

## Appendix 3 Coder Road Amenity Skip – January 28 2014

<b>Briefing Note To Shropshire Councillors in South Shropshire</b>	<b>Review of the Amenity Skip and Recycling Centre at Coder Road Ludlow</b>
Officer responsible	Dr Larry Wolfe
Area affected	Ludlow and environs
Budget implication	Up to £100,000 saving
Impact on performance	Detailed in briefing note

### **The service under consideration**

Shropshire Council and its waste contractor Veolia Environmental Services (VES) currently operate five household recycling centres (HRCs) across the county, plus the Coder Road amenity skip site in Ludlow. An internal review of the Council's non-kerbside collection service commenced in Spring 2011 with a view to identify savings, standardise service levels and optimise recycling performance at a reduced cost to the taxpayer. One of the outcomes of this review was standardisation of operating hours at the Council's five HRCs which have provided increased opportunities to recycle and achieved financial savings in excess of £50,000.

The review also identified the Coder Road amenity skip site as being a poorly performing facility, with a 2012/13 recycling rate of less than 30% compared to the average HRC recycling rate of 60% for the same period. The site attracts residual waste as its main material and therefore is not conducive to the Council's drive to improve recycling and reduce waste to disposal. Furthermore, VES have expressed concern over the site's poor recycling performance, which impacts on achievement of their contractually binding recycling targets.

The Coder Road amenity skip site receives approximately 460 visitors per week or 25,000 visitors per year which is a relatively small percentage compared with that of the 5 HRC sites at 750,000 per annum. The site, however, negatively impacts on the usage by local residents of the recently purpose built, more modern and safer Craven Arms HRC, which can accept a far broader range of waste types for recycling and would therefore increase the council's and VES's recycling performance. The annual cost of operation of the Coder Road amenity skip site is c£100,000 and to upgrade this facility to that equivalent to the 5 HRCs would cost approximately £0.6m plus annual operating costs of £200,000. This would deliver a minor increase in recycling of 1.3% in total HRC performance and 0.2% overall, which is a negligible impact on recycling targets with no financial benefits. Continued operation of the Coder Road site would also mean that South Shropshire would be the only collection area with more than one staffed waste management facility. It is proposed following the conclusions from the review, to recommend cessation of operation of the Coder Road amenity skip site and to consider alternatives for its future use.

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### Discussion

The Coder Road amenity skip site is utilised by local residents to deposit additional residual and garden waste due to its close proximity to Ludlow. As a result, this negates the requirement for local residents to travel to the Craven Arms HRC. A petition containing 1700 signatures predominantly from the Ludlow area, petitioning against any detrimental change in the service provided at the Coder Road Amenity skip site was submitted to the Council earlier this year and before any decision on the future of the service had been taken.

The neighbouring site next to the Coder Road amenity skip site contains an anaerobic digestion (AD) plant. The land and AD plant is currently leased by Shropshire Council to Biocycle South Shropshire Limited, a company now solely run by the Cwm Harry Land Trust (CHLT), a local charity. Incorporating the land occupied by the amenity skip site into the AD plant site would enable the future expansion of the AD plant, which is being developed by CHLT as a community operated facility and UK centre of excellence. This would enable development of community-based environmental initiatives, including organics waste management, research and development, which could bring employment and training opportunities to the area. Detailed discussions have taken place with the two private and commercial tenants and operators of the adjoining Amenity skip and AD plant sites (VES and CHLT).

### Options for consideration

Options for future use of the Coder Road amenity skip site are listed below:

1. Clearance and sale of the land;
2. Conversion to an unmanned recycling bring bank site or ,
3. Site clearance and integration of the parcel of land occupied by the amenity skip site into the re-development of the neighbouring AD plant.

**Table 1 Risks and opportunities**

Option	Opportunity/benefit	Risk
1.	Annual savings of £100,000 and sale of land	Parcel of land has relatively small footprint and may not be attractive to buyers
2.	Annual savings of approximately £100,000	Ludlow area is well served with bring banks where Coder Road site receives approximately 8% of bring bank throughput.
3.	Annual savings of £100,000 plus community benefits re employment and training. Incorporation of the amenity skip site land into the AD plant site lease may be approved under delegated authority as it is less than £500,000 total land value	Agreement between CHLT and the Council on changes to planning permission and with the Environment Agency on environmental permitting for an extended site.

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The Environmental Protection Act 1990 requires Shropshire Council in its role as a waste disposal authority to provide at least one site within the county for residents to take their waste for disposal or recycling. This requirement is more than satisfied through provision of five household recycling centres (HRC) one in each of the five former administrative districts. The former South Shropshire District area is the only former Shropshire district to currently have two staffed recycling centres (Coder Road, Ludlow and Craven Arms) therefore, an inequality in service level exists compared to the rest of the county.

A decision by the Portfolio Holder on the Coder Road amenity skip and recycling centre will be made in November 2013. Comments from the public will be sought via the Council's consultation portal and other sources for those who do not have web access. The closing date for public consultation is 21<sup>st</sup> October 2013. A timetable setting out the key steps leading to this decision is provided below:

Comments on this briefing paper should be forwarded to:

[wastemanagement@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:wastemanagement@shropshire.gov.uk)

**Table 2: Timetable**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
19 <sup>th</sup> September	Briefing of Ludlow councillors
19 <sup>th</sup> September	Briefing Note issued to South Shropshire and Bridgnorth area Councillors
20 <sup>th</sup> September	Online public consultation launched
21 <sup>st</sup> October	Deadline for consultation responses
31 <sup>st</sup> October	Final report signed off and published
Week beginning 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Portfolio Holder decision

Dr Larry Wolfe  
Head of Waste Management