

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Date:	11 July 2017
Title:	Household Waste Recycling Centre Operations
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 authority to re-programme the start of the previously approved introduction of cross-border charging for non-Hampshire residents to access the Hampshire Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) network to provisionally begin in 2018/19, and to cancel the introduction of later opening times and Thursday closures at all HWRCs, due to be implemented from 1 October 2017.

1.2. This paper seeks to set out:

- the context in which this decision is being made;
- the operational considerations leading to it; and
- the financial implication of it.

2. Contextual information

2.1. On 22 July 2016 the Executive Member for Environment and Transport approved the decisions set out in the HWRC Service Efficiencies paper¹ to:

- introduce a system of charging an access fee for non-Hampshire residents to access Hampshire's HWRCs, (cross-border charging), originally approved for implementation from 1 September 2017; and
- reduce the daily opening hours by 2 hours per day and to close all sites on a Thursday from 1 October 2017².

¹ 22 July 2016 [Executive Member for Environment and Transport Decision Day report](#)

² 3 November 2016 [Executive Member Environment and Transport Decision Day report](#)

- 2.2. These decisions were recommended in the context of needing to achieve operational savings as part of the Council's Transformation to 2017 (Tt17) programme, but also in light of the overwhelming steer from residents through the public consultation³ held from 16 March to 25 May 2016 on the HWRC service to keep all 24 HWRCs open.
- 2.3. In regard to cross border charging, there are a number of Hampshire HWRCs on the County borders which are used by non-Hampshire residents (excluding Southampton and Portsmouth residents⁴). In 2015, the County Council undertook a site user survey, the results of which indicated that cross-border use of the network by non-Hampshire residents resulted in operational costs in excess of £500,000 for 2016/17.
- 2.4. A number of neighbouring Authorities (including Surrey County Council, West Berkshire Council and Borough of Poole) have already or are planning to introduce cross-border restrictions at some or all of their HWRC sites. The majority are considering prohibiting the use of their HWRCs by 'non-local' residents which would result in a number of Hampshire residents being unable to use these facilities in any capacity.
- 2.5. The County Council recognises that, in some locations, the network of Hampshire HWRCs is more convenient to access for non-Hampshire residents than facilities within their own administrative area. The County Council therefore, does not wish to unnecessarily inconvenience these cross-border users any more than it wishes to reduce the cost efficiency, and in some cases viability, of these sites by preventing cross-border access. On this basis, the County Council has approved the introduction of a small access charge for non-Hampshire residents, in accordance with powers set out in Paragraph 51(3) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, rather than prohibit them from using the amenities as provided free of charge to Hampshire residents in accordance with Paragraph 51(b) of the same Act.
- 2.6. The recommendation is to delay the implementation of the cross-border charge from 1 September 2017 to provisionally start in 2018/19, to allow for an increased period of time to enable further discussion with neighbouring authorities to reach, if possible, a consensus on the approach to non-local resident use of HWRCs.
- 2.7. In regard to the introduction of later opening hours and closure of the HWRC network on Thursdays, these savings proposals were approved for implementation to assist in achieving the required £1.55 million p.a. from HWRC service provision for Transformation to 2017 (Tt17).

³ <https://www3.hants.gov.uk/hwrc2016>

⁴ Each of the HWRCs in Southampton and Portsmouth are run under the same management contract as the Hampshire network; therefore residents in the two Unitary Authorities are considered 'Hampshire' residents for the purposes of any cross-border arrangements.

- 2.8. Having achieved additional savings from other parts of the Tt17 waste efficiency programme, the savings that were due to be met through the reduction in opening hours and closure of the network on a Thursday have been delivered without the need to implement either of these changes at this time. Please see paragraph 4.1 for further detail on where savings have been made.

3. Implementation considerations

- 3.1. As set out in the Decision Report for 22 July 2016 (see footnote 1 on page 1 of this report), the cross-border charging proposal is to identify and charge non-Hampshire residents for access to the Hampshire HWRC network. This will be delivered through the use of the automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) system and the payment infrastructure that is being used by both the non-household and trade waste schemes.
- 3.2. In terms of the ANPR system specifically, the proposal suggests linking the system to a database that Hampshire residents would be able to register their household and vehicle details on, in order to facilitate the use of the network without charges.
- 3.3. The proposed delay in implementation would allow for an increased period of time to enable further discussion with neighbouring authorities to reach, if possible, a consensus on the approach to non-local resident use of HWRCs.
- 3.4. The success of initiatives in other parts of the Tt17 waste efficiency programme now means that implementing the opening hours reductions and day closure is unnecessary at this time.
- 3.5. However, it is anticipated that further savings will be required to be made from the Waste budget as part of the Council's Transformation to 2019 (Tt19) programme which will necessitate a further review of the HWRC service to identify areas of potential new cost reductions or income generating measures.⁵

4. Finance

- 4.1. The budget savings that were to be made from the introduction of a delay in HWRC opening hours and Thursday closure have been met by the additional achievement of savings from other parts of the Tt17 waste efficiency programme. These savings have been made from the waste disposal budget via increased diversion from landfill initiatives such as the production of refuse derived fuel (RDF) and increased street sweepings processing.

⁵ Cabinet Report [3 February 2017, section 'The Position to 2019/20'](#)

5. Consultation and Equalities

- 5.1. The recommendations are considered to have a neutral impact on the groups with protected characteristics or those additional policy considerations listed.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1. That the proposed implementation of a cross-border charge for non-Hampshire residents to use the Hampshire Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) network be reprogrammed to start provisionally in 2018/19, with authority delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment, in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport, to finalise the start date.
- 6.2. That the approved implementation of a reduction in HWRC opening hours by 2 hours per day and closure of the network on a Thursday, due to start on 1 October 2017 as part of the Transformation to 2017 efficiency programme, be cancelled due to the additional savings made from other parts of the waste efficiency programme.

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

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	no
Maximising well-being:	no
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
HWRC Service Efficiencies Implementation	7534	22 July 2016
HWRC Opening Hours	7847	3 November 2016
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	
Environmental Protection Act	1990	
Local Authorities (Prohibition of Charging Residents to Deposit Household Waste) Order	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:

The decision has been assessed as having a neutral impact upon people with protected characteristics, as, apart from delaying a change already approved and assessed, there will be no change to existing arrangements.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. There is no anticipated impact (positive or negative) on crime and disorder as a result of this decision.

3. Climate Change:

a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

No overall impact (positive or negative) is expected on the County Council's carbon footprint / 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 recommendations in this report do not impact upon the ability of the County Council to adapt to climate change, and therefore do not need to consider the need to adapt.