# Replacement Recycling Centre for lyybridge: Scheme Approval

Report of the Head of Highways, Capital Development and Waste

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Cabinet (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.

#### **Recommendations:**

- (a) that Cabinet notes the important contribution that efficient recycling facilities make to reducing the costs of the Waste Management Service;
- (b) that final scheme approval be granted for the construction of a replacement Recycling Centre to serve lyybridge and the surrounding area as shown in Appendix 1 and 2;
- (c) that a budget of £3,703,000 is approved for the scheme;
- (d) that drainage works at the Football Club are completed this summer prior to the start of the main contract in order to avoid disruption to the football season.

## 1. Summary

This report seeks Scheme Approval for the construction of a new Recycling Centre (to replace the existing facility) to serve Ivybridge and the surrounding areas including the proposed Sherford development and an estimated scheme budget of £3,703,000. It also seeks approval to carry out advance drainage works at the Football Club to avoid disruption during the football season.

#### 2. Background/Introduction

The County Council is responsible for the management of Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW) in Devon. The strategy of the service to minimise overall costs is to promote behaviour change to reduce the generation of waste, enable and provide for waste reuse and recycling, and recover or dispose of residual waste in the most cost effective way.

Reuse and recycling is generally achieved at lower costs when compared to waste disposal and can enable value and income to be gained from LACW.

Cabinet approved the 'Strategy for Recycling Centre (Civic Amenity Site) Facilities in Devon', report ECC/11/38/HQ on 9 March 2011.

The Strategy set out the vision and principle of continuous improvement of Devon's recycling performance and the service offered to the public by enhancing Recycling Centre facilities. Whilst the Strategy acknowledges that the network of facilities is mainly in place, it identifies some gaps in provision and some needs relating to the upgrading or replacement of facilities.

The Strategy identifies the need for a new recycling centre in the Ivybridge area.

The existing Ivybridge Recycling Centre is very small and is inadequate to serve the local growing population, including the nearby Sherford development. Given the size of the existing site, significant traffic queues develop on the public highway, with the site being very congested, which puts at risk the safe operation of the facility. The small scale of the site also impacts on recycling performance, resulting in lower recycling rates than the recycling centre average across Devon. This in turn results in higher volumes of waste for disposal.

In 2014/15 the Ivybridge site recycling rate was 72% compared to the County average rate of 81%.

The existing site cannot be expanded and so a replacement facility is required.

Using the funding agreed as part of the Capital Programme,

- A site has been purchased for a new facility
- Planning Permission and an Environmental Permit have been obtained
- The scheme design has been completed and the construction contract has been tendered
- Some advance works have been carried out.

The location of the new site is shown on the attached plan ref 4944\_001 in Appendix 1.

A layout of the new facility is shown on attached plan ref: 4944/202 in Appendix 2. The design has been influenced by recent experience in the provision of new recycling centres at Bideford, Sidmouth and Pinbrook, Exeter. The split level design separates operational activity from public use of the site in the interest of safety and operational efficiency.

The facility includes a resale area, which will divert reusable items from the recycling or disposal fraction.

As with all Capital schemes, the design has been the subject of a value engineering exercise to ensure that over engineering is eliminated whilst ensuring that the design is fit for purpose. The value engineering exercise resulted in estimated costs reductions for example by the deletion of the site canopy, balancing of earthworks cut and fill quantities and reduced thickness of footway construction materials.

#### 3. Proposal/Financial Considerations

The approved budget provision for the scheme of £3.133m is included in the Medium Term Capital Programme. This provision includes a Section 106 provision of £750,000 from the new Sherford development.

Tenders for the construction of the new facility were returned with prices at least £300,000 higher than had been previously estimated. However, no contract was awarded as 4 of the companies on the tender list did not submit a tender, one company made an error in their tender, which they were not prepared to stand by, one tender was unaffordable and the preferred bidder withdrew its offer following a clarification meeting on risk allocation within the contract.

Tenders were higher than estimated due to the recent general increase in construction prices. The increase reflects the current high level of construction activity within the south west region. This is thought to have been the cause of the relatively low level of interest in the scheme and the resulting limited number of bidders. A revised scheme estimate of £3,703,000 has been prepared which takes into account the current trend of increasing in

construction prices as well as additional project management costs to enable the contract to be retendered and for works to start early next year on site.

The shortfall of £570k between the approved budget and the current scheme estimate can be funded from other schemes in the Waste Capital Programme from Heathfield and Knapp Copse redundant landfill schemes, Sidmouth recycling centre and Exeter Transfer Station totalling £467,000 and other unallocated County Council controlled funds. Approval is now sought for the scheme as well as the increase in budget such that a contract can be let following the return of tenders later this year. In addition approval is sought to progress advance drainage works at the Football Club this summer to avoid an impact on the club during the football season. It is anticipated that the site will open to the public at the end of 2016.

