

Written Responses to Questions Raised During Public Participation

Cabinet – 8 September 2015

Members may recall that a number of questions were raised at the above meeting of Cabinet to which written responses were requested. The responses which have been provided by the Portfolio Holder are set out below.

For further information please contact Claire Skoyles, SEBC Cabinet Officer/ Committee Administrator, telephone: (01284) 757176 or email claire.skoyles@westsuffolk.gov.uk

Question 1

Question from Mr Adrian Graves to Councillor Peter Stevens on Agenda Item 5, West Suffolk Operational Hub:

"I am confused by the range of conflicting and contradictory information circulating regarding the nature, content and volumes of waste streams to be handled through the Waste Transfer Station (WTS) element of a combined West Suffolk Operational Hub (WSOH), irrespective of where it might be located.

Specifically setting aside the throughput of HWRC operations and for clarity, may I ask for confirmation of the real, true and factually accurate information about the material which will be handled, including types of waste, sources of origin, volumes and tonnages,

... firstly, for each of the current three bin household collection operation:-

*Brown bin – compostable waste
Blue Bin – dry recyclable waste
Black bin – non-recyclable waste*

... and separately for:-

*Trade waste – defined types / mix of waste
Food waste – markets, restaurants, etc."*

Response from Cllr Peter Stevens, Portfolio Holder for Operations:

We are sorry if there is any confusion over the tonnages proposed for the West Suffolk Operational Hub (WSOH) but this is perhaps understandable given the nature of the topic. Clearly, this is a facility intended to serve the needs of West Suffolk and its waste for the long term (25 years plus). Much can change over a period of this duration. You more than most are well aware that the nature of waste collection, recycling and processing 25 years ago was considerably different to what happens today. Issues such as changes to regulation and policy, global economics, commodity prices, how contracts or the arrangements for waste collection, haulage, transfer and processing are procured or arranged and the

general growth in waste arising as or housing and population grows all need to be considered.

There is therefore a difference between the amount and way in which waste is collected now or in the near future and how it might be handled in the medium to long term. We've therefore made long term estimates for tonnages based on what the various waste streams might be in the future and these are clearly different to what we would expect to handle now. Perhaps it is this that is causing some confusion.

For example, currently our organic (brown bin) waste is direct delivered to the processing facility at Lackford. However, the contract will need to be re-procured in future which may result in it continuing to go to Lackford, somewhere else in the locality or out of district via transfer and haulage arrangements. Design assumptions for the WSOH include estimates for these tonnages.

Blue and black bin waste collected in Haverhill currently transfers via a transfer station in Haverhill. Our current plans are for this to continue, particularly given the haulage considerations and likely housing growth in that town. However, it wouldn't be prudent to necessarily assume that will always be the case and design assumptions for the WSOH include estimates for these tonnages.

You are aware that these facilities are flexible. Push walls, bunkers and partitioning that separate waste streams within a transfer facility can be readily reconfigured within a sufficiently sized building.

Planning and design is based upon what we estimate to be the full future potential volumes of waste to be handled rather than what can be expected in the sort to medium term as explained above (including growth estimates). Including HWRC throughput the breakdown is as follows:-

	(tonnes)
Residual (kerbside and HWRC)	50,598
Recycling (kerbside)	15,714
Organic (kerbside)	21,830
Organic (HWRC)	3,320
Wood (HWRC)	3,220
Other (HWRC)	11,500
Total	106,182

Extrapolating the information you have asked for (excluding HWRC tonnages) estimates to:-

	(tonnes)
Residual Household (black bins)	36,901
Recycling Household (blue bins)	15,085
Organic Household (brown bins)	18,992
Bulky waste	148
Trade residual	9,809
Trade mixed recycling	628
Trade single stream recycling (card, plastic, paper, wood)	2,200
Non-household organic (trade & street sweepings)	2,838
Total	86,601

Notice was given of the following supplementary question; however, a different supplementary question was actually asked at the meeting and the response was given at the time and has been minuted. A written answer has however, been supplied to Mr Graves in response to the supplementary question that he had provided on notice, as shown below.

"These waste streams cannot be co-mingled – and have to be segregated. Buildings therefore have to be scaled accordingly. So may we accurately understand the currently proposed and likely future scale of the site and buildings, including dimensions, which may be involved – as these may differ significantly from the 'artists impressions' which accompanied the initial round of pre-planning consultation."

Response from Cllr Peter Stevens, Portfolio Holder for Operations:

Your supplementary question asked about the scale of the building. This has been sized for the estimates above and is based upon potential changes to the volumes and waste stream make-up and segregation stated above.

The current proposed transfer station dimensions are 53.557m long X 37.006m deep. The height to the eaves is 8.08m and the height to the ridge is 10.03m.

Question 2

Question from Mr Howard Quayle to Councillor Peter Stevens on Agenda Item 5, West Suffolk Operational Hub:

"Can you please confirm that the approved budget, to date, for the West Suffolk Operational Hub project is as follows:

<i>St Edmundsbury Borough Council</i>	<i>£120,000 (including One Public Estate Programme element)</i>
<i>Suffolk County Council</i>	<i>£100,000</i>
<i>Forest Heath District Council</i>	<i>£20,000 (One Public Estate Programme element)</i>

- making a total of £240,000? Please give up to date financial details of the business case elements on which this budget has been spent."

Response from Cllr Peter Stevens, Portfolio Holder for Operations:

The approved budget, to date, for the West Suffolk Operational Hub (WSOH) project is as follows:-

St Edmundsbury Borough Council	£120,000 (includes £20,000 from the Cabinet Office One Public Estate Programme)
Suffolk County Council	£100,000
Total	£220,000

Forest Heath District Council has not approved any funding for the project to date.

The breakdown of expenditure to date is as follows:-

Activity	Amount
Project Management	£35,400
Legal & Land Option	£66,400
Consulting Engineers	£42,000
Project Support	£27,000
Surveys and Reports	£9,100
Planning (inc Vehicle Route Analysis)	£14,700
Sundries	£1,700
Total	£196,300