

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

25 September 2018

Question

Colin Gale - Pewsey Community Area Partnership (PCAP), Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) and Pewsey Parish Council (PPC) Questions on the status of the consultation on the proposed closure of Everleigh HRC

To Councillor Bridget Wayman – Cabinet member for Highways, Transport and Waste

The consultation on the proposed closure of Everleigh Household Recycling Centre closed on the 3rd September 2018. PCAP, CPRE and Pewsey Parish Council request Wiltshire Council provide answers to the following:

Question 1

Please advise the total number of questionnaire responses received by the council on the consultation and provide the numbers for online completed questionnaires and manual hardcopy questionnaires?

Response

The total number of consultation questionnaires received was 1,318. Of these 57 were submitted as paper copies rather than via the online portal. An additional 12 emailed responses were received that were not completed on the questionnaire format.

Question 2

When will the Everleigh Consultation Report be available to the public?

Response

Subject to sign off, the report will be published on the council's website on 1 October with the agenda for the Cabinet meeting to be held on 9 October.

Question 3

What scrutiny process will the Consultation Report be submitted through i.e. ESC and what date?

Response

There has been no specific engagement with Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or Environment Select Committee on the report to Cabinet. However, Environment Select Committee and Cabinet have received representations from Pewsey Community Area Partnership and the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England on this subject.

Question 4

When will the Consultation Report and recommendations be submitted to Cabinet for a decision?

Response

The report will be submitted to the 9 October meeting of Cabinet.

Question 5

What part will the local Area Boards take in the process as noted in the Wiltshire Council General Consultation Strategy report?

Response

Consultation with Area Boards on this issue commenced in December 2015 when the then Cabinet Member and Portfolio Holder attended a joint Tidworth and Pewsey Area Board meeting. Those attending this meeting asked that a decision on closure of Everleigh HRC be postponed. The minutes record that this was agreed and that the site should remain open. It should be noted that this decision was made prior to the site surveys that identified drainage and other issues that would require additional investment at the site.

The Director of Waste and Environment attended Pewsey Area Board on 31 October 2016. The Director and the then Portfolio Holder also attended a further meeting of Pewsey Area Board on 5 March 2018. Following this meeting the Cabinet Member and Director held a meeting with representatives of PCAP and CPRE to provide responses to more detailed questions. Following this a meeting was held with councillors representing the Pewsey, Tidworth and Amesbury Community Areas.

The minutes of meetings and written representations received record that the attendees at area board meetings are mainly opposed to the closure of the site.

Question 6

- a. How does WC intend to handle the character limitation issue in the consultation questionnaire that limited the public's ability to provide a complete response.

Response

The character limits were increased on 10 July to 500 (approximately two sides of A4) for responses to questions 10a, 11a and 12a and 2,000 for question 13. Some respondents elected to submit either separate responses, or appended sheets to posted hard copies of the questionnaire, all of which

were included in the final analysis and used to help inform the report to the council's Cabinet.

Of the non-questionnaire responses six are of a length that means all wouldn't be accommodated in restricted character limits. Of the paper versions of the questionnaire there are two that would breach those limits. Of the responses received via the online portal, eight reached the limit on question 10a and seven reached the limit on question 11a.

- b. Note! This limitation was not declared in the questionnaire return and WC Waste Management staff when told said the limitation would be removed but this did not appear to happen.

Response

The limits were extended as described above but not removed completely.

Question 7

The Cabinet Agenda Pack for 25th September, Page 72, paragraph 35, refers to waste tonnages. Please can WC clarify if this is total waste tonnages or is limited to household non-recyclable waste?

Response

These are total waste tonnages as there are costs associated with collecting and managing all materials. In recent years the total tonnes of waste collected at the kerbside and at household recycling centres has reduced. The tonnes of non-recycled waste collected at the kerbside have reduced and there has been an increase in the tonnes of dry recyclable materials collected at the kerbside.

Question 8

The Cabinet Agenda Pack for 25th September, Page's 72 & 91: The theme from the finance statements appears to suggest that it is Wiltshire Councils strategy to make financial savings via the reduction in waste tonnage partially by influencing consumer behaviour but by also by making recycling more difficult for the public. Please can WC explain this strategy more fully and specifically identify how it will save money ie not just a top level statement that the reduction in the total level of waste tonnage to process will provide a financial saving.

The council is projecting that the tonnage of waste and recycling collected will continue to fall. It is not the council's intention to make recycling more difficult. From 30 July this year residents have been able to separate plastic pots, tubs and trays and food and drink cartons and put them in the blue lidded bin for collection for recycling. We are projecting a further reduction in non-recyclable waste as a consequence of introducing this service.

The council has to pay to treat every tonne of waste but the gate fee for treatment of recyclable material is less than that for treatment of non-recycled waste. Depending on the type of recyclable material there may be an income which helps to offset some of the cost of collection and treatment.

Question 9

The Cabinet Agenda Pack for 25th September, Page 95, 'Capital Programme Budget Movements and Spend to 31 July 2018' has a line item under 'Community' for 'Waste Services' for £0.300 million plus £0.182 million transferred from the last financial year and with £0.087 million spend to date. Please can WC advise the detail what this funding has been allocated for and if the identification in this statement provides the authority by cabinet to authorise the spend?

Response

This funding is for the purchase of bins and boxes for waste and recycling for new properties and to replace any which are lost or broken. Officers are authorised to spend this budget as allocated on bins and boxes under the council's scheme of delegation and in accordance with regulations.