

Cabinet

28 January 2025

Development of Blandford Waste Management Centre

For Decision

Cabinet Member and Portfolio:

Cllr J Andrews, Place Services

Local Councillor(s): All

Cllr

Executive Director:

J Britton, Executive Director for Place Services

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Report Status: Part Exempt Para 4

Brief Summary:

This paper provides an update on the project to provide the new Blandford Waste Management Centre and seeks authority to award the contract to build this essential infrastructure for the Waste Service.

Recommendation:

1. That Cabinet approve the award of a contract to construct and develop a new waste management centre at Blandford, using Dorset Highways Works Term Service Contract within the approved capital funding.
2. That Authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Place in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Place Services and the Section 151 Officer to agree the contract terms.

Reason for Recommendation:

To deliver works to secure critical infrastructure in Blandford for the development of a strategic waste transfer facility in central Dorset which will provide the capacity to maximise the benefits of operational efficiency and resilience to provide business continuity.

1. Report

- 1.1 The business case for a strategic Waste Management Centre (WMC) for central Dorset was approved by the former Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Committee in June 2016. Subsequently this project was approved and included within the Council's capital programme.

- 1.2 The new facility will replace the current waste management facility in Blandford which is inadequate for needs of the service and is on a short-term lease arrangement. The current site is the waste service's busiest site in Dorset, in terms of the volume of material passing through the transfer buildings, yet the least efficient and most at risk of service failure which would severely impact the kerbside waste collections. Poor access, enforced tipping windows (time slots), a lack of drainage, no fire suppression, disruption to neighbouring businesses, impacts on waste collection operations, all results in an inefficient service. At present the collection service has to divert some waste to Sherborne due to the limited availability at Blandford.

- 1.3 Planning permission was granted for construction of a new facility on land adjacent to Blandford Heights Industrial Estate on 5th April 2022.

- 1.3 On 20 June 2023 the Cabinet resolved to use the Council's powers of compulsory acquisition to secure a compulsory purchase order to acquire land to the south of Sunrise Business Park, Blandford, in the event land and necessary rights could not be acquired by agreement.

- 1.4 On 7 November 2023 Cabinet were further updated, about the financial position of the project and agreed draft compulsory order documents and plan in the event they were required.
- 1.6 Negotiations for land purchase are progressing and it anticipated that this will shortly be finalised.
- 1.7 It is proposed to award the build contract through the Dorset Highways Works Term Service Contract with Heidelberg Materials (formerly Hanson). This route has been agreed with the Commercial and Procurement team and has been used previously to successfully complete the construction of the waste management centre in Bridport. Best value has been confirmed through an independent cost evaluation by Currie and Brown on the price submitted by Heidelberg (December 2024).

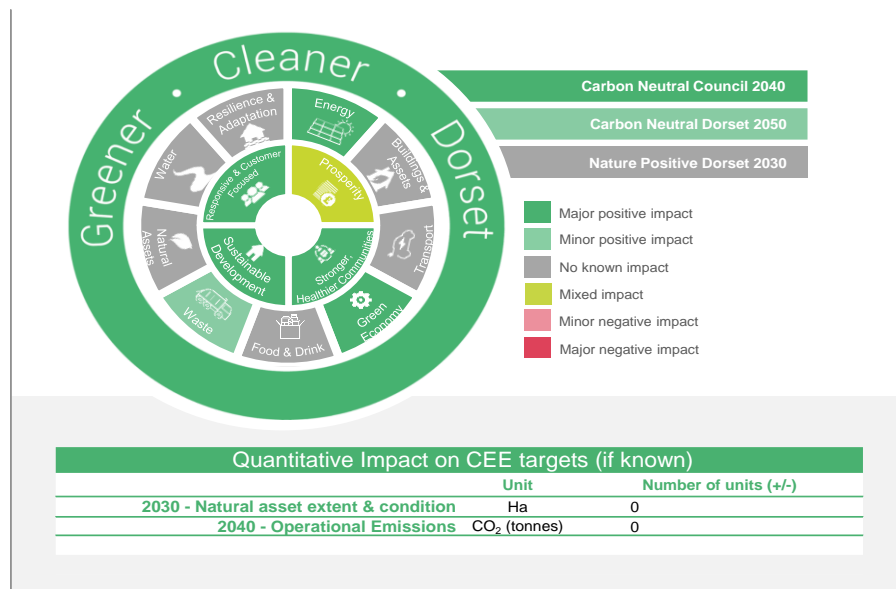
2. **Financial Implications**

- 2.1 An updated high level finance statement is shown in Appendix 1 as part of the project progress report update. It is considered that there are sufficient funds to deliver the scheme.

