

Part I

SUBJECT:	Dropmore Road Depot Update Report
REPORT OF:	Officer Management Team - Director of Services Prepared by - Head of Environment

Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide an update for Members on the project to redevelop the Council's depot on Dropmore Road.

Links to Council Policy Objectives

- 2.1 This matter is related to the following local and national policy objectives:
- South Bucks Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Plan Key Theme - Sustainable Environment - protecting our heritage, protecting our future.
 - Council priority to continue to improve the street scene and cleanliness of the district as a key public services coordinator
 - The current Joint Waste Management Strategy for Bucks policies, including "to secure a long-term strategy for the management of wastes for which the member authorities are collectively responsible".
 - The Council's recycling/composting target of 60% by 2025 as part of the Joint Waste Management Strategy for Bucks. The national target of 45% by 2015 and 50% by 2020. There are no longer District specific targets.

Background.

- 3.1 The Council's refuse and recycling collection and street cleansing contractor Biffa Municipal Ltd moved into our depot on Dropmore Road in Burnham after being asked to vacate the CDC-owned site occupied since 2007. This was because CDC and WDC jointly tendered their waste services contract and wanted to use the whole of the site for their new contract with their new contractor Serco.
- 3.2 Aside from some IT-related teething problems, the move went smoothly and services operated without disruption.
- 3.3 Recycling collected from households and bring sites is still being tipped at the London Road site under a short term arrangement with Serco for which a gate fee is being paid. Serco are happy to continue this arrangement until construction at Dropmore Road depot is complete.
- 3.4 Planning permission to redevelop the Dropmore Road site was granted on 26th March 2013 following previous refusal on 8th August 2012. Prior to this, the capital and revenue budgets required to undertake this project were approved by the Cabinet on 3rd July 2012.
- 3.5 The decision to recommend the award of the redevelopment contract to the preferred bidder was made by Cabinet on 16th October 2012. This decision was made some time before the contract could be awarded, and the final decision to enter into the contract was therefore delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Resources in consultation with the Environment Portfolio Holder, Director of Services and the Head of Environment.

Discussion.

- 4.1 There are a number of planning conditions that must be discharged prior to construction. To date the following aspects of the project have been progressed:
- ❖ An English Nature licence application has been applied for. This is due to the presence of bats being found in one of the buildings and demolition of this building cannot take place without it;
 - ❖ A planning application for the temporary relocation of services to Bath Rd depot during construction has been submitted;
 - ❖ Site plans have been re-drawn following the approval of 7 extra car parking spaces;
 - ❖ The application for the EA permit is underway, but a more expensive bespoke permit is unfortunately required due to the named exclusion of food waste in the planning conditions;
 - ❖ Pre-commencement sampling and landscaping/drainage drawing preparation is underway
- 4.2 Procurement of a construction company to rebuild the depot was undertaken last year under the premise that construction would begin had permission been granted in August 2012. Additional costs of 4% have been incurred due to the delay to the start of the project. Budgets will continue to be monitored and it is not envisaged at this stage that the capital budget permitted will be exceeded.
- 4.3 The contract for demolition and construction works has been finalised by Legal and is due to be signed on 1st July with works due to commence within 2 weeks of this date. Contract costs are contained in Part II of this report.

Resource and Wider Policy Implications.

- 5.1 This project is being managed in line with the Council's project management guidelines and as such the project risks, including those around the construction contract are being monitored and managed accordingly.

Conclusion.

- 6.1 Despite planning delays, the project to redevelop Dropmore Rd Depot is currently progressing as planned. If this changes once construction begins the Portfolio Holder will be updated as required.

Recommendation

- 7.1 Members are asked to note the content of this report.

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Background Papers:	Planning Permissions 10/01185/FUL and 11/00864/VC and Planning Application 12/00797/FUL