

COUNCILLORS BRIEFING NOTE

No. 301

Service Area: Waste Management **Further Enquiries to:** Martin Litherland

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IMPLEMENTATION OF RESIDENTS' VAN AND LARGE TRAILER PERMITS AT HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES IN WILTSHIRE

1. Background

The Council has a statutory duty to provide sites for its residents to dispose of their household waste free of charge. It has however become increasingly common for local authorities to apply restrictions at HRCs in order to reduce the amount of waste which councils do not have a statutory duty to accept.

The Council's HRC network was the subject of service changes in 2015/16, with all sites reducing opening hours to 10:00 -16:00, five days per week. Whilst the changes reflected established patterns of usage, it is the case that the sites have become increasingly busy again since Easter this year with many sites experiencing long queues at their busiest periods. Site staff, members and council officers have observed that vans and trailers often take longer to unload so may add to the queues and delays experienced by some residents at peak times.

Wiltshire Council officers have undertaken research into the effectiveness of HRC restrictions used by other authorities and have concluded that they can help to preserve reasonable access for Wiltshire residents as well as provide additional service savings by reducing the overall amount of waste managed at the sites.

Therefore, a Cabinet member decision has been made to introduce permits for residents with vans and large trailers to enable them to continue to access the sites but up to twelve times per year only and reduce queueing times during peak periods.

2. Resident van and trailer permits for household recycling centres

2.1 The changes

From 5 September 2016, all Wiltshire residents who wish to access the HRCs in a van or with a large or medium-sized trailer will be required to present a permit at each visit. This free permit entitles each household to a maximum of 12 visits a year.

Cars, 4x4s and trailers smaller than 1.8 metres long will not need a permit to visit the sites. These vehicles make up the vast majority of those used by visitors to the sites.

The following vehicles will require a permit:

- Vans;
- Vehicles with permanently removed rear seats and/or blanked out rear/side windows;
- Flatbed or pick-up type vehicles;
- Trailers between 1.8 and 3 metres long.

The following vehicles are not permitted at any recycling centres:

- Any vehicle over 3.5 tonnes gross/laden weight;
- Trailers over 3.0 metres in length;
- Horse boxes;
- Vans or commercial type vehicles, which require a permit, towing any size of trailer.

Residents can apply for a free permit at any time after 2pm on 8 August 2016 and from 5 September will need to present this to a member of site staff who will stamp it to record the visit.

The permits do not have a time limit, residents can continue to use the permit until they have made 12 visits to a HRC. This could be over several years, but only one permit will be issued per year, meaning that residents will not be able to make more than 12 visits per year with a van or trailer. This recognises that visitors using vans or large trailers tend to bring in more waste than those visiting in cars.

2.2 Impact of the changes

As this is a new scheme it is difficult to estimate how many permits are likely to be issued. Data from other local authorities suggests that around 5,300 permits per year could be issued in Wiltshire. Very similar schemes have been successfully implemented by neighbouring local authorities, and they have all seen a reduction in waste taken to the sites. Along with a reduction in the volumes of waste, we also expect to see a reduction in overall visitor numbers, particularly visitors with larger vehicles, which will help reduce congestion at the sites.

2.3 Communications

The key aim for this campaign is to ensure that all residents using a van, pick up or large trailer (between 1.8 – 3 metres) to visit household recycling centres are aware that they will need a permit and to apply for one online by 5 September 2016. Full details of the vehicles which require a permit will be provided to residents.

Communications with residents will begin on 8 August 2016. On this date in the afternoon our website will be updated with full details and residents will be able to apply for a permit online, or over the telephone.

From this date leaflets and posters will be displayed at HRCs, council offices, libraries, leisure centres, van hire centres, DIY stores and builders merchants. Large information banners will be erected at the HRCs and the council will be issuing proactive press releases, using social media, providing information for parish newsletters and housing association newsletters, placing an article in the Your Wiltshire magazine and engaging with area boards.

3. Summary of changes

Date of cabinet member decision	15 July 2016
Date from which permit applications can be made	8 August 2016 after 2pm
Date to be implemented	5 September 2016
Summary	Wiltshire residents who wish to use vans or large trailers to take waste to the HRCs will need to apply for a free permit, allowing them up to 12 visits per year.

4. More information

If you require any further or more detailed information about the process, or if you have any questions, please contact the officers below –

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