

# Changes to Household Waste Recycling Centre and Recycling Bring Sites

**Cabinet**

**Date 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

---

Author:	Cabinet Member for StreetSmart and Head of StreetSmart
Wards:	All
Locality Affected:	All
Parishes Affected:	All

---

## **1. Purpose and Reasons**

- 1.1 To agree changes to acceptance criteria and charges for some types of household waste at the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC).
- 1.2 To agree controls on commercial waste and household waste brought to the centre in vans and trailers.
- 1.3 To agree withdrawal of recycling bring sites across the Borough.
- 1.4 If approved, these recommendations support the Vision's Priority Three: to ensure clean and safe streets and improve our public spaces and local culture.

## **2. Recommendations**

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the report presented to the StreetSmart, Highways and Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 28th September 2016, which outlined its proposals for additional controls at the HWRC (shown in Appendix One).
- 2.2 Approve the restrictions and controls on commercial waste and household waste brought to the HWRC as set out in this report.
- 2.3 Approve withdrawal of recycling bring sites operated on the Council's behalf, subject to consultation with Parish Councils to establish sites which will transfer under their control. If any Parish Councils decide to take on the costs of operation of the bring sites then the service will continue at these locations.
- 2.4 Authorise the Head of Streetsmart, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Streetsmart, to implement, monitor and amend controls at the HWRC to ensure their ongoing effectiveness.

## **3. Detail**

Controls on waste acceptance at the HWRC

- 3.1 Changes are proposed to waste acceptance policy and processes at the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) to ensure that appropriate measures are in place to control the disposal of commercial waste, waste

---

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Leon Barrett, Direct Dial Telephone Number 07818 510602, lbarrett@swindon.gov.uk.

# Changes to Household Waste Recycling Centre and Recycling Bring Sites

Cabinet

Date 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016

---

delivered in vans, and to update restrictions on some types of household waste. These changes reflect best practice.

- 3.2 Public Power Solutions (PPS) Ltd operate the civic amenity site on the Council's behalf, providing a site for householders to deposit waste and recycling from their property that is not collected through the kerbside Waste and Recycling collection services. There are currently restrictions in place to prevent commercial waste from being deposited free of charge, ensuring that the costs of disposing of commercial waste are not borne by council tax payers. Many councils also apply other restrictions to ensure that the facilities operate cost effectively and safely and to ensure that legitimate users are able to access the sites without delays. It is proposed to apply the following controls on which waste will be accepted:
- 3.3 Any waste that is defined as Commercial waste within the Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012 (or any subsequent updated regulations) will not be accepted by PPS Ltd in discharging the Council's duties under section 51 of part 2 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Any commercial waste brought to site can be accepted by PPS and the charges for its handling, treatment and disposal will be set by PPS, who are under no obligation to accept waste. In practical terms this means that any commercial waste brought to the site will be handled by PPS outside the scope of its obligations to provide a facility for household waste, charges will be applied and criteria for its acceptance will be set by PPS.
- 3.4 Household waste delivered to the site in vans or trailers will be subject to the following controls to ensure that no commercial waste is 'passed off' as household waste:
  - 3.4.1 Site users must provide evidence that they are a resident of the area, for example driving licence or utility bill;
  - 3.4.2 If the van is being used under a short term hire agreement then a copy of the agreement must also be shown to establish that it is in the name of a Swindon resident;
  - 3.4.3 Waste will be inspected by site staff to ensure it is legitimate household waste;
  - 3.4.4 Records will be stored of the name, address, vehicle details and waste type to monitor patterns of usage;
  - 3.4.5 Vans and trailers will be limited to 12 visits per year. Additional visits can be arranged by a written request to PPS;

# Changes to Household Waste Recycling Centre and Recycling Bring Sites

Cabinet

Date 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016

---

- 3.5 In most cases vans and trailers will be directed to use a dedicated area adjacent to the main household tipping area. This is to improve traffic flows and improve safety by providing a larger area for vehicles to manoeuvre.
- 3.6 Vans and trailers will be accommodated in a separate area of the site and this will require additional staff to maintain safety. Due to the costs associated with operation these vehicles will be allowed on site at the following times:
- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Monday to Friday    | 08:00 to 16:30 |
| Saturday and Sunday | 10:00 to 14:00 |
- 3.7 Household waste from properties outside of Swindon Borough will not be accepted. Section 51 of part 2 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 only requires the Council to provide the facility for use of residents of the area. PPS will be directed to undertake periodic monitoring of where site users are coming from. This monitoring will be reported to the Head of StreetSmart who will evaluate if stricter controls would avoid costs of operating the site and who is delegated to make decisions to apply appropriate controls in consultation with the Cabinet Member for StreetSmart. Appropriate signage will be displayed at the entrance and adjacent to the queuing lanes at the HWRC to advise and guide customers. A list of what can be disposed of through the HWRC as a householder and commercial waste handler is shown in Appendix Two.
- 3.8 The Controlled Waste Regulations 2012, set out which wastes from households are not classed as household waste and where charges can be applied for collection or disposal. Subject to these regulations, the following changes to restrictions are proposed:
- 3.8.1 Household DIY waste created by the occupier will be limited to no more than five 25kg bags per vehicle. Waste must be brought to site in sturdy bags to avoid excessive unloading time;
- 3.8.2 All plasterboard and mixed waste containing plasterboard will be charged at £3.50 per bag for up to five bags or at published commercial rates for larger quantities. Plasterboard requires specialist disposal therefore incurs higher charges by disposal sites;
- 3.8.3 Household asbestos must be in a sealed bag or fully wrapped in plastic sheeting. Charges will not be applied for household asbestos waste produced by the householder;
- 3.8.4 Car and motorcycle tyres from residential premises will be charged at £2.80 per item; and
- 3.8.5 Household chemicals will only be accepted if they are in secure, sealed containers.
- 

