

Committee Presentation for Greatmoor EfW Facility – Non-compliance with Condition 18 to allow an increase in vehicle movements on the access road from 276 (138 in/out) per day to 600 per day (300 in/out). 4 Minute Presentation

Thank you Chair

The current limitation on vehicle numbers is derived from traffic figures included in the original planning application for the Greatmoor EfW facility. They were based upon the assumption that after the EfW facility was built, there would be a reduction in road based waste inputs into Calvert landfill site. They would essentially divert from the landfill to the EfW facility.

The application was prepared in 2011 and the assumptions regarding the declining use of the landfill site were not unreasonable on the basis that the country was still recovering from recession and the UK Government had introduced policies that were proving effective in limiting waste disposal in landfill.

Following grant of planning consent in mid-2012 the EfW did not become fully operational until early 2017, by which time, the circumstances had changed. There had been an upturn in the economy and an associated increase in development activity, which has led to greater demand for the disposal of waste at the landfill site, in particular construction and demolition waste.

It became apparent to FCC that the upturn in demand at the landfill site and the operational requirements of the EFW facility would make it difficult to maintain daily HGV movements within the cap. The company also recognised that the cap would limit other activities at the site including

- The development of other consented waste management infrastructure on the site;
- The periodic acceptance of waste destined for other landfill sites that may be temporarily closed; and
- The ability of the site to accept further road borne waste for disposal and restoration of the landfill site.

The issue was most acute in early 2017 when there was a short-term requirement to divert waste from another FCC landfill site, resulting in an exceedance of the cap. It has been exceeded on a periodic basis thereafter, albeit not on a continuous basis.

FCC is a responsible waste management company and contacted your officers in July / August 2017 to make them aware of the issues. FCC confirmed that it was their intention to submit a planning application to regularise the situation.

The proposed increase in the vehicle cap from 276 to 600 daily HGV movements would provide FCC with the operational flexibility and headroom they need to address the continued up-turn in waste inputs at the landfill site and other factors which could periodically influence daily vehicle movements.

Such operational flexibility is essential given that Calvert is the County's strategic waste management facility.

Aside from underpinning the successful operation of the waste management site, the revised vehicle cap would also allow for restoration of the landfill site in a shorter timeframe than if limited by the current vehicle cap. This clearly is a positive effect from a landscape, visual, ecology and after-use perspective. Proposals that allow the early restoration of landfill sites are expressly supported in the national planning policy for waste.

Our planning application has been supported by a wealth of technical and environmental information, which has assessed the impacts of the daily increase in vehicle movements in terms of traffic, ecology, air quality and noise / vibration.

The officers of your Council and all other technical consultees have reviewed the submitted information and have concluded that, in isolation, and in combination with other planned developments in the local area (including both HS2 and EWR), the proposals would not give rise to unacceptable effects on the highway network, the environment, or the amenity of local residents.

Your officers have concluded that the proposed development would give rise to a number of benefits to the operation of Calvert waste management facility, without breaching any planning policy or guidance. We hope that you can support their recommendation that the planning application is approved.

We would welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you have regarding the application.