EMERALD STREET HWRC

Planning Statement

Section 73 application to amend operational hours.

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February 2022

Project quality assurance information sheet

Emerald Street HWRC, Fartown, Huddersfield, HD1 6BY

Application to amend the operational hours as approved in condition 2 of planning permission reference: 98.62.92724.W0.

Report status	Draft
Report date	Feb 2022

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This statement accompanies a planning application made by SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK Ltd (SUEZ), under section 73 of the Town and County Planning Act 1990, to amend the previously approved operating hours at Emerald St HWRC, Fartown, Huddersfield, HD1 6BY.

1.2 This site has operated as a Household Waste Recovery Centre for over 20 years since 1999 and operates under planning permission 98.62.92724.W0.

1.3 Condition 2 of planning permission reference: 98.62.92724.W0. details the approved opening and operating hours of the HWRC.

1.4 The following provides a description of the site and its surroundings, a description of the proposals, an assessment of the proposals against national and local planning policy and an assessment of the key considerations to be considered when determining the application.

2 THE APPLICANT

2.1 This application has been prepared and submitted by SUEZ recycling and recovery UK, a subsidiary of the SUEZ Group. SUEZ recycling and recovery UK is a recycling and resource management company, which serves over 12 million people and handles over 9.9 million tonnes of domestic, commercial, and industrial waste each year. SUEZ recycling and recovery UK provides services for over 30,000 public and private sector customers and operates a network of facilities including: recycling, composting, refuse derived fuel production, solid recovered fuel production, wood processing, energy-from-waste and landfill.

2.2 The SUEZ group is at the dawn of the resource revolution. In a world facing rapid demographic growth, urbanisation and a shortage of natural resources, securing, optimising and renewing resources is essential to our future. SUEZ supplies drinking water to 92 million people, provides wastewater treatment services to 65 million, collects waste produced by almost 50 million, recovers 14 million tonnes of waste each year and produces 5.138 GWh of sustainable energy. With 80,990 employees and a presence on all five continents, SUEZ is a key player in the circular economy and the sustainable management of resources.

3 SITE DESCRIPTION

3.1 The site has operated as a Household Waste Recycling Centre since 1999.

3.2 The site is located in Fartown which is situated approximately 1 kilometre north of Huddersfield and falls within the administrative boundary of Kirklees Council. The site is accessed from Hillhouse Lane which connects to Leeds Road (A62) to the east of the site and Willow Lane East which connects to Bradford Road (A642) to the west.

3.3 The site is in a mixed use area. The land to the North, East and South is primarily industrial with residential land to the West.

3.4 The closest residential dwellings are located approximately 180m to the west on Alder Street, Huddersfield.

3.5 According to the Environmental Agency's flood map for planning the site is located within Flood Zone 1, an area with a low probability of flooding.

4 PLANNING HISTORY

4.1 In April 1999 planning permission 98.62.92724.W0. was granted to form a 'household waste disposal/recycling centre and composting facility'. The site still currently operates under this permission.

4.2 Planning permission 2007.62.93455.W0. was granted in October 2007 for 'change of use in compost pad to permit screening of wood waste in addition to green waste'. This only applies to the composting pad area.

5 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

5.1 SUEZ proposes to amend the operating hours of the Emerald Street HWRC and seeks permission to amend condition 2 of planning permission reference: 98.62.92724.W0.

5.2 Condition 2 of the permission details the approved operating and opening hours of the HWRC.

5.3 Condition 2 states:

'Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority the civic amenity site and composting area shall not be operated outside the following times: 07:30-18:00 Monday – Friday (including Bank Holidays) and 7:30-16:00 Saturdays and Sundays.'

5.4 The HWRC is currently therefore permitted to operate and be open to the public between the hours of:

- 07:30 and 18:00 Mondays to Fridays and Bank Holidays
- 07:30-16:00 Saturdays and Sundays

5.5 It is proposed that the site is open and operational between the hours of:

- 07:30 and 18:00 Mondays to Fridays and Bank Holidays
- 07:30 and 17:00 Saturdays and Sundays

5.6 It is therefore proposed to amend condition 2 as follows:

'Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority the HWRC shall not be operated outside the following times: 07:30-18:00 Monday – Friday (including Bank Holidays) and 07:30-17:00 Saturdays and Sundays.'

6 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 This section of the report outlines the key environmental considerations.

SUEZ have management procedures in place for the existing operations on site in a Site Management Plan (SMP) which is regulated by the Environment Agency under the Environmental Permit. The SMP ensures the appropriate control of odour, windblown litter, dust and noise on site and is subject to review and continual improvement under the Environmental Permitting system.

