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WALSALL COUNCIL

MIDDLEMORE LANE WTS AND HWRC

NOISE MANAGEMENT PLAN

JANUARY 2025

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JANUARY 2025

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 Walsall Council are making an application for a permit to operate a Household Waste Recycling Centre and Waste Transfer Station at a site on Middlemoor Lane, Aldridge, northeast of Walsall. The nearest postcode is WS9 8DL and the site is centred around grid reference NGR SK 04914 00815.
- 1.1.2 The site sits on an industrial estate, with the surrounding area to the north and west predominantly industrial and commercial units. The east and south of the site is predominantly residential. The nearest residential property is located approximately 170m northeast of the Site on The Briars cul de sac. There is a field located 90m east of the site currently used for sports recreation purposes.
- 1.1.3 Because there are houses relatively close to the site the Environment Agency have requested a Noise Impact Assessment and Noise Management Plan.
- 1.1.1 A Noise Impact Assessment was completed in December 2021 to support the planning application for the site. A copy of that report is enclosed along with the Addendum that was produced in August 2023 to take into consideration any noise from the odour abatement system.
- 1.1.2 This document provides the Noise Management Plan for the Site and follows the guidance provided on the Environment Agency pages of Gov.UK.

2 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1.1 Walsall Council understand that noise is a type of pollution and that it is important that it is effectively controlled at waste management facilities in order to prevent negative impacts on nearby householders or other sensitive receptors. They undertake to ensure that noise from the operation of the HWRC and WTS is managed to prevent any such impacts.
- 2.1.2 Currently the Noise Impact Assessment shows that the site is likely to have a low impact on noise sensitive receptors within the vicinity of the site. As such Environment Agency guidance indicates that basic appropriate measures will suffice to manage noise.
- 2.1.3 The Technically Competent Manager will take responsibility for ensuring that the measures outlined in the Noise Management Plan are followed. They will ensure that all staff receive sufficient training in this respect and carry out audits as necessary.

- 2.1.4 All staff will take responsibility for acting in accordance with the written procedures and will operate plant and undertake their other duties in a manner that minimises excessive noise.
- 2.1.5 Where there are repeated incidents or complaints or where it is clear that significant investment is required to improve noise controls, the TCM will report to senior managers.
- 2.1.6 Senior Managers will review incidents and complaints at least annually, to determine whether additional procedures or controls are required.

3 MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT

- 3.1.1 Walsall Council and any contractors or sub-contractors that they use will ensure that any noise control equipment is correctly designed, installed and operated. The equipment will be properly maintained in line with the manufacturer's recommendations.
- 3.1.2 Equipment that may be noisy will likewise be properly maintained to ensure that it runs smoothly and as quietly as possible. Plant and equipment will be checked daily for faults or problems and will be serviced in line with the manufacturer's recommendations. Plant that is excessively noisy due to a fault will be taken out of use until it is repaired by a competent engineer.

4 NOISE RISKS

- 4.1.1 The following sources of noise may be present on site:
- Movement of vehicles into and out of the HWRC,
 - Unloading/loading of bulk waste,
 - Unloading into skips in the HWRC,
 - Movement of skips,
 - Compacting into skips at the HWRC,
 - Fans associated with the air extraction and odour management system.

- 4.1.2 A large part of the WTS operations will be inside a building which will provide a degree of mitigation for any noise arising. Noise from the WTS is unlikely to be impacted by weather conditions.
- 4.1.3 The HWRC may be busier on dry sunny days particular bank holidays or weekends, when members of the public might be likely to carry out gardening or DIY and generate additional waste.
- 4.1.4 The Council will have limited control over vehicles using the site but will ensure that all vehicles in their own fleet are properly maintained. The site has been designed to allow a free flow of traffic and policy will be to minimise idling.
- 4.1.5 Drivers will be asked to turn off their engines when vehicles are parked.
- 4.1.6 Loading and unloading of wastes to be stored in the building at the WTS will take place inside the building with the doors closed.
- 4.1.7 Within the HWRC the safety of users must be prioritised and as such it may be that wastes are placed into skips from a height. This will only take place during daytime hours.
- 4.1.8 Procedures will be in place to ensure that skips are placed and lifted correctly and are not knocked, dropped or dragged. Again, operations will take place during the working day only.
- 4.1.9 Occasionally it may be necessary use site plant to move or compact waste within skips in order to ensure even loading and maximum payloads. This will only be carried out during the working day and will not take place during quiet periods.
- 4.1.10 The odour control system will be properly maintained to ensure that fans are not excessively noisy.
- 4.1.11 Broken or damaged equipment which may be more noisy will be taken out of use until it can be repaired or replaced.
- 4.1.12 The Noise Assessment Report shows that noise will not impact on nearby receptors and that the impact is likely to be low.

