

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Date:	14 November 2017
Title:	Progress report on Household Waste Recycling Centre Cross Border Charging
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

Contact name: Sam Horne

Tel: 01962 832268

Email: sam.horne@hants.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on the work to establish a long term solution for cross border HWRC usage with neighbouring local authorities. This includes seeking to obtain approval to extend the transitional arrangements that have been 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 for a period of up to twelve months.
- 1.2. This paper seeks to update on the status of discussions with neighbouring authorities, set out the short term requirement to maintain service provision, and clarify its financial impact.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. The issue of cross border usage of HWRCs is not new, with some authorities, initially in cities such as London, choosing either to ban non-residents from using their facilities, 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. Following the decision by West Berkshire Council to prevent residents from outside its area from accessing HWRCs at Newtown Road and Padworth, negotiations were commenced to maintain access for Hampshire residents.
- 2.3. At the Executive Member for Environment and Transport Decision Day in October 2016, approval was given to enter into a transitional solution to enable Hampshire residents to retain a level of access to West Berkshire's HWRC at Newtown Road whilst longer term solutions are considered.
- 2.4. A Hampshire resident permit was issued to Hampshire residents who lived more than 10 miles from a Hampshire HWRC and closer to the Newtown Road site in West Berkshire.

- 2.5. Just over 5,000 permits were issued, using information provided by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, enabling all of those residents free access to the Newtown Road site to recycle and dispose of their waste.

3. Neighbouring Authority engagement update

- 2.6. A workshop session has been held with all neighbouring local authorities to understand their current position with regards to cross border usage, and to discuss potential options for establishing a consistent long term approach.
- 2.7. Of the authorities that border Hampshire there are three key areas where cross border usage is of particular note, either outgoing or incoming, and these have been the focus.
- 2.8. The three local authorities are Dorset, West Berkshire, and Surrey, with Wiltshire having limited movement due to the location of sites in each area and the relative rurality of the areas between.
- 2.9. On the border between Hampshire and Dorset there is significant usage, over 50%, of the HWRC at Somerley by Dorset residents. In addition, a number of Hampshire residents use the site at Christchurch. Based on analysis of the visitor numbers there is a net inflow to Hampshire.
- 2.10. Initial discussions have been held with Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP), with an initial agreement for DWP to contribute towards the cost of running the Somerley HWRC in recognition of the percentage of Dorset Residents that use the site. However, the agreement was not finalised and no payments were made.
- 2.11. DWP has indicated that it is willing to contribute towards the cost of the Somerley HWRC due to the gap in its existing service provision, and the options for the funding mechanism are being considered.
- 2.12. In the north west of Hampshire there is an established service gap, with a number of Hampshire residents using the Newtown Road site in West Berkshire. This represents a significant outflow into West Berkshire.
- 2.13. West Berkshire introduced charging for non-household wastes in September 2017 and has been focused on ensuring that it is running smoothly prior to any further discussions about cross border usage.
- 2.14. Having introduced charging, there is now the facility on site to levy and charge allowing for the option to charge a standard access fee per visit to be considered. Once West Berkshire has embedded the non-household waste charging system, talks can continue about the longer term options.
- 2.15. Surrey County Council has recently approved proposals to reduce the cost of running its Community Recycling Centres (CRCs), which included considering banning non Surrey residents from the Camberley and Farnham sites, which are currently used by some Hampshire residents. The decision was made not to ban Hampshire residents to allow discussions on cross border usage to take place.
- 2.16. In addition there is usage of a number of Hampshire sites close to the border, Bordon and Farnborough, which are used by Surrey residents. Following a recent meeting it has been agreed that, as part of a site survey, postcode data

for both the Hampshire sites as well as the sites at Camberley and Farnham will be gathered to establish the true user percentage ahead of further discussion of the options. It is expected that the surveys will be undertaken in November with results analysed early in the New Year.

4. Transitional Permit Arrangements for West Berkshire Sites

- 4.1. There is a need for more time to establish a long term solution, and as a result there is also a need to consider short term service provision in North West Hampshire.
- 4.2. Continuation of the existing permit scheme that allows those Hampshire residents outside of the 10 mile radius of a Hampshire HWRC to access the Newtown Road HWRC in West Berkshire will maintain service provision while this work is completed.
- 4.3. The cost of providing the 5,000 transitional permits for the first twelve months was £160,000 (funded by early and over-achievement of savings on the waste budget), and it is anticipated that this cost will not change for an extended period of a maximum of 12 months and will be similarly funded.
- 4.4. It is proposed to reduce the administrative cost by not producing a new permit for the extended period.
- 4.5. A letter will be sent to the current permit holders using the existing database setting out the rules for permits and explaining that their existing permits will be extended.
- 4.6. The existing processes for dealing with lost, damaged, or stolen permits will be continued, and the County Council will continue to deal with all enquiries related to the permit scheme.

5. Equalities

- 5.1 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.

6 Future direction

- 6.1 As outlined above discussions have been held with all neighbouring local authorities with regards to cross border arrangements to establish the current position and what options exist in terms of a more consistent approach.
- 6.2 The County Council's stated preferred option would be for 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 would also ensure that if the site in questions was outside the boundary of their authority of residence, the fee would help offset some of the costs associated with service provision, waste handling and treatment.

- 6.3 With the continued pressure on all local authority budgets and the differing timetable of budget reductions within each one, it has not been possible to reach a consistent agreement, hence the need for the extension to the existing arrangements.
- 6.4 Discussions are continuing with the key neighbouring authorities and the County Council is seeking to conclude these as soon as possible. A further report will be brought to the Executive Member for Environment and Transport for consideration once they are complete.

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport gives approval for further engagement with all neighbouring authorities to deliver a permanent solution to the issue of cross border use of Household Waste Recycling facilities within 12 months.
- 7.2 That in order to enable time for the above discussions, the existing transitional permits for affected Hampshire residents are extended on the same terms as the current arrangement, by a period of up to a maximum of 12 months.
- 7.3 That authority is delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment to agree the details of the revisions to the transitional arrangements including any expenditure within existing Departmental resources, in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Strategic Plan**

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	No
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	No

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u> Cross Border Household Waste Recycling Centre Access	<u>Date</u> 12 Oct 2016
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u> N/A	<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 disproportionate impacts on people with protected characteristics as a result of this proposal. The text from the assessment is set out below:

This decision will continue the 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:

a) 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.

- b) 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