

Wiltshire Council

Environment Select Committee

25th October 2016

**Executive Response to the Final Report of the
Waste Service Changes Task Group**

Purpose of the report

1. To present the response of the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Development Management, Strategic Housing, Operational Property and Waste to the Final Report of the Waste Service Changes Task Group.

Background

2. On 13th September the Environment Select Committee endorsed the Final Report of the Task Group.
3. The Committee resolved to refer the following Task Group's recommendations to the relevant Cabinet member for response at the Committee's next meeting on 25th October.

Executive response to the Task Group's recommendations

Recommendation No.1	That the council ensures that a minimum of 11 HRC's are retained and operational.		
Cabinet member	Cllr Toby Sturgis	Lead Officer	Tracy Carter
Executive response			
The council will retain 11 household recycling centres, subject to the availability of sufficient budget.			

Recommendation No.2	To acknowledge that the advantages of reduced opening hours at HRCs include providing time for HRC staff to remove and replace full waste containers.		
Cabinet member	Cllr Toby Sturgis	Lead Officer	Tracy Carter
Executive response			
Acknowledged.			

Recommendation No.3	For the council to monitor the usage of HRC sites in the future in order to determine whether the new opening times are fit for purpose and capable of coping with the demand.		
Cabinet member	Cllr Toby Sturgis	Lead Officer	Tracy Carter
Executive response			
Usage of the sites is monitored. The reduction in hours took account of demand and the sites remain open at their busiest times. The trial to extend the opening time from 10:00 to 09:00 will end on 1 November when the opening hours will revert to 10:00 to 16:00 for the winter.			

Recommendation No.4	To explore the possibility of funding a redevelopment of the Churchfields depot through the CIL by placing it on the Regulation 123 list; and for consideration to be given to using CIL to fund the development of any new HRCs.		
Cabinet member	Cllr Toby Sturgis	Lead Officer	Tracy Carter
Executive response			
Discussions have taken place with Strategic Planning about adding the provision of household recycling centres to the Regulation 123 list. Any decisions on investment in infrastructure would be assessed on a priority basis.			

Recommendation No.5	For any future HRC site development or redevelopment to take into account proximity to businesses in order to avoid incurring negative impacts from the HRC site.		
Cabinet member	Cllr Toby Sturgis	Lead Officer	Tracy Carter
Executive response			
Any planning application for development of a household recycling centre would include consideration of the impact on the surrounding environment.			

Recommendation No.6	To ensure that all signage at HRCs is appropriately chosen to ensure that customers are well guided through the site, and that the number and type of signs at entrances and exits avoids creating “sign blindness”.		
Cabinet member	Cllr Toby Sturgis	Lead Officer	Tracy Carter
Executive response			
The council works with Hills to ensure that all signs are clear to assist residents in recycling as much of their waste as possible. The new contracts should provide an opportunity to review all signs at HRCs.			

Recommendation No.7	To install “percentage recycled” signs at all HRC’s, as demonstrated at Warminster HRC, and to expand the statistics to illustrate the savings achieved as a result of recycling.		
Cabinet member	Cllr Toby Sturgis	Lead Officer	Tracy Carter
Executive response			
Signs stating the percentage of waste recycled at each site are already in place. It may be possible to calculate the costs avoided by diverting waste from landfill. The only way to make savings is to reduce the tonnes of waste delivered and collected as there are costs associated with all transport and treatment of waste.			

Recommendation No.8	To provide relevant HRC workers with high visibility jackets which clearly state that they are able to assist customers with queries.		
Cabinet member	Cllr Toby Sturgis	Lead Officer	Tracy Carter
Executive response			
All site staff wear high visibility jackets and endeavour to assist residents with their queries. We will discuss branding of the jackets with Hills but there may be costs associated with this.			

Recommendation No.9	To support the implementation of the Van Permit Scheme in Wiltshire scheduled for 4th September to reduce the number of small businesses illegally disposing of commercial waste at Wiltshire HRCs.		
Cabinet member	Cllr Toby Sturgis	Lead Officer	Tracy Carter
Executive response			
I supported this and am pleased to report that early indications suggest the permit scheme has been successful in this regard.			

Recommendation No.10	To improve current and further links with companies and charities, such as the Repair Academy link with HRCs to improve the recycling of bulky goods which can be repaired or reused.		
Cabinet member	Cllr Toby Sturgis	Lead Officer	Tracy Carter
Executive response			
This work is ongoing with Hills and is also a feature of the new contracts.			

Recommendation No.11	To promote “bring bank sites” and awareness of the items which they are able to accept to help reduce the demand on HRCs and prevent potential fly-tipping.		
Cabinet member	Cllr Toby Sturgis	Lead Officer	Tracy Carter
Executive response			
The council has removed the vast majority of its bring sites as unfortunately they attracted fly tipping and commercial waste abuse. The materials collected are all now collected at the kerbside.			

Recommendation No.12	To create a communication strategy that raises public awareness of what can and cannot be disposed of and the processes required, as well as ensuring they are aware of the cost and impact of abusing the system.		
Cabinet member	Cllr Toby Sturgis	Lead Officer	Tracy Carter
Executive response			
The council’s website contains information of what can and cannot be disposed of at the kerbside and at the household recycling centres. Budget would have to be allocated to any new communications strategy. It is not possible to quantify the cost of abusing the system as it is not possible to determine the extent of any abuse.			

Recommendation No.13	To continue promotion of the garden waste collection service, with a focus on promotion to those who were previously signed up but have not renewed online using their personal renewal number.		
Cabinet member	Cllr Toby Sturgis	Lead Officer	Tracy Carter
Executive response			
The vast majority of residents who previously signed up for the chargeable garden waste collection service have already renewed.			

Recommendation No.14	To utilise Area Boards as a form of communication for key information regarding HRC's, further waste changes, and the promotion of garden waste collection, recycling, and composting.		
Cabinet member	Cllr Toby Sturgis	Lead Officer	Tracy Carter
Executive response			
The service has a good relationship with community area boards and plans to continue to highlight service changes and provide information via their communication channels.			

Recommendation No.15	To support Wiltshire Council's relations with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust in order to promote the benefits and awareness of recycling and composting.		
Cabinet member	Cllr Toby Sturgis	Lead Officer	Tracy Carter
Executive response			
The council will continue to work with the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to promote the benefits of reducing, re-using, recycling and composting waste, subject to availability of sufficient budget.			

Recommendation No.16	To explore the purchase of further covert camera recording units for the enforcement of fly-tipping.		
Cabinet member	Cllr Toby Sturgis	Lead Officer	Tracy Carter
Executive response			
This is being considered by the Enforcement Team. Southern Wiltshire Community Area Board agreed at its meeting on 29 September 2016 to purchase a camera to be deployed within its area at known locations of incidents of fly tipping.			

Recommendation No.17	To promote the installation of signs as a fly-tipping deterrent in relevant areas and hotspots.		
Cabinet member	Cllr Toby Sturgis	Lead Officer	Tracy Carter
Executive response			
This is being considered by the Enforcement team.			

Recommendation No.18	For the task group to continue to monitor the implementation of the mobilisation plan for the HRC contract with Hills Waste Management.		
Cabinet member	Cllr Toby Sturgis	Lead Officer	Tracy Carter
Executive response			
This engagement would be welcomed and I suggest that a member of the Task Group be identified to fulfil this role in respect of the contract for collection of waste and recycling as well.			

Proposal

- To note the executive response to the Final Report of the **Waste Service Changes Task Group**.

Cllr Toby Sturgis, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Development Management, Strategic Housing, Operational Property and Waste

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