5 DETAILS OF THE APPROPRIATE CONTROLS

- 5.1.1 As the site is open to members of the public there is a limit to the extent to which incoming vehicles can be controlled. However the following controls will be in place.

- 5.1.2 The site will operate in accordance with the requirements of the planning permission. Hours of operation are restricted to between 8.00 and 19.00 each day. The site will not operate early in the morning or later in the evening, when local residents may be more sensitive to noise.
- 5.1.3 Where wastes are to be stored inside the building they will also be loaded and unloaded inside the building with the door closed, providing noise attenuation for this part of the operation.
- 5.1.4 Written procedures will be in place for loading and unloading, ensuring this is done in a considerate manner. Staff will receive instruction to ensure that drop heights are minimised wherever possible and skips or bins are moved effectively without dragging or knocking them.
- 5.1.5 Skips will be managed so that as far as possible they are placed, filled and then removed from site to the permitted recycling or disposal site. The need to move containers around the site will be avoided as far as possible, though this may sometimes be necessary.
- 5.1.6 On occasion plant will be used to move waste or compact waste in skips. As far as possible this will be avoided during quiet periods. Compacting of waste to improve payloads will reduce the number of vehicle movements required to take waste off site and therefore will have a positive as well as a potential negative impact on noise levels.
- 5.1.7 All plant and equipment within the Council's control will be serviced and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and any legal requirements. Plant that is making excessive noise, due to a fault will be taken out of use until a repair can be made by a competent person or it is replaced.
- 5.1.8 The site is designed to optimise flow of traffic around the site. Signage will be used to discourage unnecessary idling and encourage drivers to switch off engines when vehicles are stationary.

6 MONITORING

- 6.1.1 As the Noise Assessment Report showed that the noise from the site would be likely to be below background noise levels at nearby residential receptors there is no intention to carry out quantitative monitoring at this time.

- 6.1.2 Mobile plant on site will be checked each day before it is switched on to ensure there are no obvious faults which might lead to excessive noise.
- 6.1.3 The site will be subject to daily inspections by a trained member of staff. This will include walking around the boundary of the site when the site is operational to check that there is no excessive noise reaching the boundary.
- 6.1.4 A record will be kept of the daily inspections and of any complaints received, either from members of the public or from the regulators. These records will be reviewed on an annual basis to assess where changes to the Noise Management Plan, Environmental Management Plan or investment in additional noise control measures may be required.

7 CONTINGENCIES

- 7.1.1 Due to the simplicity of the operation problems are unlikely to arise.
- 7.1.2 Where the daily inspection identifies excessive noise arising from the site or where a complaint is received, this will be reported to the site manager or their deputy. The duty site manager will investigate within 24 hours and determine the remedial action that needs to be taken.
- 7.1.3 The person receiving the complaint should record the details of the complainant (name, address and telephone number) the nature of the noise and the time(s) the noise occurred. This will allow the details to be cross checked against site operations at the time and for feedback to be provide where requested.
- 7.1.4 The details of the complaint, findings of the investigation and any necessary action will be recorded in the site log. Any necessary actions will be implemented as soon as possible.
- 7.1.5 Where necessary the incident will be escalated to senior managers to authorise investment.
- 7.1.6 Major incidents or persistent problems will be escalated to senior managers and will be reported to the Environment Agency.

8 COMMUNICATION

- 8.1.1 A notice board will be provided displaying contact details for the site should an individual wish to raise a complaint. Complaints will be managed as described in section 7, above.
- 8.1.2 Where necessary, for example, due to building works on site or other major issues, communications will be sent to local residents detailing the works to be carried out at the site and explaining the timescales, likely noise issues and the mitigation that will be in place.

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