

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
Date:	29 th July 2020
Title:	Household Waste Recycling Centre Service, Cross Border Transitional Access Agreement with West Berkshire Council
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport, and Environment

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to formalise the agreement between Hampshire County Council and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Councils (BDBC) to jointly fund the continuation, for up to 12 months, of the transitional arrangement between Hampshire County Council and West Berkshire Council regarding access for permit holding Hampshire residents to the Newbury Household Waste Recycling Centre. This paper also seeks approval to undertake a review of the site near Kingsclere, locally identified as a potential HWRC site to serve the service gap in the North West of Hampshire.

Recommendations

2. That the Executive Member for Policy and Resources approves the extension of the transitional arrangements with West Berkshire until 31 July 2021, to enable permit holding residents in the North West of Hampshire to continue to use the Newton Road Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) in Newbury, with costs to be shared equally with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.
3. That the Executive Member for Policy and Resources approves spend of up to £85,000 to meet Hampshire's share of the extension of the transitional arrangements, to be met from corporate contingencies.
4. That the Executive Member for Policy and Resources approves a review of the feasibility of a potential site for an HWRC at Kingsclere, including consideration of the land interests and other specific site issues, as well as the wider operational context and considerations, to inform a potential business case for a new HWRC facility serving North West Hampshire.
5. That authority is delegated to the Director of Economy Transport and Environment in consultation with the Head of Legal Services to finalise and

enter into the necessary agreements with both Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and West Berkshire Council.

Executive Summary

6. This paper seeks to set out the background to this decision and the agreement that it would authorise between Hampshire County Council and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to co-fund the continuation, for up to 12 months, of the transitional arrangement between Hampshire and West Berkshire Councils regarding access by Hampshire residents to the Newbury HWRC. The paper also sets out the need for the full and proper evaluation of a site near Kingsclere, locally identified as a potential HWRC site, and the completion of feasibility testing including land, planning, and site specific issues as well as the wider operational context and considerations.

Contextual information

7. In November 2015 the Executive Member for Economy Transport and Environment approved the cessation of the on-going voluntary payment that Hampshire County Council made to West Berkshire Council (WBC) to enable its residents to access HWRCs in West Berkshire.
8. In October 2016, a one-year transitional agreement was reached to extend this arrangement as the Cross Border Charging system that Hampshire County Council was planning to introduce had been delayed. This arrangement has subsequently been extended, by agreement, and was due to cease on 31st July 2020, confirmed by a Decision taken on 2nd July 2020 to implement the Hampshire County Council cross border charge from 1st August 2020.
9. We are currently in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, which initially saw all the HWRCs in Hampshire close in line with the Government's "Stay at Home" message. The HWRCs re-opened on 11th May with restrictions in place to maintain a social distance of 2m, in line with Government Guidance, to ensure the safety of both site staff and users.
10. These measures reduced capacity at the HWRCs to about 25% of pre-covid levels while the demand for this service remained high, so that long and disruptive traffic queues with waiting times of over 2 hours became a common occurrence.
11. In order to alleviate the problems that these queues were presenting to other road users and local businesses that were also attempting to re-open, a Booking System was introduced on 15th June. Whilst through the careful management of this system it has been possible to increase the capacity available at the HWRCs (from c. 25% to c. 40%), the available capacity is still outstripped by demand for the service by residents, particularly in the north west of the County.
12. Despite having the largest HWRC network of any Council in England, the service gap in the North West of Hampshire (i.e. where residents need to drive 10 miles or more to reach their nearest HWRC) is recognised but not unique. This has resulted in regular reviews of any potential sites to expand the capacity in the Basingstoke and North West Hampshire area. The most

recent review resulted in only 3 sites being identified, each with significant issues, and all within the town itself.

13. It had been anticipated that West Berkshire Council would be in a position to implement a cross border charging system of their own at the time that Hampshire County Council terminated the transitional arrangement.
14. Unfortunately, due to the need to focus on other austerity related savings programmes, they have not been able to progress this as swiftly as hoped.

HWRC Capacity

15. Data from the booking system has been monitored on a continual basis, analysing the percentage utilisation of the available booking slots. As table 1 shows, both Andover and Basingstoke, which are the closest alternatives for the residents of North East Hampshire, are amongst those sites that are operating at full capacity given the current operating restrictions. This patterns continues beyond the date shown, highlighting the immediate pressure on capacity, particularly in this area, as a result of the restrictions from social distancing.

Table 1 – Percentage utilisation of Available Booking Slots

	% Full								
	10 th July	11 th July	12 th July	13 th July	14 th July	15 th July	16 th July	17 th July	18 th July
	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Andover	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Basingstoke	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

16. The HWRCs are operating at a significantly reduced capacity. Both Andover and Basingstoke HWRCs are shown to be operating at the currently available capacity. Resident correspondence also indicates significant unfulfilled demand, particularly at Basingstoke HWRC.
17. It is, therefore, considered that adding the additional demand from the 5000 permit holding residents in the North West of the County is not desirable at this time. Therefore, a limited extension to the previous transitional arrangement with West Berkshire is deemed to be prudent, particularly as it will also facilitate the proper evaluation of a locally identified potential site for a new HWRC and the business case for providing such a facility.
18. This extension is proposed for 12 months in anticipation that the specific Covid-19 restrictions will have been lifted by then, allowing the sites to return to normal capacity.

Finance

19. The 2nd July decision by the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment to terminate the transitional arrangements with WBC, including the annual £170,000 payment, coincides with the implementation of the new

Cross Border charging system. This will see residents register for an e-permit linked to the existing ANPR system to maintain free access. Any unregistered site users will be required to make a £5 contribution to the costs of disposing of the material they present.

20. Agreement has been reached between Hampshire County Council and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) to share on a 50:50 basis the costs associated with this time limited (1 year) extension of the pre-existing transitional arrangement. The Hampshire County Council contribution will, as a one off sum, be appropriately funded from contingencies.
21. West Berkshire have indicated their willingness to continue with the transitional arrangement on the same terms as before.
22. Hampshire County Council have further undertaken to conduct an evaluation of a site near Kingsclere that has been locally identified and proposed as a potential HWRC. This work will be included as part of a wider review of the HWRC service and associated infrastructure that is being programmed in light of proposed large scale residential development across Hampshire.

Consultation and Equalities

23. West Berkshire Council has been consulted and has indicated willingness to continue with transitional arrangements on the same terms as before. The County Council has also been working closely with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and will be jointly funding the continued arrangement with that authority.
24. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out, and no impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics, as this decision will extend existing arrangements. Any outcome of the reviews entailed will be subject to further assessment if and when they result in further recommendations

Conclusions

25. Given the reduced capacity that the HWRC network is currently operating under it has been deemed appropriate, following agreement between Hampshire County Council and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to share the costs, to extend the transitional arrangements with West Berkshire Council by a year, enabling use of the Newbury HWRC by permitted Hampshire residents.
26. The County Council also undertakes to evaluate the site identified locally for a potential HWRC to address the service gap in the North West of Hampshire.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND 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:	Yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u> Household Waste Recycling Centres Cross Border Update https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s52231/Report.pdf	<u>Date</u> 2.7.2020
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u> None	<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:

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out, and no impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics, as this decision will extend existing arrangements. Any outcome of the reviews entailed will be subject to further assessment if and when they result in further recommendations