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Leon Barrett, Direct Dial Telephone Number 07818 510602, [lbarrett@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:lbarrett@swindon.gov.uk).

# Changes to Household Waste Recycling Centre and Recycling Bring Sites

Cabinet

Date 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016

---

## Proposal to withdraw the remaining Recycling Bring Sites

- 3.9 There are currently around 12 public recycling sites across the Borough operated by contractors on behalf of the Council. The sites provide facilities for recycling of paper, glass, cans and tetrapak cartons. The annual operating cost of the sites is approximately £25,000 and 900 tonnes of material is collected for recycling.
- 3.10 In addition to the direct operating cost of the sites, there are often cases of fly tipping at the Bring Sites as people treat them as mini HWRCs and leave all materials at the site, which generate additional pressures on our Street Cleaning resources who are frequently required to clear away the fly tipped waste.
- 3.11 With the exception of tetrapak, the sites provide facilities for collection of materials that can also be recycled at the kerbside, therefore the value of the sites is questionable given that residents can have this collected through their fortnightly recycling collections. Tetrapaks can be disposed of with the household waste as these will then be converted into a Solid Recovered Fuel along with the other household waste in the PPS plant at Waterside.
- 3.12 The proposal to withdraw the recycling bring sites will deliver a direct saving of circa £25,000 through elimination of all of the associated direct costs. It will also remove the need to direct Street Cleaning resources to remove fly tipping which will deliver a further saving in the wider StreetSmart operation, the exact scale of this further saving is unknown as the work to clear away the fly tipping is part of the daily operation.
- 3.13 It is expected a large proportion of the material currently deposited at the sites will be diverted to the kerbside recycling box system, negating the environmental impact of withdrawal. The kerbside service currently collects around 12,000 tonnes per year, equating to just less than 50 tonnes per day.
- 3.14 There are currently arrangements in place with two contractors to service the sites; these arrangements would need to be terminated in a controlled manner. There would also need to be communication targeted at the sites to notify residents that the facilities are being withdrawn and reminding residents of the opportunity to recycle at the kerbside or by bringing the material to the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC).
- 3.15 Cabinet are asked to note that prior to implementing any closure, the Waste Service will consult with Ward Members and Parish Councils to establish their appetite and willingness to take ownership of specific Bring Sites and cover the operating cost through other means. This will form part of the ongoing discussions with Parish Councils following the decision by Full Council on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016.
- 

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Leon Barrett, Direct Dial Telephone Number 07818 510602, [lbarrett@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:lbarrett@swindon.gov.uk).

# Changes to Household Waste Recycling Centre and Recycling Bring Sites

Cabinet

Date 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016

---

## 4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 Cabinet could decide not to implement the changes proposed within this report. This would result in ongoing costs of providing bring sites and will limit opportunity to prevent avoidable costs of commercial waste being passed off as household at the HWRC.

## 5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

### Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 The proposals will deliver a direct cost saving of circa £25,000 per year by withdrawing the bring sites. There is potential for further costs savings by preventing unauthorised use of the HWRC, however it is not possible to establish the likely saving as there is no data available on current misuse of the site.
- 5.2 The existing arrangements with contractors for provision of bring sites can be terminated with reasonable notice with no costs or penalties to the Council.

### Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.3 Legal and Human Rights implications have been taken fully into account in the preparation of this report. It is considered that the recommendations of the report are compatible with Convention rights.

### All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.4 There are no other direct implications associated with this report.

### Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.5 A Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) has been undertaken and a copy is available from the report author. The assessment has established that there are no specific groups adversely affected by the proposals and that alternative recycling provision is in place. Specifically, the assisted collection service ensures that residents who are unable to move or set out recycling containers and provided with a bespoke service.

### Risk Management

- 5.6 There are none linked to this report although failure to comply with the statutory procedures would be a legal and reputational risk to the Council.

# **Changes to Household Waste Recycling Centre and Recycling Bring Sites**

**Cabinet**

**Date 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

---

## **6. Consultees**

- 6.1 The Interim Corporate Director, Resources (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.
- 6.2 StreetSmart, Highways and Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 28th September 2016.

## **7. Background Papers**

- 7.1 None.

## **8. Appendices**

- 8.1 Appendix One: StreetSmart, Highways and Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 28th September 2016.
- 8.2 Appendix Two: Materials that can be accepted at the HWRC.

## **9. