

BRIEFING NOTE

Release date: 29 June 2020

Subject: Foxhall Recycling Centre Redevelopment

Copy to: All County Councillors. Borough and District Councillors in the local area. Relevant leader and portfolio holders at Ipswich and East Suffolk Councils.

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Summary

What is a Recycling Centre?

Suffolk has 11 Recycling Centres across the county which are managed and run on behalf of Suffolk County Council by a private contractor. Residents and SMEs are able to recycle a wide range of materials along with good quality items for re-use.

Redevelopment of the existing facility at Foxhall will require planning approval from the Waste Planning Authority (Suffolk County Council), and a revised Environmental Permit to operate from the Environment Agency.

Why do we need to redevelop Foxhall Recycling Centre?

The Foxhall Recycling Centre currently operates under a time-limited planning permission, originally linked to the anticipated life of the adjacent landfill site.

This permission is due to expire in March 2021. Planning policy would support a permanent permission for continued use as a Recycling Centre, subject to a suitable application, and the outcomes of the planning consultation and decision-making process.

An application for this site would need to improve access and traffic management at the site. We are also looking to re-engineer the site to improve accessibility and capacity by designing out the need for site users to climb steps to access the waste containers.

The Foxhall site is currently Suffolk's busiest Recycling Centre, receiving nearly 12,000 tonnes of waste each year, or around 20% of all Recycling Centre waste across Suffolk. Without site improvement a new permission will not be secured and would result in the loss of the Council's most important and well used site. This would also lead to massive service disruption at the next nearest sites as service users are displaced.

Suffolk's councils are all committed to delivering housing and business growth with estimates of an additional 40,000 homes (taken from existing

district/borough local plans). Footfall through the Recycling Centres is expected to increase in line with this, i.e. by 10% to 20% on average but the pressure will be most acutely felt in locations which are expected to bear the greatest burden of growth and where the sites have least capacity to absorb it.

The new proposals will help to futureproof the site to accommodate the increase in housing growth and increased numbers of users.

What are the proposals?

Suffolk County Council is proposing to expand and improve Foxhall Recycling Centre. This will also involve highway improvements to the site entrance. The benefits of this scheme will be to:

- Remove the need for queuing on the highway
- Provide an improved space and layout for easier access
- Improve accessibility and increase capacity by eliminating the need for site users to climb steps to access containers
- Improve the Re-use Centre space
- Introduce greater separation between public vehicles and larger vehicles

We anticipate that a planning application for this proposed development will be submitted by end of July 2020. In advance of this we are placing information on our website to allow you to view the plan for the proposed redevelopment and provide us with any comments you may have.

How will people have their say?

From 29 June 2020 information about the proposals will be available for comment on the Suffolk County Council website www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations and www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk

The planning application for the development is expected to be submitted at the end of July 2020. The process of determining the planning application will give any interested party an opportunity to submit comments on the planning application to the Waste Planning Authority.