

County Council – 14 October 2010

Petition Regarding the Closure of Burntwood Household Waste Recycling Centre

1.0 Recommendation

- 1.1 That Full Council debates the petition regarding the proposed closure of Burntwood Household Waste Recycling Centre in accordance with the County Council's Petitions Policy.

Report of the Director for Law and Democracy

2.0 Format of Debate

- 2.1 The format for the debate at Full Council is as follows:

Local Member(s): 5 minutes

Mr Paul Atkins (Petition Organiser)¹
Mr Steve Tranter

Cabinet Member response to the petition: 5 minutes

Mr Robert Marshall

Council Debate 15 minutes

¹ Mr Atkins has submitted his apologies for the meeting but has issued a written statement which is attached at appendix 2

3.0 Background

- 3.1 A 12,222 signature petition was received by the County Council on the 29 June 2010. The petition objected to the proposed closure of Burntwood Household Waste Recycling Centre. Specifically the petition stated that:

"This facility is scheduled to close its gates permanently on the 5 July 2010, unless Staffordshire County Council can be persuaded otherwise. If it closes, it will not be re-opening. Burntwood residents will have no alternative but to take waste to Cannock, Lichfield or Rugeley. The problem of fly tipping in our countryside can only become worse. Please register your objection to the closure."

The decision to close the centre was called in and considered by the Corporate Review Committee at its meeting on the 29 June 2010. The outcome of the Call In was reported to Cabinet on 21 July 2010. The decision from Cabinet was to postpone the closure of the Burntwood site pending a wider review of Household Waste Recycling Centres, including Burntwood, which would be undertaken by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Infrastructure.

- 3.2 The County Council's Petitions Policy states that a petition that includes more than 5,000 signatures automatically prompts a debate at the next available Full Council meeting. Following the debate Full Council may agree the response to the petition or the relevant steps that should be taken. Where the Cabinet or Cabinet Member has to make the final decision in response to the petition they are asked to take into account the debate and recommendations of Full Council to inform their decisions.

Appendix 1

Link to Strategic Plan

The County Council's Strategic Plan sets out specific outcome measures around reducing the amount of household waste that goes to landfill and to increase the rates of recycling. There is no specific reference in the Strategic Plan to Household Waste Recycling Centres as a means of achieving these outcomes.

Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity

The Call In of the decision to close Burntwood Household Waste Recycling Centre was considered by the Corporate Review Committee on the 29 June 2010. It recommended to Cabinet that the decision be postponed and that a Policy Advisory Group be established. Cabinet agreed to the postponement of the closure of the site and the establishment of a review, but that the review should be undertaken by the Cabinet Member.

Equalities and Legal Implications

The wider review of Household Waste Recycling Centres will need to give consideration to equalities and legal implications.

Resource and Value for Money Implications

The wider review of Household Waste Recycling Centres will need to be within the context of consideration of resource and value for money implications.

Risk Implications

There are no direct risk implications arising from this report.

Climate Change Implications

The wider review of Household Waste Recycling Centres will need to give consideration to climate change implications.

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Appendix 2: Written Statement from Mr Paul Atkins

I am pleased that the County Council, through Councillor Robert Marshall, has instigated a full review of all recycling sites in Staffordshire. It will I hope give a much more comprehensive and comparable judgement than just looking at one location and will be seen to be fairer in the Burntwood publics eyes with its conclusions.

The arguments for the retention of the Burntwood site are well documented and I still support the need for the site to be retained for all the reasons given. Please remember there was a petition of over 12 thousands people in support of the site being kept open and I hope you listen to those people whose support was not based on emotion but need.

Mr Paul Atkins.
County Councillor for Burntwood South (Lichfield)