

TITLE OF REPORT: Progress Report - Issues Emanating from Landfill Sites in the west of the Borough

REPORT OF: Paul Dowling, Strategic Director, Communities and Environment

SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the issues arising from landfill sites in the west of the Borough.

Purpose of the Report

1. This matter was originally reported to the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March 2015, where a number of actions were identified. Feedback on the identified actions was provided to the Committee in September 2015 and April 2016. This report will provide a general update on these sites. Representatives from the Environment Agency will be present at the Committee, to provide an update and respond to any queries that may be raised.

Background

2. Following concerns raised by residents in some parts of the west of the borough the matter was brought before the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March 2015. The Committee received a report which also featured significant input from the Environment Agency (EA) as one of the regulators of the Landfill sites.
3. During the meeting twelve actions were agreed and an update on these points was presented to the Committee in September 2015 and April 2016.
4. The Committee will be provided with an update on the current operations at Blaydon and Path Head Landfill sites.

Blaydon Update

5. The revised planning permission was granted for this site in September 2015. This included a number of conditions that required further information to be submitted. In response to this, the applicant has submitted the following applications:
 - a) 12/01266/DOC1 – Application to discharge conditions 23 and 24
 - b) 12/01266/DOC2 – Application to discharge conditions 7, 12, 13, 14, 22, 26, 45, 46 and 52

c) 12/01266/DOC3 – Application to discharge conditions 4, 5, 11, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32

6. The above applications are under consideration. Where necessary, further information has been requested from the applicant.
7. The first meeting of the Community Liaison Group following the grant of planning permission took place on 30th March 2015 and the next meeting (which is to involve a site visit) is to take place on 8th June.
8. The Environment Agency produces regular updates on its website relating to this site. The most recent update (6th May) can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/blaydon-quarry-landfill-newcastle-upon-tyne/blaydon-quarry-landfill-newcastle-upon-tyne>
9. In summary, the capping of Cell 5b in the north east corner of the site is underway and largely complete. Tipping continues in the central part of the site (Cell 7) and tipping will continue in this area for approximately 3 years.
10. The EA served a notice on the site operator that obliged them to submit proposals to remediate odours coming from the site. This notice was complied with. The EA will continue to carry out targeted odour monitoring checks in the area and inspect the site to ensure that potential sources are being addressed by the operator.
11. The EA are aware of reports of litter in the area and they will continue to check the effectiveness of litter control on site.

Path Head Update

12. The Environment Agency produces regular updates on its website relating to this site. The most recent update (20 May) can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/path-head-landfill-gateshead/path-head-landfill-site>
13. The Environment Agency served notice on Suez to require engineering plans detailing the installation of additional gas extraction wells and capping works. This notice was complied with. A second enforcement notice was served on Suez to ensure work was carried out within the agreed deadlines. Again, this notice has been complied with.
14. The Environment Agency have installed a monitoring station at St Thomas Aquinas school on 2nd June which will constantly monitor air quality. It is anticipated that the equipment will be in place for 3 months.
15. Tipping at this site will end in January 2017, with restoration to be completed by January 2018. The agreed restoration scheme will need to be varied to account for a reduced amount of material on the site. The operator has carried out

consultation with local residents to notify them of the proposed restoration scheme. It is anticipated that details of the proposed restoration scheme will be submitted to the Council in the next couple of months for formal consideration.

16. The Environment Agency, Gateshead Council and Public Health England will maintain a partnership approach to tackle any issues at this site and continue to keep people informed on both the Environment Agency and the Councils Websites.

What will we do next?

17. Monitoring of the sites will continue, including joint visits between the Council and the EA.
18. The planning conditions will continue to be monitored and enforcement action taken where necessary.
19. Regular updates will be given to keep people informed on both the Environment Agency and the Council Websites.

Recommendation

- It is recommended that the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the above.

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