

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
Date:	17 September 2019
Title:	Household Waste Recycling Centres Operations - Service Updates
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment to make two changes to policies used at the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) across Hampshire:
 - a. Increase the price of a bag and soil and rubble by 50p to reflect the increased cost of disposing of this material.
 - b. Increase the price point at which individual items require labelling from £5 to £10 to reflect the change in the value of goods that has occurred over time.

Recommendations

2. That the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment approves an increase in the price per bag or part bag of soil and rubble or individual item disposed of at Household Waste Recycling Centres by 50p to £3.00, from 1 November 2019, to reflect the increase in costs associated with disposing of this material.
3. That authority is delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment, in consultation with the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment to agree future changes to the charges for non-household wastes at the Household Waste Recycling Centres to ensure that the County Council can respond rapidly to market changes and avoid additional cost burdens associated with any delays.
4. That the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment approves a change to the price point at which an item available to be sold for reuse at a Household Waste Recycling Centre should be individually labelled, commencing 1 November 2019, from £5 to £10 to reflect the general increase in the value of goods.
5. That authority is delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment, in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment,

Transport and Environment, to make future amendments to the price point at which an item available to be sold for reuse should be individually labelled, to reflect changes in the value of goods.

Executive Summary

6. This paper seeks to:
 - provide the background and context to the proposed decision items;
 - consider the key impacts and issues with each of the proposed changes to Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) operation policy;
 - highlight the impact the project has made on the performance of the County Council; and
 - set out the steps required to implement the changes if approved.

Contextual information

Soil and Rubble charge increase:

7. On 4 November 2014, following a public consultation on proposed changes to the HWRC service to deliver financial savings, the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment approved the introduction of charges for non-household wastes (soil and rubble, plasterboard and asbestos) to be introduced at all of the HWRCs across Hampshire.
8. The charges were set so as to cover the costs of managing and disposing of these non household waste types and offset an element of the service management costs, and since they were introduced in 2016 there has been no change to them.
9. Material markets fluctuate and due to a change in the composition of the material that people are disposing of there has been a consequential shift in the market leading to an increased cost of processing it. The proportion of the material that is soil has reduced over the last two years and it is the soil that is the most valuable element in the market place.
10. It is believed that the charges have resulted in residents seeking to reuse or minimise the amount of waste produced and therefore minimise the charges for disposal and it is often easy to reuse or sell the soil element to other residents. This leaves a more rubble based material being disposed of which has a lower value.
11. Veolia is using a combination of outlets to achieve a best value solution whilst also ensuring that as much of the material as possible is recycled.

Individual Pricing for Resale:

12. Each of the 24 HWRCs operated by Veolia on behalf of Hampshire County Council has a sales area where items that are suitable for reuse can be displayed and sold to site users. This has a dual benefit of pushing material up the waste hierarchy as reuse is far better than recycling but also provides an income that offsets some of the management fees associated with the delivery of the service.

13. As part of the Sales Area Policy, that sets out the way in which the reuse areas at each of the HWRCs are managed, there is a requirement for all items that the site deems to have a value of over £5 to be individually price labelled.
14. This requirement in the policy has not changed for almost 20 years and in that time the value of goods generally has changed, as has the type of things that residents bring to the HWRCs that they no longer want.
15. In order to recognise the fact that there have been no changes to the policy and that goods have risen in value the County Council proposes to amend it to state that items over £10 in value need to be individually labelled. This will reduce the amount of time spent by site staff managing the resale areas with no impact to the public who will continue to be able to negotiate the prices as they do currently.

Finance

16. Due to the fact that market changes are unpredictable and do not follow set timeframes the increase in cost incurred does not align well with the timeframes within which the County Council is able to make a decision and implement such a change. As a result, there is a financial impact from the time that the market shift occurred in March 2019 and the proposed date of implementation set out in this paper of 1 November 2019.
17. Based on the current tonnage received it is estimated that this additional cost will be £10,000 per month for the 8 month period. This cost will be shared with Southampton and Portsmouth City Councils in line with Tripartite apportionments.
18. It is expected that this cost will be met within existing budget resources.

Equalities

19. Having carried out an equalities impact assessment, it has been identified that there is a low negative impact in relation to poverty due to the fact that the decision proposes an increase in the cost of disposing of a bag of soil and rubble of 50p per bag / part bag / individual item.
20. The proposed price rise is 50p which is reflective of the costs incurred due to changes in the market and service management costs and, in the context of a project being undertaken that would generate this material, it is considered a small element and therefore not significant.

Other Key Issues

21. In order to be able to respond quickly in future to material market changes and avoid any implementation delay costs it is proposed that authority is delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment, in consultation with the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment, to make changes to the charges to reflect increased costs in managing and disposing that material.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes/no
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes/no
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes/no
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes/no
OR	
This proposal does not link to the Strategic Plan but, nevertheless, requires a decision because:	
The policies in place require a change to ensure the effective and efficient running of the Household Waste Recycling Centre service.	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Household Waste Recycling Centres Contract Report - 6031	4 November 2014
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
None	

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	

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

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 by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- 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.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

There is a low negative impact in relation to poverty due to the fact that the decision proposes an increase in the cost of disposing of a bag of soil and rubble of 50p per bag / part bag / individual item.

The proposed price rise is 50p which is reflective of the costs incurred due to changes in the market and service management costs and, in the context of a project being undertaken that would generate this material, it is considered a small element and therefore not significant.