

<b>Report on</b>	Proposal for the Acceptance of Agricultural Plastics at Tullyvar Recycling Centre
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> April 2021
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Mark McAdoo, Head of Environmental Services
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Karl McGowan, Waste Disposal & Contracts Manager

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To consider the options for the acceptance of agricultural plastics at Tullyvar Landfill Site.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	At a Meeting of the Tullyvar Joint Committee it was agreed to consider the acceptance of waste agricultural plastic at Tullyvar. This waste had previously been accepted at the landfill site on a commercial basis prior to the site being mothballed in October 2018. It is not currently possible to accept this waste at Tullyvar as this waste type is not permitted by the recycling centre site licence and Mid Ulster District Council only accepts commercial waste at the three main recycling centres in Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt following the implementation of a prepaid card system.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>There are a number of factors to consider in relation to the acceptance of farm plastics at Tullyvar Household Waste Recycling centre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) NIEA fees and possibly consultant costs in varying the site licence.</li> <li>b) Costs in upgrading weighbridge software &amp; equipment to allow for prepayment.</li> <li>c) Other capital, operational, and waste disposal costs.</li> <li>d) A change in Mid Ulster District Council policy regarding the acceptance of commercial waste at smaller sites.</li> <li>e) Acceptance of other commercial wastes may be necessary to ensure fairness to other commercial operators.</li> <li>f) Acceptance at Ballymacombs Recycling Centre (the other recycling centre that has a weighbridge) may also be necessary to ensure equity to commercial operators in other geographical areas.</li> </ul>
3.2	The current recycling centre license does not allow for the acceptance of agricultural plastic (EWC Code: 02 01 04). To enable its acceptance a variation to

	the site license will need to be sought, the fees for this would be approx. £647 plus any Consultancy fees that may be necessary to prepare the variation application.
3.3	There would be substantial costs to upgrade the sites weighbridge software to be compatible with the Councils pre-pay system. The Precia Molen Genwaste software costs approx. £6,500 for installation and commissioning, with a further £400 for a receipt printer and software support costs of £500 per annum.
3.4	The waste would be separated for recycling and not comingled with other residual wastes. Therefore, a suitable receptacle would need to be purchased to hold the waste prior to collection such as a Roll On Roll Off (RoRo) skip, these currently cost around £4,000 each.
3.5	There would be ongoing disposal charges for the waste which would need to be tendered for. An indicative cost would be £69 per tonne which is based on the current charges applied by Fermanagh & Omagh District Council. In the year prior to the landfill site being mothballed, the site accepted approx. 50 tonnes of agricultural plastic over approx. 200 transactions ranging from 20kg to several tonnes. However, large trailer loads would no longer be practical given the manual handling required to empty waste plastics into skips or other recycling receptacles. Therefore, assuming an annual tonnage of 25 tonnes, the annual disposal costs would be £1,750 per site.
3.6	Additional site attendant time would have to be devoted on a weekly basis to cleaning the area, sorting the waste and removing any contamination.
3.7	Considering the abover, capital costs of approx. £11,547 would be needed per site to facilitate the acceptance of agricultural waste, with ongoing additional costs of approx. £3,308.08 per annum. Given that agricultural waste is not a statutory responsibility of the Council the approach should be on the basis of full cost recovery. At the current commercial waste price of £150 per tonne it would take 25 years to pay back the necessary capital costs which is beyond the expected working life of the hardware and the software would be obsolete / unsupported probably within 10 years. A more reasonable payback time of 5 Years would require a price of £225 per tonne which would be unattractive to potential customers given the other cheaper options available
3.8	<p>The Waste Collection Service Policy was approved by Environment Committee and Council in September 2020 and is not due for review until October 2022. The policy states the following:</p> <p><i>11.8 Commercial and industrial waste is only accepted for disposal at Cookstown, Drumcoo and Magherafelt Recycling Centres i.e. Tier A sites where a charge is payable based on the weight and type of waste (see appendix 1 for current scale of charges).</i></p> <p><i>11.9 The Council operates a pre-payment (card swipe) system for the disposal of commercial waste and cash payments for same are not acceptable on site.</i></p>
3.9	A variation to the policy would therefore be necessary and consideration would have to be given to points e) and f) above. To ensure fairness between farmers and other commercial operators it may would be advisable to accept other suitable

3.10	<p>commercial wastes. Also, to ensure geographical fairness across the district the acceptance of these wastes at Ballymacombs Recycling Centre should also be considered. Ballymacombs, in common with Tullyvar, is a mothballed landfill site with an on-site household waste recycling centre. Ballymacombs also has a weighbridge installed and could be similarly upgraded to allow for the commercial charging pre-payment system.</p> <p>Considering the above factors and costs there would be 2 options to consider;</p> <p>Option 1 is to maintain the status quo with option 2 the acceptance of agricultural plastics along with other suitable commercial wastes at both Tullyvar and Ballymacombs Recycling Centres.</p> <p>Option 2 would require a further report detailing the costs to be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
4.1	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>The cost of this project is projected to be as follows:</p> <p>Option 1 – Zero Costs</p> <p>Option 2 – Capital Costs of £11,547 + VAT per site Running Costs of approx. £3,308.08 + VAT per annum. Cost to be recouped with a charge of £225 per tonne</p> <p>Human:</p> <p>Some officer time on the Council side will be required for contract management, financial and administration tasks. Also, Site Attendant time will be necessary for overseeing acceptance of waste, charging, cleaning, sorting and removal of contamination.</p> <p>Risk Management:</p> <p>Any operational health and safety risks would be managed as normal through the Councils existing procedures with oversight and assistance from Council health and safety officers.</p>
4.2	<p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications:</p> <p>None</p>

	<p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>None</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Members are requested to note the content of this report and it is recommended that, considering the costs above, the acceptance of agricultural plastics is still restricted to the 3 main recycling centres in line with other commercial wastes.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	None