

Equality Impact Assessment



Hampshire
County Council

Household Waste Recycling Centre Operations

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Department: Economy, Transport and
Environment

Date of
assessment: 04/08/2021

Description of current service/policy

Pedestrian access to Household Waste Recycling Centers (HWRCs) has historically been discouraged, but allowed where it was done at the customer's own risk. Pedestrians and cyclists have however been banned completely since May 2020 in order to maintain social distancing and limit social interaction onsite during the current pandemic. HWRCs do not have dedicated pedestrian entrances, therefore any pedestrian access must be through the main vehicular entrance which creates a serious safety risk.

Geographical impact: All
Hampshire

Description of proposed change

A six month trial is proposed to be initiated at the Hedge End, New Alresford and Waterlooville HWRCs to evaluate the reintroduction of pedestrian access on a controlled basis by making those sites "pedestrian only" for defined periods during the week. Additionally, cycle access will be reintroduced to HWRCs on a controlled basis utilising the existing HWRC booking system. The trial will be fully monitored and the outcomes evaluated.

Impacts of the proposed change

This impact assessment covers Service users

Engagement and consultation

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? Yes

A deputation was made to Full Council in September 2020 which alleged that residents with disabilities or low incomes could be indirectly discriminated against through the current practice as regular access to a vehicle may not be possible. The County Council does not accept any suggestion that this practice is discriminatory. The current booking system provides a new opportunity to test the impacts of excluding vehicles for short periods in order to safely enable pedestrian access, while allowing cycles to book a slot as they are able to access the site using the vehicular entrance.

Statutory considerations	Impact	Mitigation
Age: Neutral		
Disability: Neutral		
Sexual orientation: Neutral		
Race: Neutral		
Religion and belief: Neutral		
Gender reassignment: Neutral		

Gender: Neutral		
Marriage and civil partnership: Neutral		
Pregnancy and maternity: Neutral		
Other policy considerations	Impact	Mitigation
Poverty: Neutral		
Rurality: Neutral		

Neutrality statement (if all considerations have a neutral impact)

The trial seeks to evaluate the impact of utilising the existing HWRC booking system to determine if it can be used to manage the safe access of sites by residents who may not have access to a car, or choose to walk or use a bicycle. All impacts are considered neutral for groups with protected characteristics.

Any other information