

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Executive Decision Record

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
<b>Date:</b>	17 June 2021
<b>Title:</b>	Household Waste Recycling Centre Operations
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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### 1. The decision:

- 1.1 That the Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment approves the establishment of a six-month trial at the Hedge End, New Alresford and Waterlooville Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) from July 2021 to evaluate the impact of facilitating pedestrian access on a controlled basis for one hour, up to three mornings a week, utilising the HWRC booking system.
- 1.2 That the Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment approves the reintroduction of access to cyclists on a controlled basis at all 24 HWRCs operated by Hampshire County Council, from July 2021, utilising the HWRC booking system.
- 1.3 That the Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment delegates authority to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment, in consultation with the Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment, to make amendments to or cease the trial at any point if circumstances change significantly or concerns about safety or financial impacts are identified through ongoing monitoring.
- 1.4 That the Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment approves the retention of the HWRC booking system until March 2022 to manage customer demand and facilitate continuation of a controlled and safe HWRC operation while visitor numbers are increased as social distancing restrictions are reduced.
- 1.5 That the Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment approves the commencement of the £5 charge for non-residents using Hampshire HWRCs from 1 September 2021, and the removal of glass banks from Hampshire HWRCs from 1 July 2021 in line with the previously taken decisions, which were deferred during covid-19 restrictions.

## **2. Reasons for the decision:**

- 2.1 HWRCs are an important public service and are the only frontline waste service provided by the County Council to the residents of Hampshire. At present uncontrolled pedestrian and cycle access to the sites is not allowed for safety reasons. The deployment of a booking system in June 2020, to manage the significant demand for access to sites following the Government decision to allow visits to such facilities during the continued pandemic restrictions, provides an opportunity to reintroduce and manage site access for pedestrians and cyclists in a controlled manner.
- 2.2. The booking system allows a new opportunity to test the impacts of excluding vehicles for short periods in order to safely enable pedestrian access. Following consideration of the specific local request raised in a deputation to Full Council on 24 September 2020 and an initial proposal presented to the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment on 2 December 2020, it is proposed to pilot an opportunity to facilitate controlled pedestrian access to three HWRCs at New Alresford, Hedge End and Waterlooville, to allow a further evaluation of the issues, challenges, utilisation and benefits. It is additionally proposed to reintroduce access to cycles at all sites utilising the booking system in the same manner as for vehicles.
- 2.3. Should safety issues arise at any point throughout the pilot, or should circumstances change significantly, it is vital that Hampshire County Council is able to respond as flexibly and rapidly as possible, and for this reason it is recommended that authority be delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment, in consultation with the Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment, to take appropriate action to prioritise safety and legal compliance at short notice if necessary.

## **3. Other options considered and rejected:**

- 3.1. Admitting pedestrian access on an uncontrolled basis has been rejected due to the inherent safety risks created by mixing pedestrians and vehicles. This is in line with the Waste Industry Safety and Health (WISH) guidance from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).
- 3.2. Removing the booking scheme at this stage of the staggered relaxation of restrictions imposed due to the pandemic, particularly during the summer when HWRCs are traditionally at their busiest, could lead to the return of disruptive queuing on the highway outside most sites, so this option has been rejected.

## **4. Conflicts of interest:**

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:
- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

## **5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.**

## **6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.**

**7. Statement from the Decision Maker:**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

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**17 June 2021**

**Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and  
Environment  
Councillor Rob Humby**