

AT A MEETING of the ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT  
SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle,  
Winchester on Tuesday, 19 July 2016.

**PRESENT**

Chairman:  
p Councillor Sharyn Wheale

Vice-Chairman:  
p Councillor Geoff Hockley

Councillors:

p Graham Burgess	p Peter Latham
a Charles Choudhary	a Martin Lyon
p Brian Gurden	p Steve Rippon-Swaine
p Edward Heron	p Frank Rust
p Roger Huxstep	a David Simpson
p Rupert Kyrle	p Mark Staplehurst

Also in attendance: Cllr Rob Humby, Executive Member for Environment & Transport

152. **BROADCASTING ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chairman announced that the press and members of the public were permitted to film and broadcast the meeting. Those remaining at the meeting were consenting to being filmed and recorded, and to the possible use of those images and recording for broadcasting purposes.

153. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

It was noted that Cllr Charles Choudhary had given his apologies. The conservative substitute Member Cllr Ken Moon attended in his place. Apologies were also received from Cllr David Simpson; the liberal democrat substitute Member was unable to attend in his place. Apologies were also tendered on behalf of Cllr Martin Lyon; the UKIP substitute Member was unable to attend in his place.

154. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for

exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Personal interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 4 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

155. **DEPUTATIONS**

No deputations were received at this meeting.

156. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman reminded Members to confirm if they wished to take part in the Task & Finish Group on Road Safety.

157. **PRE-SCRUTINY: HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES SERVICE EFFICIENCIES IMPLEMENTATION**

The Committee considered a report and supporting presentation from the Director of Economy, Transport & Environment regarding proposed changes to the Household Waste Recycling Centre service (see Item 5 in the Minute Book).

Members heard that:

- Charging for DIY waste and offering to take trade waste for small and medium enterprises for a fee had been agreed in principle in November 2014, and it was now proposed to commence this from October 2016
- A public consultation had been undertaken from March to May 2016 regarding proposed options to make savings from the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) service. Responses were received from over 50 organisations and nearly 11,500 individuals. Five petitions were also received with between 100 and 6000 signatures.
- The presentation went through the data based on the consultation responses, with further detail available in the Appendix to the report
- A clear message from the consultation responses was a preference to keep all HWRC sites open. Therefore, it was proposed to reflect this preference, and make the savings from other options.
- In 2015 opening times were changed from 8:00am to 9:00am and the Select Committee commented on the congestion this was causing at some sites as the timing

coincided with the morning rush hour. The Select Committee requested this impact be taken into account when future changes were considered. The consultation this time asked residents for their preference regarding earlier or later opening times, and the preference was for later opening. Therefore, in response to both pieces of feedback it was proposed that the new opening hours start at 11:00am

- It was also proposed to close all sites for one day a week. It was proposed to close on Thursdays, as visit data suggested this was the quietest day.
- The same opening times and days would operate across all sites to avoid confusion
- It was also proposed to introduce cross border charges of £2 a visit for non Hampshire residents accessing Hampshire HWRCs
- Many responses to the consultation highlighted concerns about increased fly tipping if the availability of HWRCs was reduced. Consideration had been given to a Fly Tipping Prevention Strategy adopted by Surrey County Council, and it was proposed to develop a Hampshire Fly Tipping Strategy. This would be a partnership approach, working with other local authorities, the environment agency, the police and rural organisations, to raise awareness and help tackle fly tipping
- The consultation had also asked residents if they would be prepared to pay a small fee (e.g. £1 per visit) for accessing a HWRC. This was currently prohibited by law, however as 48% of respondents said they would (and 46% said they would not), it was proposed to lobby the government to change the law on this point. It was suggested that introducing such a charge could offset the requirement to make further significant reductions to the HWRC service in order to meet the 2019 savings target

Following questions Members heard:

- The consultation had included a one hour reduction in opening hours as an option, however the proposed reduction was by two hours. This was being proposed as reductions in opening hours was the preferred method to make savings according to the responses received, and a greater reduction was needed in order to meet the savings target
- The list of items that could be charged for as non household waste was derived from legislation
- It was confirmed that the changes to opening hours and the day closure would be brought in no later than January 2017 (rather than by 1 October 2016 as stated in the report). Leading up to this the changes would be advertised as widely as possible including via the local press, at HWRC sites, and via partner authorities and parish councils

- Infrastructure would be required in order to implement charging for certain waste types and charging of non residents. Automatic Number Plate Recognition would be implemented by the contractor (Veolia) and the costs of this had already been accommodated within the contract which had commenced in April 2016

- Residents would need to register to use HWRC sites in order for non residents to be identified and charged for access. This would be made as easy as possible, for example showing a driving license with a valid Hampshire address, and enabling people to register via hantsdirect and at the HWRC sites

Members commented:

- Some Members commented that with Council Tax increasing, residents would object to also being asked to pay a charge in order to use a HWRC. Residents would also be seeing an increase in Council Tax but a decrease in service availability. Some Members took the view that HWRCs should be available to use for free like the NHS, and objected to the direction of travel of considering charging.

- Members also noted that once a charge has been introduced, this opened the door for the charge to be increased over time

- Members were also concerned that HWRCs being open less would result in increased congestion at sites when they are open

- Members were also concerned that reductions to the service would result in increased fly tipping

- Other Members accepted the need to make savings, and thanked officers for developing proposals which reflected the preferences shown in the consultation

- Some Members commented that offering to accept trade waste from small and medium enterprises could reduce fly tipping from this sector

- Some Members took the view that it was preferable to charge just those creating DIY waste, than to pay for this disposal through council tax which everyone pays

Following the debate, the following recommendations were proposed by the Chairman and agreed by majority vote:

**RECOMMENDED:**

That the Economy, Transport and Environment Select Committee support the recommendations being proposed to the Executive Member for Environment and Transport in section nine (pages 11 and 12) of the report.

Recommendations passed to Executive Member

That the Select Committee requests to consider the Strategy on Fly Tipping, prior to the strategy going to the Executive Member for Environment and Transport in Autumn 2016.

Work programme  
be updated

---

Chairman, 3 November 2016