

REPORT TO: Cabinet

DATE: 14th April 2011

SUBJECT: Joint Waste Development Plan: Preferred Options 2 – New Sites Consultation

WARDS AFFECTED: Netherton and Orrell

REPORT OF: Director of Built Environment

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**EXEMPT/
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

At the first stage of the Preferred Options for the joint Merseyside Waste Development Plan Document (Waste Plan), a number of sites in each Local Authority area were identified to accommodate waste management facilities. Some of these were withdrawn or not supported following consultation, including a site in Sefton.

This report identifies again a replacement site at Farriers Way (Atlantic Industrial Park) in Sefton for managing waste. It is proposed that this site will be included in the second Preferred Options stage of the Waste Plan.

This second stage will be called “New Sites Consultation”.

This report asks that the replacement site for Sefton be approved for consideration as part of a Merseyside-wide consultation starting in May 2011.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

To make sure that Sefton has identified a site which will be included in the second stage of the Preferred Options consultation of the Waste Plan. This is necessary to ensure that the Merseyside-wide Waste Plan is able to make progress within the tight timescale which has been agreed by all authorities with Government and which meets the requirements of legislation.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Cabinet approve the inclusion of a site North of Farriers Way, Atlantic Park, Netherton, in the “Preferred Options 2: New Sites Consultation” report and approve a six-week public consultation, the “New Sites Consultation” starting in May 2011.

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: No

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Following call-in after Cabinet on 14th April 2011

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

There has already been a lengthy process to identify suitable sites in Sefton. Other possibilities have been thoroughly investigated and it is concluded that this is the best site for the reasons set out in the report. There are no suitable alternative sites.

IMPLICATIONS:**Budget/Policy Framework:**

Failure to identify an appropriate site in Sefton to manage waste would prevent the Merseyside authorities from completing the Waste Development Plan, and Sefton would incur extra costs if there was delay in completing the Plan.

Delay in the process of preparing and adopting the Waste Plan and in the subsequent development of facilities required to reduce landfill could have significant harmful financial consequences for all the authorities.

The progression and adoption of the Plan will help provide greater certainty in Merseyside and Sefton in connection with the location of future waste related land uses.

Corporate Plan Strategic Objective 9 supports the development of a more sustainable waste management strategy.

Financial:

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £	2013/ 2014 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Legal:

None

Risk Assessment:

A separate risk register is maintained for this project. Key risks identified is the breakdown of the joint commitment and approvals process required to progress the Waste Plan and; a soundness risk if the Waste Plan fails to provide waste management capacity to meet identified needs.

Asset Management:

Not applicable

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

The Head of Corporate Finance & ICT has been consulted and has no comments on this report. FD735 /2011 The Head of Corporate Legal Services has been consulted and has no comments. LD 98/11

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community		√	
2	Creating Safe Communities		√	
3	Jobs and Prosperity	√		
4	Improving Health and Well-Being		√	
5	Environmental Sustainability	√		
6	Creating Inclusive Communities		√	
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	√		
8	Children and Young People		√	

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

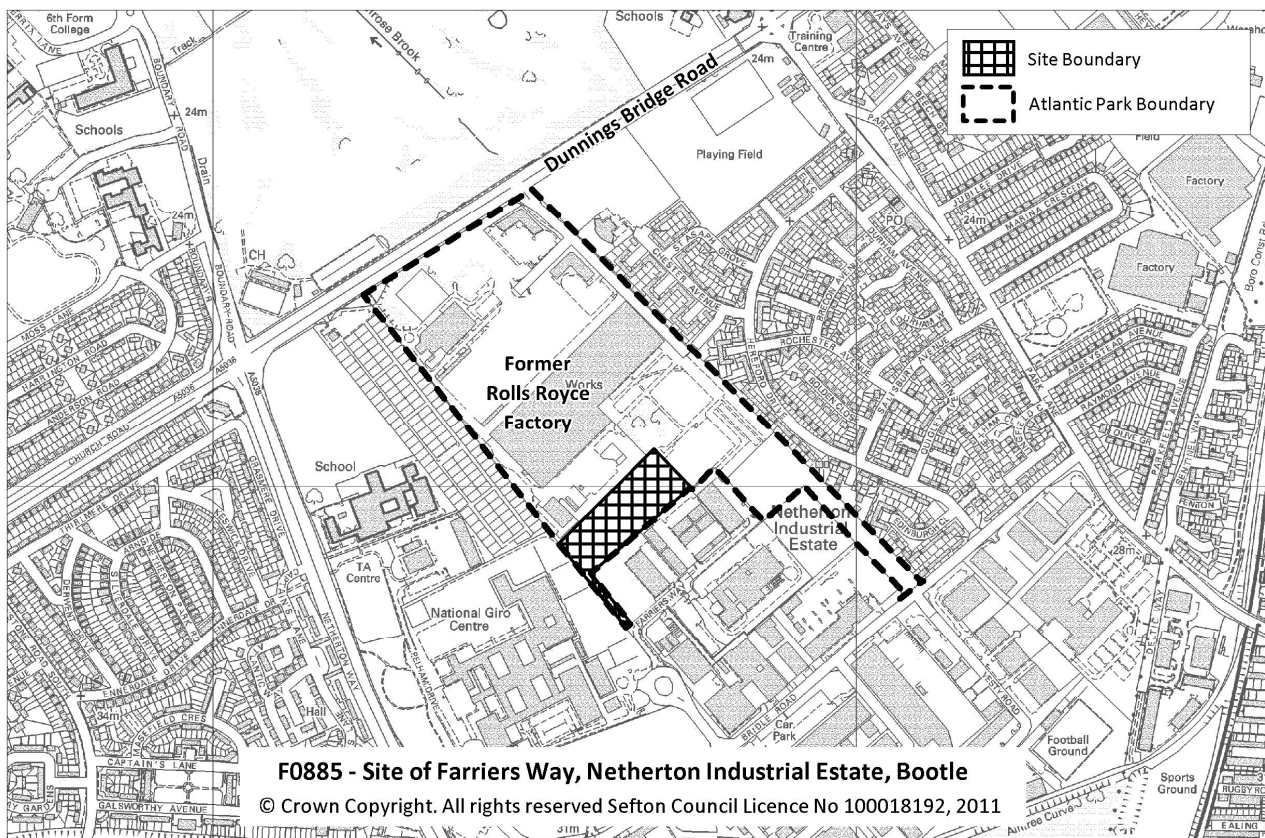
Proposed profile for site North of Farriers Way, Atlantic Park, Netherton.
Waste Management Uses considered for Farriers Way site.

