

Cabinet Meeting: Monday, 13 January 2025

Question from: Cllr Leigh MBE

Question to:

First, I want to express my appreciation to the Officers and Cabinet for considering Cllr Hunt's alternative proposal of closing each tip one day or a couple of days per week to achieve the necessary savings and thus avoid the closure of Elland Tip. I strongly urge the Cabinet to seriously consider and implement this option. The primary justification for the Cabinet's decision to close Elland Tip was to make savings and option two offers a larger saving.

However, the report that states if Elland Tip were to close the Council will still meet the necessary requirements for Household Waste & Recycling Centres. But this assessment fails to account for the significant planned housing developments in the Lower Valley, Elland, and surrounding Wards. These developments will increase waste generation, making the continued operation of Elland Tip even more crucial.

Another point raised regarding alternative closures of each tip was the potential underutilization of capital and machinery at the other tips during their closure periods. However, option two does offer the flexibility to increase opening hours at these sites in the future if funding becomes available which should be the long-term priority of this Council. In contrast, the closure of Elland Tip would necessitate significant capital expenditure if a new tip were to be required in the future.

Finally, this Council has previously stated its ambition to be the best borough in the country but closing a vital public service such as Elland Tip would directly contradict this aspiration. The Conservative Group urges the Council to not close Elland Tip.

Response

In respect of accounting for planned housing developments, when all 15,000 properties within the Local Plan are built, it will bring the total for the borough to around 110,000 households. Using the current rates of approximately 2.2 people per property, this would result in 243,000 residents within Calderdale.

If the closure of Elland were to go ahead, the ratio of sites to head of population would therefore be 1 for every 60,780 residents, with the equivalent ratio for households being 1 for every 27,610. In both cases this would be well below the recommendations as per the Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP) guidance of 1 per 120,000 residents and 1 per 50,000 households and remains the best network of sites seen in West Yorkshire.