



HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES EFFICIENCIES SAVINGS

Committee	Gloucestershire Joint Waste Committee
Committee Date	19 June 2018
Significant Decision	No
Responsible Officers	Andy Pritchard, Strategy and Development Manager 01452 427014; andy.pritchard@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Main Consultees	None
Purpose of Report	To update members on the plans for HRC efficiency savings.
Recommendations	It is recommended that the Committee notes the report.
Resource Implications	None

1. Context

1.1 The report relates to the 5 Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) within the responsibility of Gloucestershire County Council (GCC). These are;

Pyke Quarry (Horsley)
Wingmoor Farm (Bishops Cleeve)
Oak Quarry (Coleford)
Fosse Cross (Northleach)
Hempsted (Gloucester)

1.2 The Swindon Road recycling centre, operated on behalf of Cheltenham Borough Council is excluded from the scope of this report.

1.3 In February 2018, GCC set its budgets for 2018/19. Within the scope of this decision, a saving of £167,000 on the HRC budget was agreed, with the intention that this would be achieved by a change in the opening hours of these sites. This saving is part of the wider 'Meeting the Challenge' programme within the County Council.

1.4 A change in opening hours is not uncommon at councils across England. Many have taken steps in recent years to review and reduce opening times in order to meet the challenges presented by budget reductions. Any changes must maintain compliance with the requirements of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, whereby there remains a duty for Waste Disposal Authorities (such as GCC) to provide places for the public to deposit their household waste. The legislation does not dictate opening hours, but states;

“each place (must be) available for the deposit of waste at all reasonable times (including at least one period on the Saturday or following day of each week except a week in which the Saturday is 25th December or 1st January)”

A review of opening times will be undertaken with regard to this requirement as a minimum.

2. Current position

- 2.1 All HRCs currently open at 9am and close at 6.15pm throughout the year, excluding Christmas Day and New Years Day when they are closed. These opening times have been in place for several years.
- 2.2 Traffic count studies show that peak demand occurs between mid/late morning and mid/late afternoon; typically from 11am to 3pm. Visitor numbers are at their lowest between 9am & 10am, and after 5pm. This varies in winter, where visitor numbers tail off significantly when it gets dark after 4pm. Visitor numbers are at their highest on weekends and bank holidays, especially between Easter and September.
- 2.3 Any review would seek to minimise the impact of reduced opening hours on residents as far as possible whilst seeking to achieve the necessary savings target. Whilst there are some people who may wish to use the HRCs at the start or end of the day, it likely that fewer people would be affected by reduced opening hours that involved later opening and earlier closure of sites.

3. Actions/Timescales

- 3.1 The Joint Waste Team are currently working with Ubico to determine the options and scope for savings that could be generated by reduced opening hours. Options will be developed by July in order for a decision to be made by GCC.
- 3.2 A number of variations could be considered. These may include reduced opening hours in winter and summer or possibly closing sites for one or more days per week.
- 3.3 These options will be discussed with Cheltenham B.C in particular, as it is acknowledged that changes to GCC HRC sites may have an impact on the Swindon Rd HRC.
- 3.4 Once a decision on opening hours has been reached by GCC A comprehensive communications plan will be implemented to ensure that any changes are communicated widely.
- 3.5 The current target date for implementation of new opening hours is the end of October 2018, when the clocks change.
- 3.6 Further savings targets will be set for 2019/20 and 2020/21. This means that further changes may be required at HRCs in order to meet these targets. These will be subject to further consideration towards the end of 2018/19.