

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Date:	12 October 2016
Title:	Cross Border Household Waste Recycling Centre Access
Reference:	7801
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to obtain approval for transitional arrangements to be made with West Berkshire Council to enable residents of North West Hampshire to retain a level of access to West Berkshire's Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) service whilst a longer term solution is considered/sought.
- 1.2. This paper seeks to
 - set out the background to the issue;
 - consider the finance for the project and the impact on the budget; and
 - set out the next steps with regards to cross border usage in Hampshire.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. The issue of cross border usage of HWRCs is not a new one, with some authorities, initially in cities such as London, choosing either to ban non-residents or to negotiate a subsidy from neighbouring authorities. With the increasing financial pressures being faced by waste disposal authorities, those making subsidy payments are now reviewing the continuing affordability of these arrangements, especially where service provision is available within that authority's boundaries.
- 2.2. At the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment (ceased 2016) Decision Day in November 2015 approval was given to cease the voluntary payments to West Berkshire Council made as a contribution towards the cost of Hampshire residents using its Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) located at Newtown Road and Padworth.
- 2.3. West Berkshire Council subsequently decided to cease making a similar contribution to the RE3 partnership (Reading, Wokingham and Bracknell

Forest Councils) for its residents use of, in particular, the Smallmead HWRC (Reading), which resulted in the RE3 partnership deciding to restrict access to its HWRCs to residents of its council areas only from 1 July 2016.

- 2.4. Since these decisions were made West Berkshire Council has decided to introduce a residents permit system to restrict access to its two HWRC sites to West Berkshire residents only. This will be implemented on 26 September 2016.
- 2.5. The previous agreement with West Berkshire recognised that the cost of service provision and waste handling is lower in Hampshire, and as such the payment did not cover the full costs incurred by West Berkshire.
- 2.6. Any future payment would have had to reflect the full cost associated with the material presented by Hampshire residents and would therefore be greater than previous voluntary payments. This would result in the cost of disposal for a limited number of residents in the north west of Hampshire being subsidised by the rest of Hampshire.
- 2.7. In July 2016, at the Executive Member for Environment and Transport decision day, approval was given for a £2 charge to be introduced for all non Hampshire (excluding Southampton and Portsmouth) residents to access the Hampshire sites. The decision was taken to ensure that access was not denied to those outside Hampshire but that a contribution towards the cost of service provision was made.

3. Hampshire Service Provision

- 3.1. The closest Hampshire County Council HWRC service provision within the affected area are the sites at Basingstoke and Andover which are both large modern split level sites. Initial investigations in the past have not identified any suitable sites for service provision close to the West Berkshire border.
- 3.2. There is no formal distance to site policy in place in Hampshire. However, the current informal basis for service provision is made using an approximate measure of 10 miles distance and 20 minutes driving time. Based on research carried out on the practices of other authorities, there are very few examples of fixed policies because service provision is driven by site availability and the type of demographic in terms of rural and urban areas. As a result of this there are places where people are both closer and further away than 10 miles to their nearest site and there is no fixed position.
- 3.3. Network analysis indicates that much of Hampshire has access to the service within the informal parameters set out above, but that there are areas in the county where residents are more than 10 miles from their nearest Hampshire site. For instance, there are communities within the New Forest and Test Valley as well as those in the north west of the County who are more than 10 miles from a Hampshire HWRC.

- 3.4. Given the presence of the Basingstoke and Andover sites in the north of the county, it would seem that the furthest that residents would have to travel to access a Hampshire HWRC, as opposed to a West Berkshire one, is around 10-15 miles, which is comparable to the furthest distances required to access sites elsewhere in the county. Whilst not as convenient, this is not an excessive distance for people to travel.
- 3.5. The County Council also has a waste prevention programme that is focused on driving material up the waste hierarchy and encouraging people to avoid the need to create the waste in the first place or have more sustainable solutions. This includes promoting reuse and “up-cycling” of unwanted bulky household material into new products, donating items to charity to help those on low incomes or coming out of long term care or assisted living, and home composting to produce compost that can be used in residents’ own gardens.

4. Interim Arrangement Parameters

- 4.1. There are a number of factors that would need to be considered as part of any agreement in terms of service parameters and eligibility for access to service provision.
- 4.2. Those factors will include:
 - The distance to the nearest Hampshire site – this will be considered on the basis that the minimum distance from a Hampshire HWRC would be 10 miles to be in scope for any interim arrangement.
 - The level of access to service – the frequency or scale of access would be limited to ensure that residents were encouraged to minimise waste and maximise reuse, as well as ensuring that opportunity was maximised rather than multiple small trips being made. This may mean that the arrangement is limited to either certain times or to a certain number of visits.
 - Material types – the scale of materials accepted may be limited to key material streams. This may mean only material such as residual black bag waste (not bulky) and green waste collection may be accepted.

5. Equalities

- 5.1. This decision will enable delivery of an interim solution to the issue of cross border usage in the north west of Hampshire and essentially maintain the status quo for a period of up to twelve months in order to provide time to agree a long term solution. As there is no change to the current position there are neither negative nor positive impacts on any of the protected or other characteristics.

6. Future direction

- 6.1. In the meantime discussions will be held with all neighbouring authorities to consider developing a consistent and permanent approach to cross border usage of HWRCs.
- 6.2. The preferred option would be a charge to be made for access to an HWRC outside of the authority area that the individual resides in. This would ensure that all residents would be able to access the sites nearest to them but that if this was outside their authority area the fee would help offset some of the costs associated with service provision, waste handling and treatment.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1. That approval is given to undertake discussions with West Berkshire Council to seek a transitional solution to enable Hampshire residents to retain a level of access to West Berkshire's Household Waste Recycling Centres whilst longer term solutions are considered.
- 7.2. That authority is delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment to agree the details of the transitional arrangement including any expenditure within existing Departmental resources, in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport.
- 7.3. That discussions are held with West Berkshire and other neighbouring authorities to agree a common approach to cross border usage for future implementation.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes/no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes/no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes/no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Household Waste Recycling Centre Efficiencies	6980	26th Nov 2015
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

DocumentLocation

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

Having completed an equalities impact assessment it has been determined that there are no impacts as a result of this proposal. The text from the assessment is set out below:

This decision will deliver an interim solution to the issue of cross border usage in the north west of Hampshire and essentially maintain the status quo for a period of up to twelve months in order to provide time to agree a long term solution. As there is no change to the current position there are neither negative nor positive impacts on any of the groups with protected characteristics.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. It is not anticipated that this decision will have any impact on crime and disorder.

3. Climate Change:

- 3.1. How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

By ensuring that Hampshire residents can access the nearest HWRC it will ensure that car journeys are minimised and therefore reduce / maintain the carbon footprint and energy consumption.

- 3.2. How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

The previous HWRC service provision review considered the options to adapt to climate change and this will be taken into account in future service developments.