

	<b>HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES EFFICIENCY SAVINGS</b>
<b>Committee</b>	Gloucestershire Joint Waste Committee
<b>Committee Date</b>	9 October 2018
<b>Significant Decision</b>	No
<b>Responsible Officers</b>	<b>Roger Smith, Contracts Manager (HRCs, Recycling and Disposal) 01452 426895;</b> <a href="mailto:roger.smith@gloucestershire.gov.uk">roger.smith@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a>
<b>Main Consultees</b>	None
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To update members on the implementation of the HRC efficiency savings.
<b>Recommendations</b>	It is recommended that the Committee notes the report.
<b>Resource Implications</b>	None

## 1. Context

1.1 The report relates to the five Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) provided by 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 budget 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 to the opening hours of these sites. The issue was considered by the Gloucestershire Joint Waste Committee in June 2018.

1.4 A number of councils have taken steps in recent years to review and reduce HRC 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 that:

“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)”

## **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 highest at weekends and bank holidays, especially between Easter and September.

## **3. Decision**

- 3.1 A Lead Cabinet Member decision was taken on 31 August 2018 to reduce HRC opening hours in the summer and winter months along with a one day mid week closure throughout the year at each site. Additionally the sites will all be closed on Boxing Day.
- 3.2 As from Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October (when the clocks go back one hour to GMT), the five HRCs will open from 10 am to 4 pm. Each site will close for one day per week: Fosse Cross (Northleach) and Oak Quarry (Coleford) will close every Tuesday; Pyke Quarry (Horsley) and Wingmoor Farm (Bishops Cleeve) will close every Wednesday; and Hempsted (Gloucester) will close every Thursday.
- 3.3 When the clocks go forward an hour in the Spring each year (to BST) the opening hours will extend from 9am to 5pm, still with a one day a week closure.
- 3.4 The location of the sites has been considered when determining the day closure, so that only sites that are furthest apart from one another will be closed at the same time. The site nearest to one that is closed will be open, so that residents continue to have access to a HRC each day of the week.
- 3.5 All sites will remain open at weekends and also on Mondays and Fridays, meaning that bank holidays (with the exception of Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day) will be unaffected.
- 3.6 The anticipated savings from this service change will largely come from reduced staffing costs for the site operator, Ubico. Ubico has reported that there will be no redundancy of full time staff, with the adjustment made through the management of vacancies and a reduction in the use of agency staff.

## **4. Implementation/Actions/Timescales**

- 4.1 A communications plan to make all stakeholders aware of these changes is now active and commenced in September.
- 4.2 Stakeholders include HRC customers; County Council, District Council and Parish Council members; Joint Waste Team and partner District Council waste officers; Ubico staff; County Council and partner District Council customer service teams; and, HRC waste collection contractors.

- 4.3 GCC's communications team has issued two media releases in September for the new hours and the details of the day closures for each HRC. These have also been promoted through social media.
- 4.4 GCC, District Council and Recycle for Gloucestershire websites are advertising the changes to customers.
- 4.5 The changes are also being communicated at each HRC through posters, banners and leaflets made available to every customer. New or replacement signage at each HRC is also being ordered to advertise the new hours and day closures.
- 4.7 GCC is working with Ubico to implement methods to prevent / minimise instances of fly-tipping waste outside the HRCs when they are closed. Monitoring of the sites will take place during the day closures.