

Report of Chief Waste Management Officer

Report to Inner East Area Committee

Date: Thursday 18th October 2012

**Subject: Proposed closure of Stanley Road Household Waste Sorting Site:
alternative waste and recycling facilities and communications strategy**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Richmond Hill & Burmantofts Gipton & Harehills Killingbeck & Seacroft
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

This report describes the recycling services available to the residents of Inner East area following the proposed closure of Stanley Road Household Waste Sorting Site (HWSS). It is proposed that a report be taken to the October 2012 Executive Board meeting seeking approval to close this site in order to facilitate a school development. This is further to a review of City Centre HWSS provision which found that the site is not as well used and achieves a lower recycling rate when compared to the Council's other HWSSs.

The report also outlines the proposed communications strategy that Waste Management are planning to undertake to publicise the closure of Stanley Road HWSS to local residents. This approach is based on the Service's past experience of successfully communicating the closure of sites.

Recommendations

Members of the Inner East Area Committee are recommended to:

- Note the contents of this report.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to describe the recycling services available to the residents of Inner East Area following the proposed closure of Stanley Road Household Waste Sorting Site (HWSS). This site is being closed to facilitate a school development, following a review of City Centre HWSS provision which found that the site is not as well used and achieves a lower recycling rate when compared to the Council's other sites.
- 1.2 The report also outlines the proposed communications strategy that Waste Management are planning to undertake to publicise the closure of Stanley Road HWSS to local residents.

2 Background information

Waste Strategy

- 2.1 The Integrated Waste Strategy for Leeds 2005-35 sets out Leeds City Council's long-term vision for dealing with municipal waste, and associated detailed plans of how it intends to achieve this vision. In December 2011, the Executive Board reaffirmed the Council's Integrated Waste Strategy 2005-35 and approved new household waste recycling targets of 55% by 2016, and a long term target to exceed 60%.
- 2.2 In addition to providing kerbside and 'bring bank' site recycling services, the Council provides nine HWSSs located in and around the city where members of the public can take their domestic waste for re-use, recycling and disposal. These sites contribute just under 10% (i.e. percentage points) to the total household waste recycling rate for the City, and the HWSSs therefore represent a key element of the Council's household waste recycling provision. In 2010, Executive Board approved the Service's Strategic Review of the City's HWSSs and Bring Sites.
- 2.3 Waste Management revisited and updated the Strategic Review of HWSSs in 2012 by reviewing the provision, recycling performance and usage of the HWSSs around the City Centre. This concluded that closing Stanley Road HWSS would not significantly affect the City's recycling performance as the site receives relatively low waste tonnages and achieves lower recycling rates when compared to the Council's other sites (for example in 2011/12 Stanley Road achieved a recycling rate of 51.97% while the highest performing site achieved 69.88%).
- 2.4 The heavy and bulky nature of waste materials taken to HWSSs mean that virtually all users access HWSSs by car or van. The 2012 update found that the residents local to Stanley Road have access to other HWSSs (East Leeds, Meanwood Road, Kirkstall Road) within a 20 minute drive time, and therefore these residents will be in a similar situation to other Leeds residents in terms of access to HWSSs.

School Proposal

- 2.5 Due to a significant shortfall of primary school places in the local area, Children's Services are in the process of developing a new primary school on a vacant site at Florence Street, which is immediately adjacent to Stanley Road HWSS. Following HWSS's closure, the site will be incorporated into the school development in order to

provide improved access, car parking and play space facilities. The closure also addresses concerns about the compatibility of the two neighbouring land uses and benefits the school by removing a potential source of noise, traffic, dust, wind-blown litter and odour.

Project Programme

- 2.6 The Council are currently developing designs for the new school, and are aiming to submit a planning application in April 2013, start construction in December 2013, and open the school in January 2015. Based on this project programme, the Service expects Stanley Road HWSS to close in late 2013.

3 Main Issues

Communications Strategy

- 3.1 Customers generally use the HWSS closest to their homes, and therefore it is difficult to determine with certainty which site they would use should Stanley Road close. However, a communications strategy would be instigated by Waste Management to publicise the closure of Stanley Road and highlight the East Leeds site in Seacroft as the key alternative site.
- 3.2 In order to publicise the closure of the Stanley Road HWSS to the general public, the Service is intending to install clearly visible signage at the gates of the site approximately 6 weeks before the planned closure date. This will provide as much advance notice to site users as possible. This sign will highlight the closure date and the other local sites available.
- 3.3 Members of the Waste Management Communications Team will also attend the site in the weeks before the closure to hand out leaflets about East Leeds and answer any questions that the public may have.
- 3.4 A press release regarding the closure will also be issued in advance of the site closure date, and the Council's web site will be updated with information about the closure.
- 3.5 Local Members will be provided with regular updates about the project, including the exact date of the closure and the decant from the site.

Household Waste Sorting Sites

- 3.6 As stated earlier in the report, there are several HWSSs located in close proximity to Stanley Road HWSS. These are as follows:
- Meanwood Road HWSS is 2 miles away with a journey time of 10 minutes;
 - East Leeds HWSS is 4.5 miles away with a journey time of 12 minutes;
 - Kirkstall Road (Evanston Avenue) HWSS is 3.5 miles away with a journey time of 10 minutes.

