

Report on	Northern Ireland Landfill Capacity Report
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Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update members on a recent report on remaining landfill capacity in Northern Ireland.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>One of the actions outlined in the Implementation Plan for the Central & Local Government Waste Working Group (GWWG) is to:</p> <p><i>“Identify current landfill capacity and assess future needs and create a strategy for Northern Ireland up to 2030 taking into account current and future EU targets for landfill diversion.”</i></p> <p>Mid Ulster Council recently commissioned WDR & RT Taggart Consultants to undertake a Northern Ireland Landfill Capacity Study on behalf of the following group of Councils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council • Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council • Derry City and Strabane District Council • Fermanagh and Omagh District Council • Mid Ulster District Council
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>The scope of the study (full copy of report provided as appendix one) was to assess:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Current landfill capacity;</i> • <i>The latest reported volume of waste landfilled;</i> • <i>Northern Ireland future landfill capacity looking at a number of scenarios such as the early closure of Local Authority owned sites, the potential implementation of the arc21 EfW facility, potential waste growth and statutory recycling targets;</i> • <i>Identification of potential sites for development; and</i> • <i>Ranking of potential development sites based on a series of criteria</i>
3.2	<p>The report identifies that at the start of 2017 there was approximately 7m tonnes of landfill capacity in Northern Ireland. The majority of this landfill capacity is held in two sites by two private sector operators, namely Cottonmount landfill and Aughrim landfill.</p> <p>It also highlights the current trend in the Local Authority owned and operated landfill</p>

3.3	<p>sites going through a phase of early closure, with for example, Magheraglass landfill receiving its last waste inputs earlier this year. This trend is further outlined by the proposed early closure/mothballing of Tullyvar landfill in the Autumn of 2018.</p> <p>Based on the assessment of capacity at the end of 2020 there would be an estimated 4.2m tonnes of capacity and the only sites with remaining active landfill capacity will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drummee; • Cottonmount; • Aughrim; and • Crosshill <p>Drummee has limited capacity post 2020 and Crosshill is not permitted to directly accept domestic/household waste. Therefore this results in the majority of the landfill capacity (over 90%) being held in two private sector sites, Aughrim and Cottonmount and this may have the potential to increase landfill gates fees for the disposal of waste to landfill.</p> <p>Post 2020 it is predicted that there will be a deficit in landfill capacity in Northern Ireland by 2028. An assessment was therefore made of potential sites that could be developed post 2020 to provide additional capacity and prevent a lack of competition in the landfill market. Only one Local Authority site (Tullyvar) was considered due to the potential void and the consents that are currently in place. The ranking of the most viable future landfill capacity was as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tullyvar Landfill Site – due to the existing Planning Permission and PPC Permit with site infrastructure in place. This option could also offer Councils control over landfill gate fees. 2. Craigmore Landfill Site - additional capacity developed at Craigmore may be viable due to the existing land use therefore improving the success of any planning application. Existing infrastructure exists at the site in the form of a leachate treatment plant and landfill gas engines. The site also includes a MRF for the pre-treatment of waste prior to landfilling. 3. Cam Road Landfill Site – it is reported that planning permission is still active for the site with the site having a significant void capacity. However, all infrastructure would need to be developed at this site. 4. Ladyhill Landfill Site – it is considered that it would be difficult to re-establish planning permission for the site. The development of the site would include expensive lining works due to steep wall of the quarry. A large capital expenditure would also be required to upgrade the road to the site. <p>Therefore in order to protect Local Authorities from the potential rise in landfill gates fees post 2020 it is considered that the most viable option for future landfill capacity would be the remaining capacity (potentially 650,000 cubic metres in phase four) at Tullyvar landfill site.</p> <p>This conclusion justifies the Councils present position of “mothballing” Tullyvar landfill in 2018, rather than permanent capping/closure, and the report recommends that a bi-annual review of landfill gates fees is undertaken to assess the landfill market and any risks associated with price increases (which may prompt further development of the site).</p> <p>It has been agreed, via SOLACE, that the report be circulated all Councils in N Ireland.</p>
4.0	<p>Other Considerations</p>

4.1	Financial & Human Resources Implications Financial: The cost of the Landfill Capacity report (£6,825) will be shared equally between the five Councils. Human: None
4.2	Equality and Good Relations Implications N/A
4.3	Risk Management Implications The risks associated with the depletion of landfill capacity in Northern Ireland i.e. potential increase in landfill gate fees arising from lack of competition is outlined in the report.
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	It is recommended that members note the content of this report.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Northern Ireland Landfill Capacity Report – December 2017