

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET EXECUTIVE

Date 21st May 2019

**REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Phyl Davies
Portfolio Holder for Highways Recycling and Assets**

**SUBJECT: Development of Recycling Bulking Facility in North
Powys**

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Summary

- 1.1 An update report was presented to an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Council on 3rd May regarding the North Powys Bulking Facility (attached as Appendix 1). This included a list of sites that have been previously considered.
- 1.2 Within this report were recommendations for Cabinet to continue with the development of the Bulking Facility at the Abermule Business Park on the basis that this is the most suitable site for such a development.
- 1.3 There was a thorough debate on the issues resulting in an indicative vote on an amendment which stated 'that Council does not support the development of a North Powys recycling bulking facility at the proposed Abermule Business Park'. Of a total of 62 members at the meeting, the outcome of the vote was 8 for, 7 against, with 6 abstentions, noting that 15 additional members who were present in the Chamber did not vote. Members were advised that it was not appropriate to vote if they were either cabinet members or current or potential members of the Planning Committee.
- 1.4 This report is for Cabinet to now consider the recommendations.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 That Cabinet formally approves the recommendations to continue with the development of the North Powys Bulking Facility at the Abermule Business Park on the basis that it is the most suitable site available for the development of the facility.
- 2.2 Officers continue to liaise with the local community via the community council and local member through the development phase and following

commencement of operations to ensure that the community are fully informed of progress and able to contribute to the process.

3. Options Considered / Available

- 3.1 A number of options have been considered for the North Powys Bulking Facility and these are detailed in the report that went to Council on 3rd May 2019 (see Appendix 1).

4. Preferred Choice and Reasons

- 4.1 To continue with the development of the North Powys Bulking Facility at the Abermule Business Park.
- 4.2 As detailed in the Council report of 3rd May, this is the most suitable site available for the development of the facility.
- 4.3 Along with the expenditure already incurred on the proposed site, any alternative would result in considerable additional delay and cost to the authority, which is not provided for in the approved capital programme, and likely to also result in similar opposition from interested parties.
- 4.4 The report presented to Council on 3rd May (Appendix 1) provides considerable detail regarding the process that has been followed to date and also addresses the concerns raised, including the size and location of the facility, planning process and requirements, road network, fire risk, the bulking of residual waste and a number of other issues. The presentation given to Council is included as Appendix 2.
- 4.5 A number of issues were raised in the debate at Full Council with the main points listed in Appendix 3 along with a brief summary of the response given.
- 4.6 Following the meeting, a proposal has been presented to Cabinet by Cllr Phyl Pritchard to locate the Northern Highways Depot at Abermule, with the bulking facility being developed at the existing Highways facility at Kirkhamsfield Depot in Newtown. This was also presented by members of the community group in an informal meeting with officers on 13th May. This would result in a significant additional capital requirement and furthermore would actually have a greater impact in the community of Abermule.
- 4.7 In order to support the waste and recycling strategy and secure the much needed bulking facility in the north of the County, it is important to progress this project. Failure to do so would present a significant risk to the Council both in terms of cost and ability to reach and maintain the Welsh Government's Statutory Recycling Rates.

5. Impact Assessment

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is provided as Appendix 4.
- 5.2 There is no adverse impact in terms of equality with the proposal, although it is recognised that there is a negative perception from parts of the community. This will need to be mitigated through continued liaison with the community. The overall impact of the development will be positive in terms of the additional employment and regeneration opportunities to the local area.

6. Corporate Improvement Plan

- 6.1 In order to effectively collect recyclable material from residents, bulking facilities are required in strategic locations.
- 6.2 This facility will contribute to achieving the Welsh Government Statutory Recycling Targets

7. Local Member(s)

- 7.1 The Local Member has been kept fully informed throughout the process and has expressed opposition to the construction of the facility in Abermule.

8. Other Front Line Services

- 8.1 The recommendation would significantly improve the operation of the waste and recycling collection service.

9. Communications

- 9.1 The report is of public interest and requires use of news release and appropriate social media to publicise the decision.

10. Support Services (Legal, Finance, Corporate Property, HR, ICT, Business Services)

- 10.1 Legal – the recommendations can be supported from a legal point of view.
- 10.2 Finance – The Finance Manager notes the contents of the report, initial costings on the revenue budget suggests a small saving will be

achieved, further costings will be required once the re-routing of rounds and staff relocation is finalised. The Capital and Financial Planning Accountant confirms that the project is included in the capital programme for 19/20 with a budget of £3,023,000.

11. Scrutiny

11.1 This issue has been heavily scrutinised by Full Council on several occasions including a full report submitted to and debated at the Council meeting of 3rd May 2019.

12. Statutory Officers

12.1 The Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) notes the comments from Finance.

12.2 The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) commented as follows: "I note the legal comments and have nothing to add to the report."

15. Members' Interests

15.1 The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
1) That Cabinet notes the information report to Council on 3rd May 2019 as set out in Appendix 1 (and in particular the discussions with ACT) and the issues raised at Council on that date as set out in Appendix 3 and confirms the Cabinet decision on 28th February 2017 and agrees to continue with the development of the North Powys Bulking Facility at the Abermule Business Park.	It is the most suitable site available for the development of the facility.
2) Officers to continue to liaise with the community council and local member through the development phase and following commencement of operations.	To ensure that the community are fully informed of progress and able to contribute to the process.

Relevant Policy (ies):			
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	Y

Relevant Local Member(s):	Cllr Gareth Pugh
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Ashley Collins
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	With immediate effect

Is a review of the impact of the decision required?	N
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Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Information Report presented to Full Council on 3rd May 2019

Appendix 2 – Presentation to Full Council on 3rd May 2019

Appendix 3 – Main issues raised at Full Council on 3rd May 2019

Appendix 4 – Equality Impact Assessment