NOISE

6.2 Planning permission 98.62.92724.W0. condition 6 prescribes specific noise levels. It states:

'Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority the level of noise emitted from the operation of the of the civic amenity and green waste composting excluding the green waste shredder shall not exceed the following noise levels at any nearby residential premises at the following times:

- *Weekdays – 52dB(A) (LAeq) (1 hour) freefield*
- *Saturdays – 52dB(A) (LAeq) (1 hour) freefield*
- *Sundays – 48dB(A) (LAeq) (1 hour) freefield'*

6.3 It is not anticipated that there will be an impact upon residential amenity as a result of the proposals.

6.4 The potential impact of the noise levels generated during the amended opening and operational hours are considered to be acceptable.

6.5 The site will continue to operate in line with the management procedures outlined in the SMP.

TRAFFIC AND HIGHWAY

6.6 The permission does not restrict traffic movements in terms of vehicle numbers that arrive/leave the site.

6.7 It is not anticipated that there will be an increase in vehicle movements, and it is not anticipated the proposals will cause any traffic movement issues outside of the facility.

ODOUR

6.8 It is not anticipated that the proposals will have any adverse impacts with regard to odour. Monitoring and mitigation measures are outlined within the SMP.

OTHER AMENITY IMPACTS

6.9 It is not considered that the proposals will have any other effects upon other amenity impacts including landscape and visual, dust, odour and

litter blow, as the proposals purely relate to a small increase in operational hours of the facility.

7 PLANNING POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 This section reviews relevant waste management strategies and the appropriate planning policy at local and national levels and considers the degree to which the proposals comply with guidance and policy.

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

7.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in July 2021 and focuses on encouraging sustainable development. The framework documents states that "*...decision-takers at every level should seek to approve applications for sustainable development where possible.*" The NPPF sets out the governments planning policies for England and provides the overall framework for planning policy in England and is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

7.3 NPPF paragraph 7 states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The document in paragraph 8 outlines three dimensions to sustainable development which the planning system seeks to perform: an economic role, a social role and an environmental role.

7.4 The proposed development at Emerald Street is considered to support the policies in the NPPF through enabling the facility to operate as efficiently as possible thereby assisting with the driving of waste up the waste hierarchy.

GREEN BELT

7.5 This site is not on green belt land and therefore doesn't impact the application.

PLANNING PRACTICE GUIDANCE

7.6 On 6th March 2014 the web-based Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) resource was launched, replacing guidance previously only published in separate documents. The PPG is actively managed and reviewed by the DCLG and updated when necessary. On 16 October 2014 the guidance on waste was updated, linking to the publication of the NPPW and giving further guidance on local planning authorities' obligations with regard to self-sufficiency, proximity principle and waste hierarchy.

7.7 Section 8 of the PPG on waste provides guidance on determining of planning applications and section 9 gives guidance on other regulatory regimes, reiterating that *'the focus of the planning system should be on whether the development itself an acceptable use of the land and the impacts of those is uses, rather than any control processes, health and safety issues or emissions themselves where these are subject to approval under other regimes'.*

7.8 Section 38 of The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that planning applications should be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. In the case of this proposal, however, it is difficult to directly apply planning policy and guidance as most policies relate to the development or operation of a waste management facility and the impacts associated with that long-term use.

LOCAL POLICY

7.9 The site falls within the administrative area of Kirklees Council. Kirklees Council implements the Kirklees Development Plan which consists of the Kirklees Local Plan and Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Kirklees Local Plan was adopted on 27 February 2019 and comprises the strategy and policies document, allocations and designations document and associated proposals map. It sets out a vision and strategic objectives for the development of Kirklees up to 2031. The Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan (HVNDP) covers the Holme Valley Parish Council area including the area within the Peak District National Park. The HVNDP comprises the policies document and associated designations. The HVNDP divides the neighbourhood area geographically into eight Landscape Character Areas where different policy considerations apply.

7.10 Policy LP43 states *'The council will encourage and support the minimisation of waste production, and support the re-use and recovery of waste materials including, for example, recycling, composting and Energy from Waste recovery.'* SUEZ considers that extending the opening hours of the Emerald Street HWRC will improve the efficiency of the site by allowing a greater volume of waste to be recovered and recycled, therefore ensuring additional waste is moved further up the waste hierarchy.

7.11 The Kirklees Development Plan also refers to the fact there is already an established network of publicly and privately operated waste management facilities in the district providing a significant amount of capacity for handling waste. These sites are considered to be critical in continuing to

meet the long-term waste management needs of Kirklees. Extending the opening hours will enable a greater volume of waste to be received at Emerald Street HWRC and therefore assist with the long-term waste management needs of Kirklees Council.

7.12 Policy LP19 states *'The ability to move goods and people is particularly important given the district's strategic position'*, It is not anticipated that this application will have an adverse impact on the local transport network and therefore complies with Policy LP19.

8 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

8.1 This document accompanies a planning application seeking permission to vary condition 2 of planning permission reference: 98.62.92724.W0. to amend the operating hours at Emerald Street HWRC.

8.2 It is considered that the proposal is minor in nature and complies with planning policy at a national and local level, and they will not result in any adverse effects upon residential amenity or upon statutory designations.

8.3 Taking the above into account it is considered that the proposed development should be approved by Kirklees Council at the earliest opportunity.