# 4. Environmental Impact Considerations

Environmental impacts were fully considered during the planning permission application process. Planning Permission was granted for the facility at the DCC Development Management Committee on 26 November 2014. The facility also has an Environmental Permit (regulated by the Environment Agency).

Overall, the new Recycling Centre facility will provide local residents with a more accessible, more efficient, easier to use facility which will maximise recycling and will reduce the amount of waste going for disposal.

### 5. Equality Considerations

Where relevant to the decision, the Equality Act 2010 Public Sector Equality Duty requires decision makers to give due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

Taking account of age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), gender and gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women/new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage/civil partnership status in coming to a decision, a decision maker may also consider other relevant factors such as caring responsibilities, rural isolation or socio-economic disadvantage.

This may be achieved, for example, through completing a full Equality Impact Needs Assessment/Impact Assessment or other form of options/project management appraisal that achieves the same objective.

The provision of a new, purposed designed facility seeks to improve the service for all local residents. The new Recycling Centre will provide all local residents with a more accessible, more efficient, easier to use, safer facility which will maximise recycling and will reduce the amount of waste going for disposal. Reasonable assistance to <u>all</u> site users will be available from site staff on request. The service is complemented by a bulky household waste collection service provided by the District Council for those unable to travel to/access the facility for whatever reason.

An Impact Assessment has been prepared, a copy of which has been circulated to Cabinet Members, and is available alongside this report on the Council's website at: <a href="http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/councildemocracy/decision\_making/cma/index\_exc.htm">http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/councildemocracy/decision\_making/cma/index\_exc.htm</a>

### 6. Legal Considerations

There are no specific legal considerations.

### 7. Risk Management Considerations

This proposal has been assessed and all necessary safeguards or action have been taken/included to safeguard the Council's position.

The County Council will supervise the construction of the works, and the governance of the project will include risk assessment.

# 8. Options/Alternatives

The proposal seeks to deliver significant improvements to the Recycling Centre provision in the lybridge area, and to cater for future developments including Sherford. If the status quo was maintained, then it is likely that the front line service would deteriorate as more residents would look to use the site thereby exacerbating existing problems. In addition the recycling rate would not be improved and overall waste service costs could potentially increase as more waste could be sent for disposal.

#### 9. Reason for Recommendation/Conclusion

The existing Ivybridge Recycling Centre is too small, suffers from severe congestion and is no longer fit for purpose. A new Recycling Centre facility will provide local residents with a more accessible, more efficient, safer, easier to use facility which will maximise recycling and will reduce the amount of waste going for disposal. A site has been procured and planning consent is in place and final scheme and budget approval is therefore needed to enable construction of the facility once tenders have been returned.

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Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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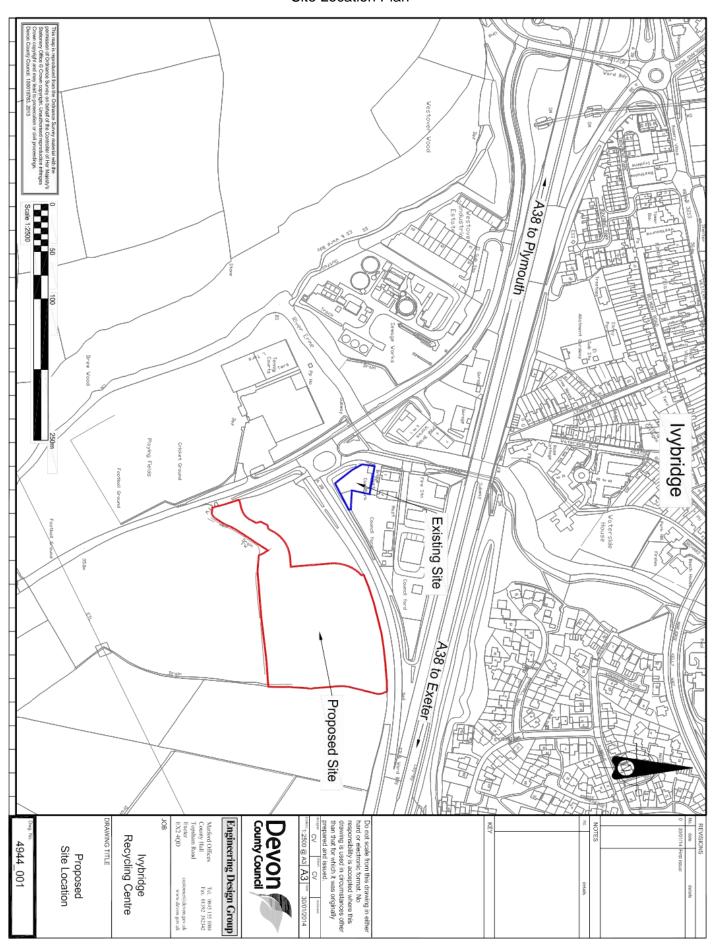
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Background Paper Date File Reference

Nil

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### Site Location Plan



# Appendix 2 To HCW/15/42

