natural environment, improve air quality and reduce net carbon emissions.	Not applicable
<ol style="list-style-type: none">9. Promote employee wellbeing	Not applicable

4.2 Consultation and Scrutiny:

4.2.1 No consultation has been carried out on the content of this report.

4.3 Financial implications:

4.3.1 No financial implications resulting from this report

4.4 Legal implications:

4.4.1 No legal implications resulting from this report

4.5 Risk implications, including Risk Appetite:

4.5.1 No risks identified

4.6 Equality implications:

4.6.1 No equality impacts identified

4.7 Linkages to our work with the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), Local Enterprise Partnership or the Birmingham & Solihull Integrated Care System (ICS):

4.7.1 None identified

5. List of appendices referred to

5.1 Not applicable

6. Background papers used to compile this report

6.1 None

7. List of Other Relevant Documents

7.1 None