Background

1. In January 2011 members considered a report on proposed replacement sites for managing waste. These were to be included as new sites in the Merseyside Waste Development Plan Document (Waste Plan), replacing sites which had been deleted following consultation on the Preferred Options stage of the Waste Plan.
2. The recommended site in Sefton was at Farriers Way on Atlantic Park, Netherton. The site was not endorsed by Cabinet because of concerns over proposed waste use on the surrounding area.
3. At the Cabinet meeting in February 2011, members reaffirmed their commitment to finding a replacement site within Sefton. This report seeks approval of the outstanding site and will meet Sefton's requirement for identification of sites under the Waste Plan.

Way forward

4. All the other alternative sites in Sefton are less suited to managing waste for reasons such as implications for neighbouring uses or impact from traffic. This left very little option and the Farriers Way site has therefore been looked at again. This site had been considered at an earlier stage of preparing the Waste Plan (the "Spatial Strategy and Sites" stage), but had been discounted as the site at that time was slightly larger and one of the landowners did not want his part of the site to be developed. The types of waste uses which have been proposed for this site have been re-examined to see whether the perceived issues might be able to be overcome.



5. The January report proposed that the types of waste management activity which might be suitable for this site could include a waste transfer station, primary treatment and re-processing. It is now proposed to revise this list of suitable uses and to reduce the type of waste activity which will be identified as suitable for the site. Waste transfer stations will be excluded from this list, leaving only two specific types of waste related use as proposals for inclusion - 'primary treatment' and 'reprocessing'.

Examples include:

- ◇ Primary treatment: involves initial treatment/ sorting of waste to take out as many materials which can be recycled as possible e.g. treatment to remove recyclable materials and manufacture of fuel from residue for use off-site;
 - ◇ Reprocessing: processing waste to produce a new usable product e.g. manufacturing new packaging materials from recovered shredded plastic.
6. For both types of activity, waste materials would be stored and treated within purpose-built buildings on site. These buildings would be similar to those found in many business parks, and would be built to the latest environmental standards.
 7. This site is to the rear of the former Rolls Royce building within the Atlantic Park development. It is more than 150 metres away from houses at the closest point. A variety of access routes are possible, including a direct access from Farriers Way (off Bridle Road), which is right away from these houses.
 8. Another point in favour of the Farriers Way site is that the landowner strongly supports these uses of this site. The combination of restricted waste operations along with potential controls over storage and access will mean that any impacts on the local environment and residents will be minimised, tightly controlled and regulated.
 9. The site is within a large and well-established employment site with a long history of intensive and heavy industrial processes. It is currently undergoing significant change and will bring forward a variety of new uses. In these circumstances, the support of the landowner is valuable and important.
 10. There is regular interest in this general area for waste related uses. Making progress with the Waste Plan, including identifying a specific site for managing waste, provides a clear framework for assessing other proposals for processing waste. It will be easier to resist waste uses which are not suitable if a site has been allocated for waste related uses.

What happens if Sefton does not agree a replacement site?

11. If Sefton does not identify a replacement site the joint process with other Districts would stall. Even if agreement could be reached with other Districts, the Plan would be rejected by an Independent Planning Inspector.
12. Delay in agreeing a site, and agreeing the revised consultation document, would result in significant further costs to all Merseyside authorities (estimated to be an additional cost of £15,000 per month in 2012/13). The delay would also mean that all Merseyside authorities would be likely to be penalised financially through not complying with the Waste Framework Directive – this requires all local authorities to prepare a Waste Plan within a specific timescale. Furthermore, the Local Authority would find it more difficult to restrict waste uses not identified in the Waste Plan, creating additional

uncertainty for local communities and businesses. Delay would also undermine Sefton's own Core Strategy and increase soundness risks to the emerging Local Development Frameworks of the other districts.

Consultation

13. Subject to approval of the site at Farriers Way, it is planned to go ahead with a six week public consultation on the "Preferred Options 2: New Sites Consultation" report, starting May 2011.
14. This will include consultation meetings in the 4 Districts with the new (replacement) sites. Details of the events will be widely publicised and the events will be open to all.
15. The results of the consultation will be collated and reported to Members in each of the 6 Districts in advance of the next stage in preparing the Waste Plan, that is the Publication stage.