

Select Committee on the Environment – 8 March 2007

Report of the Lead Officer

Provision of a Materials Recycling Facility

Purpose of Report

1. To consider proposals for a Materials Recycling Facility within the Borough of Dudley.

Background

2. The Group has, on a number of occasions considered the issue of increasing recycling in the Borough, particularly in relation to expanding existing recycling services to include the collection of post consumer plastics i.e. plastic bottles.
3. One of the issues raised has been the lack of available storage and processing facilities, i.e. a materials recycling facility in the locality. This need has been identified as a priority in the Black Country Waste Management Study, previously considered by both the Group and the Select Committee for the Environment.
4. The Recycling Working Group visited a materials recycling facility in Shrewsbury, namely the Battlefield, on the 13th February 2007. The Battlefield facility has been developed and is owned by Shropshire County Council and operated under contract by Sita.
5. Arising from the visit Members agreed that a suitable site needed to be found as a matter of urgency and preferably sited centrally or to the north of the Borough as possible.

Finance

6. There will be significant funding implications arising from the recommendation detailed in this report, which will only be ascertained once an appropriate business case has been determined.

Law

7. Section 120 of the Local Government Act, 1972 enables the Council to purchase land within or outside the borough which is required for the discharge of its functions including materials recycling.

Equality Impact

8. This report complies fully with the Council's policies on equal opportunities and diversity.

Recommendation

9. That the Committee considers the future provision of a Materials Recycling Facility in the Dudley Borough and the following recommendations be approved and referred to Cabinet and Council for approval;
- a) that a suitable site be found and included in the Capital Programme and that approaches be made to the land owners to purchase said site
 - b) that a working model and definite proposals for a Materials Reclamation Facility be drawn up to secure any available Government funding for such a site

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List of Background Papers

Notes of the Recycling Working Group held on 13th February 2007.