

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Environment Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	11 th January 2024 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Cllr Suzy Firkin		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	Item 11. Update on Household Waste and Recycling Services		
Update	<p>Update on Household Waste and Recycling Services</p> <p>Since the closure of the Congleton Household Waste and Recycling Centre there have been a number of interactions with Cheshire East to ensure that the potential of a new site for Congleton is not “written out” of any future discussions at CEC or within their procurement process for waste management services.</p> <p>This has been via a combination of representations at Cheshire East Council meetings and Environment Committee meetings, led by Cllr Robert Douglas, which has ensured that the option for a site for Congleton is still considered when reviewing future options. The so called “Congleton Clause”.</p> <p>In addition, there has also been meetings with Ralph Kemp Cheshire East- Head of Environmental Services, at which mitigating measures for loss of the site and the potential for innovative new waste and recycling measures in Congleton have been discussed. The latest such meeting was held by Cllrs Firkin and Wesley with Ralph Kemp on 6th December.</p> <p>This update was considered necessary because Mr Kemp made us aware of an item of public interest which we do not believe had been made widely known. This being that the formal tendering process for a new Waste Management Contractor had not yet formally been completed since, at first tender submission, they were unable to make a selection. Hence the decision making process about both a new Contractor and which sites would remain part of the Cheshire East Waste Management Strategy has been delayed until late 2024.</p> <p>CEC are targeting the July 2024 Environment Meeting at which to present the outcomes from work with external consultants on best practice in the future of waste management and procurement strategy. A new procurement specification is expected by January 2025. This means that nothing will change until late 2025. HW Martin will continue in their current role managed by ANSA until such time as a new contractor is selected.</p> <p>In the meantime, we hoped that we might get support for some of the previous ideas that we had discussed with Cheshire East such as ‘Skip Days’, Reuse and Repair Centre, additional drop off bins for recyclables etc. Despite previous assurances that we would get support on these topics the current financial position at CEC (Waste is the biggest overspend area apparently) meant that Ralph was unable to offer us additional facilities beyond the statutory minimum. If we wish to create these sort of services it will be out of our own budget or through collaboration with partners.</p> <p>On other key waste topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sign up for the green bin charge has now hit 50%. 60% is required to cover costs. By comparison in Cheshire West they are at 70% after one year.• CEC will be required to bring in kerbside food waste collection in 2026. Although that should be government funded.		
Financial Considerations	None currently, but likely continued escalation of fly tipping will place pressure on budget for dealing with it. Should we decide to support additional waste facilities there is currently no budget allocation for this		

Environmental Considerations	Whilst the ultimate goal in waste management is to reduce the amount of waste created, the second tier of any waste strategy is effective reuse and recycling. Having a state of the art waste disposal and/or waste recycling facility in Congleton would be the most environmentally friendly solution. This would keep mileage to and from a site to a minimum, incentivise residents to keep recycling and reduce fly tipping to pre-closure levels.
Equality Considerations	The lack of a local waste and recycling centre disadvantages a number of sectors of the community and this is why it is important to continue to make efforts to make access to waste and recycling services practical for those without their own transport, with limited mobility and limited time due to their work or domestic circumstances.
Decision Requested	To receive the updated report.