

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
<b>Date:</b>	14 January 2020
<b>Title:</b>	Household Waste Recycling Centres Cross Border Charging Update
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the HWRC cross border work, outline the rationale for the delay to the implementation of the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) cross border system and, set out the proposed timetable for roll out.

### Recommendations

2. That the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment notes the update on the cross border work and approves a timetable for roll out of the Household Waste Recycling Centres cross border system to enable a registration period up to 31 March 2020 with the system starting on 1 April 2020.
3. That the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment approves entering into a transitional arrangement with Dorset Council that allows Dorset residents access to the Somerley HWRC with Dorset Council paying for the proportion of users to the site as detailed within this report.
4. That the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment delegates the completion of a legal agreement with Dorset Council in relation to the previous recommendation for an initial period of two years, as well as any extensions to the agreement, to the Director for Economy, Transport and Environment in consultation with the head of Legal Services and the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment.

### Executive Summary

5. This paper seeks to
  - Update on the current status of the HWRC cross border work
  - Update on the position with both Dorset Council and West Berkshire Council.
  - Set out the timetable for the roll out of the system.

## **Contextual information**

6. Approval to develop an HWRC cross border system was given in late 2016 and the County Council sought to reach a consensus on a system that would operate with all of its neighbouring authorities.
7. This has proved impossible with a number of Authorities – Wiltshire, West Sussex and BCP Council – having all introduced or intending to introduce a ban on Hampshire residents from using HWRCs within their administrative area.
8. The County Council has continued negotiations with both West Berkshire Council and Dorset Council to introduce transitional arrangements to enable systems to be established to manage cross border usage in a way that recognises the costs borne by the Council dealing with the waste.
9. A paper providing an update on the HWRC Cross Border project was brought to the Executive Member for Environment and Transport in October 2018 which set out the details for the HWRC residents' permit system.
10. This system will see Hampshire residents signing up, via the County Council's website for an E-Permit that will be linked to the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system operated at all HWRCs to ensure them free access. Non-residents will still be able to access the sites but there will be a £5 per visit charge to recognise the costs incurred in dealing with waste from outside the County.
11. The above paper identified the start date for charging of Non-Hampshire residents as being 1 January 2020.

## **Dorset Council Update**

12. Discussions have been ongoing with Dorset since the decision in October 2018 because just over 55% of the users of Somerley HWRC are residents of Dorset, because it has limited HWRC service provision within East Dorset and Somerley is close to the border.
13. A draft proposal has been agreed between the two authorities that sees a straightforward split of the full costs of operating the site and managing the waste deposited there based on the user percentages. This would enable the costs associated with Dorset residents to be covered and ensure continued access to the site for them.
14. On 5 November 2019 Dorset Council Cabinet approved budget provision to fund the above proposal and to enter into an agreement for an initial two year period.
15. The County Council has drafted a legal agreement based on the above principles.

## **West Berkshire Update**

16. The County Council is working with West Berkshire Council to establish the same system that is being introduced in Hampshire to ensure that Hampshire residents who live closer to the Newtown Road site can continue to access the facility while contributing to the costs West Berkshire incur as a result. Hampshire residents will be charged £5 to use the Newtown Road site in West Berkshire.

17. It is proposed that the County Council works towards a cessation of the transitional payments that it currently pays by the end of the first quarter of 2020/21, with a system introduced to mirror that being introduced in Hampshire.

### **HWRC Cross Border Project Update**

18. Due to use of e-permits and the ANPR system to minimise any administrative burdens with the new cross border system, this resulted in some delays whilst the system was fully tested to ensure it was robust ahead of the roll out. Some further system performance issues were experienced following the initial registration period launch, mainly due to the very high volume of use.
19. In order to ensure that there is sufficient time for Hampshire residents to register on the system it is proposed to start the implementation of the charge for Non-Hampshire residents from 1 April 2020.
20. Additional resources will be deployed on key sites where it is anticipated there will be greatest impact to ensure the system operates as smoothly as possible and communications will be undertaken at a County level, through the usual media channels, as well as done on site with information available for site users.

### **E-Permit Registration**

21. The online registration system has been developed and gone through user acceptance testing and went live on 17 December 2019 to allow as much time as possible for residents to sign up for their e-permit ahead of the system start on 1 April 2020.
22. Communications have been undertaken through as many channels as possible including press release, social media as well as directly with site users at the sites to raise awareness for residents to register their vehicles on the system.
23. Communication will continue up to and beyond 1 April to generate as much awareness of the new system as possible. Residents who haven't registered by the end of March will be able to use Hampshire sites, but repeat non-registered resident users will eventually be charged £5, unless they register at the time using their mobile phone. Non residents will be charged from this time onwards.
24. From 1 April to 31 May 2020 there will be a period of flexible enforcement in recognition of the fact that a long period of time may need to be provided to allow residents to sign up to the system. Promotion on site will continue during this period and site staff will engage with those flagged by the system as not registered, to give reminders to sign up ahead of full enforcement from 1 June 2020.

### **Consultation and Equalities**

25. Having completed an equalities impact assessment it has been determined that there is no impact on any of the groups with protected characteristics. This decision seeks to delay implementation of the system for a three month period and there is therefore no impact on any groups as a result of it.

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	no
<b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>	no
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	no
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	no
<b>OR</b>	
<b>This proposal does not link to the Strategic Plan but, nevertheless, requires a decision because:</b> It supports the delivery of service efficiencies in order to meet the County Councils transformation targets.	

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Cross Border Household Waste Recycling Centre Access – 7801	12 October 2016
Progress report on Household Waste Recycling Centre Cross Border Charging	14 November 2017
Household Waste Recycling Centres Cross Border Charging and Permit System Update	29 October 2018
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>	
<u>Title</u>	<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.)**

<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:**

The decision being sought is to have a three month delay to the implementation of the system and as such the impact on all groups is neutral.