- 3.7 The communications strategy will promote East Leeds, Seacroft as the main alternative site. This site has been recently redeveloped to provide extensive recycling facilities, and accepts the same materials as Stanley Road. There is significant spare capacity at East Leeds to take the additional materials without any adverse effect on the site's current users.
- 3.8 East Leeds HWSS also benefits from having a re-use shop at the site. The shop sells items that have been taken to the HWSS, but are considered to be usable and have a value. The shop is operated by a community sector organisation, Revive and any surplus profits are used by charities working with homeless and vulnerable adults in Leeds. The shop has been successfully running since August 2011, and won the Yorkshire Post award for the best environmental start up.
- 3.9 Kirkstall Road TLS was severely damaged by a fire in September 2002. The fire damaged buildings have not been demolished, and the HWSS is the only site in the City that has not been redeveloped. There is significant potential at the site to expand and redevelop the HWSS to create a new facility similar to East Leeds. An initial options appraisal is being undertaken to identify potential layouts for this site.

Bring Site Provision

- 3.10 In addition to the HWSSs, the Council operates a network of 'bring bank' sites for glass and other recyclable materials across the city, and these ensure residents have various options to recycle which are adaptable to their lifestyle. In Inner East area, there are over 30 bring sites ranging from small sites (for example one bank for mixed glass) to large supermarket based sites having facilities for numerous recyclable materials (glass, paper, plastic, card, textiles and shoes).

Bulky item collection services

- 3.11 The Council provides a free bulky item collection service for all residents in Leeds, where residents can request the collection of up to four large items or ten bags of waste at any one time. This service is accessed through the Environmental Contact Centre (0113 222 4406) and provides a method for non-car owners to dispose of large waste items.
- 3.12 If residents have large items that are suitable for re-use by someone else, there are charitable organisations operating in Leeds who would be able to collect these items more quickly than the Council's bulky item collection service. Full details of these organisations are provided on the Council's webpage or through the Environmental Contact Centre.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 The Executive Members for Children's Services and Environment have been closely involved in the development of the proposals for the Florence Street and Stanley Road sites and are supportive of the objectives. Ward Members have also been previously consulted.

4.1.2 Children's Services have undertaken a number of consultation events with the local community about the school proposals.

4.1.3 This report describes the approach to communications with the local residents in order to publicise the closure of Stanley Road HWSS as widely as possible.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 An Equality Impact Assessment screening process has been undertaken on the closure and the associated communications strategy has been designed to mitigate any potential impacts.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 The five new City Priority Plans developed by the Partnership Boards cover the period 2011 to 2015 with the most relevant in relation to the Waste Strategy being:

- Safer and Stronger Communities – including city-wide cleanliness;
- Regeneration – including sustainable growth;
- Sustainable Economy – including low carbon economy.

4.3.2 In December 2011, Executive Board reaffirmed the Council's Integrated Waste Strategy 2005-35 and approved new household waste recycling targets of 55% by 2016, and a long term target to exceed 60%. HWSSs contributed just under 10% (i.e. percentage points) to total recycling performance for the City, and the HWSSs therefore represent a key element of the Council's household waste recycling provision.

4.3.3 This report describes how accessible and convenient recycling and waste disposal facilities are maintained for residents in the Inner East area following the closure of Stanley Road HWSS. These facilities will continue to contribute to the achievement of Leeds' recycling targets. This supports the wider aspirations for Leeds set out in the new Leeds Vision, City Priority Plans, Directorate Priorities and Cross Council Priorities, and the Council's vision that by 2030 Leeds will be locally and internationally recognised as the best city in the UK.

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 Options to redeploy the site operatives and drivers currently working at Stanley Road will be discussed further with key stakeholders, however, it is anticipated that the staff would fill vacancies at the Council's other sites.

4.4.2 The potential for the revenue savings from the closure of Stanley Road HWSS to be used to cover costs to fund the redevelopment of Kirkstall Road is being explored as part of the business case for this project. In accordance with the approved HWSS Strategic Review and following the completion of a feasibility study and further design work, it is anticipated that a business case and Design and Cost Report will be prepared to obtain Executive Board approval for the redevelopment of the Kirkstall Road site.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 The key risks associated with the closure of Stanley Road are:

- The disruption caused by the closure of Stanley Road impacts on the Council's recycling performance. This is mitigated by an effective communications strategy publicising the closure and alternative sites available;
- The closure may result in fly-tipping at the entrance of the closed site and local surrounding area. This has not proved to be an issue following other recent site closures, however, the Service will mitigate risk by providing additional patrols to monitor and remove any fly-tipped materials in the area.

5 Conclusions

5.1 Following the closure of Stanley Road, the waste and recycling facilities available to the residents of Inner East Leeds will include the recently redeveloped East Leeds HWSS, a network of over 30 bring sites and the bulky item collection service.

5.2 The Service is proposing to implement a communications strategy to publicise the closure of Stanley Road and highlight the key alternative sites and services available to the local residents and site users. A range of communication methods will be employed to ensure that as wide as possible an audience is reached.

6 Recommendations

6.1 Members of the Inner East Area Committee are recommended to:

- Note the contents of this report.

7 Background documents¹

None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.