3. **Natural Environment, Climate & Ecology Implications**

- 3.1 Dorset Council declared a climate and ecological emergency in 2019 and a nature emergency in 2024 and has subsequently included responding to the Climate & Nature Crisis in the recently adopted Dorset Council Plan 2024-2029.
- 3.2 In the waste sector, the main way to make carbon (and financial) savings is to push waste further up the waste hierarchy and reduce, reuse and recycle waste ahead of any treatment options. The new waste management centre incorporates a much-improved Household Recycling Centre which would allow more materials to be separated for recycling compared with the current site serving the Blandford area. The new site will also allow for more diversion of waste for reuse.

- 3.3 Having more facilities contained in the same site for reuse and recycling will reduce the milage residents have to travel to effectively dispose of their different waste streams. For example, the only other two sites in Dorset that have capacity on site to segregate and therefore recycle rigid plastics in Dorset is at Bridport or Portland. As part of the council’s commitment to decarbonise energy use wherever possible, the new waste management centre will incorporate solar panels to ensure that renewable energy is an integral part of the site’s electrical needs.
- 3.4 The following is the result of the Natural Environment, Climate & Ecological Decision Wheel for the project. The accessible impact assessment and table of recommendations is shown in Appendix 2



3.5

4. **Well-being and Health Implications**

None

5. **Other Implications**

None

6. **Risk Assessment**

HAVING CONSIDERED: the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

7. Equalities Impact Assessment

An EQIA for the service was reported to the Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Committee of 25 September 2014 - Review of Household Recycling Centres. This new facility complies with the action plan of this EQIA.

As reported to Cabinet of 7 November 2023 an EQIA on the CPO process for this project has been completed following consultation with the Council's Equality Diversion and Inclusion Officer. It is considered that there are no negative impacts associated with the proposal.

The EQIAs are live documents and will be updated as necessary as the project proceeds.

8. Appendices

Appendix 1 Project Progress Report Update (**Not for Publication: By virtue of paragraph(s) 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972**)

Appendix 2 Natural Environment, Climate & Ecological Decision Wheel Accessible Impact Assessment & Table of Recommendations

Background Papers

- Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Committee, 25 September 2014, Review of Household Recycling Centres
- Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Committee 13 June 2016, Strategic Waste Transfer Facility for Central Dorset
- Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Committee, 20 March 2018, Strategic Waste Transfer Facility for Central Dorset.
- Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Committee, 11 June 2018, Strategic Waste Transfer Facility for Central Dorset
- Cabinet, 6 April 2021, Capital programme 2021/22 Capital Programme 202122 report including Appendix 1-3.pdf (dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) [Capital Programme 202122 report including Appendix 1-3.pdf](#)
- Strategic and Technical Planning Committee, 4 April 2022 - Land south-east of Sunrise Business Park and north of the A350 Blandford Bypass, Blandford Forum. [Blandford Waste Management Centre Report](#)
- Cabinet 20th June 2023; approval of CPO Process (Exempt Report).
- Cabinet 25th July 2023; It was reported in the Quarter 1 Financial Management Report 2023/24 that "based on the latest cost estimates

for this project funding from the East Dorset Household Recycling centre will be repurposed in order to fund the delivery of the site at Blandford". Given the timing of the Cabinet decision, this virement of funds between projects will form part of the quarter 2 financial management paper presented to Cabinet.

[2023-07-25 Cabinet Q1 finance report 2023-24 including appendix A.pdf](#)

- Cabinet 7th November 2023; This paper agreed the draft compulsory order documents and plan in the event they were required.

[Blandford Waste Management centre update on finance and land acquisition.pdf](#)

10. **Report Sign Off**

This report has been through the internal report clearance process and has been signed off by the Director for Legal and Democratic (Monitoring Officer), the Executive Director for Corporate Development (Section 151 Officer) and the appropriate Portfolio Holder(s)

**Appendix 2 - Natural Environment, Climate & Ecological Decision Wheel Accessible Impact
Assessment & Table of Recommendations**

ACCESSIBLE TABLE SHOWING IMPACTS

Natural Environment, Climate & Ecology Strategy Commitments	Impact
Energy	major positive impact
Buildings & Assets	No known impact
Transport	No known impact
Green Economy	major positive impact
Food & Drink	No known impact
Waste	minor positive impact
Natural Assets & Ecology	No known impact
Water	No known impact
Resilience and Adaptation	No known impact

Corporate Plan Aims	Impact
Prosperity	neutral
Stronger healthier communities	strongly supports it
Sustainable Development & Housing	strongly supports it
Responsive & Custome Focused	strongly supports it

TABLE OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations	Responses -will this be incorporated into your proposal? How? And if not, why not?
Energy	
No recommendations found for this category	
Buildings & Assets	
No recommendations found for this category	
Transport	
No recommendations found for this category	
Green Economy	
No recommendations found for this category	
Food & Drink	
No recommendations found for this category	

Waste	
Look at ways to reduce the amount of waste produced	
Natural Assets & Ecology	
No recommendations found for this category	
Water	
No recommendations found for this category	
Resilience & Adaptation	
No recommendations found for this category	