

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
Date:	19 January 2016
Title:	Household Waste Recycling Centres Service Efficiencies – Consultation Proposals
Reference:	7179
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to seek approval to consult with the general public over potential changes to the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) Network in support of savings.
- 1.2. The paper seeks to set out the details of the proposed consultation, including details of savings requirements, consultation content, approach and timescales.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. On 22 October 2015, the County Council agreed a programme of efficiencies intended to achieve its savings target for 2017 in response to reduced public spending and the financial challenges faced by Local Government. A review of the county's HWRC service and an efficiencies programme was included in these proposals.
- 2.2. The County Council is planning to consult on aspects of this Efficiencies Programme, on measures that will support a more efficient HWRC Service, at reduced cost to the County Council.
- 2.3. This second stage consultation follows the wider "Shaping Hampshire" consultation¹, which clearly highlights that the general public views HWRCs as a high priority universal service that the County Council should continue to deliver and support. It also highlights that HWRCs are the County Council

¹ <http://documents.hants.gov.uk/corporate/shapinghampshire-spendingreviewconsultation-report.pdf>

service that the greatest proportion of respondents (or their families) actively use.

- 2.4. Specifically the plan is to consult on a number of potential actions to be taken with regards to the following areas of the HWRC Service Efficiencies Programme, which are likely to be of particular interest to HWRC Service Users:
 - Reduction of opening hours at HWRC sites, via shortened days and/or full day closures
 - Full closure of some HWRC sites
- 2.5. The County Council undertook a consultation in advance of previous changes to the HWRC network (namely the reduction in opening hours that was implemented on 01 April 2015). It is considered appropriate to repeat this activity prior to any further changes; particularly due to the significant nature of the options being proposed, and the importance that residents place on the HWRC network.
- 2.6. Respondents to the consultation will be presented with a small number of options for how to best achieve the required level of savings, relating to both reduced opening hours and full closure of sites.
- 2.7. Opening hours options will cover measures including reducing the length of the day at sites and closing sites for one day (or more) a week across the whole HWRC network, and closing smaller HWRC sites either for the duration of winter (1st Oct – March 31st), or on week days with weekend opening only.
- 2.8. Site closure options will cover different approaches to selecting sites for potential closure, such as how busy they are, and their proximity to population centres and other HWRC sites.
- 2.9. Each option will have an approximate savings value attached to it, and respondents will be able to associate this with the wider savings target that the County Council is seeking to achieve through the programme. They will be asked to consider their preferred approach to how the savings target can be met (with an emphasis on the fact that it will not be possible to “do nothing”).
- 2.10. Respondents will be asked to rank all options accordingly, from most-favoured to least-favoured.
- 2.11. Respondents will also be able to utilise ‘free text’ boxes to offer any further comments or suggestions.
- 2.12. Evidence gathered from these responses will inform recommendations that are made to the Executive Member for Economy Transport & Environment for the HWRC Service Efficiencies Programme.

2.13. Finally, respondents will be able to express views on a supplementary question relating to charging for use of HWRCs (which is currently prevented by legislation developed by the DCLG). The County Council opposed this change in legislation on the grounds that, given the severity of the budget reductions Local Government is undergoing, the option to charge for use of services offers a vital, if non-preferable, recourse for sustaining services and service levels prioritised by the public. It is anticipated that evidence gathered will be useful for any future lobbying on the issue.

3. Consultation Logistics

- 3.1. The proposed start date for the consultation is 25 January 2016. The consultation will remain open for eight weeks from this point.
- 3.2. The consultation will be advertised online and via social media, and paper copies will be available on request, as per approaches to other public consultations. In addition, for the first two weeks of the consultation process, small flyers will be handed out at HWRC sites, alerting site users to the consultation and signposting them to where they can provide their responses.

4. Engagement with District and Unitary Authorities

- 4.1 Prior to launching the consultation, all District and Unitary Authorities in Hampshire have been given an opportunity to meet and discuss the proposed consultation, and the majority have taken this up.
- 4.2 Officers from the County Council will be meeting with Officers and Members from the District and Unitary Authorities, to share the proposed approach and discuss any queries that they may have about localised impacts.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1. That the County Council undertakes a formal public consultation on measures proposed as part of the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) Service Efficiencies programme.
- 5.2. That the public consultation commences on Monday 25 January 2016, and remains open for eight weeks.

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

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

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Changes to the Household Waste Recycling Centre Operating Hours	6369	20 February 2015

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.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
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:

Steps will be taken to ensure that harder to reach groups who may be impacted by any resulting changes to HWRC Service, including residents who live in rural areas and residents who are on lower incomes, are given sufficient opportunity to provide feedback. The protected characteristics of age and disability will also be taken into account.

A wider Equality Statement has been developed, relating to the HWRC Service Efficiencies Programme as a whole².

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. None.

² <http://documents.hants.gov.uk/equality-impact-assessments/ete/2015/HWRCServiceEfficienciesReview.pdf>

3. Climate Change:

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

This decision concerns a proposed consultation rather than any adjustments to service delivery, and so there will be negligible impact upon the County Council's carbon footprint or relating to adaptation.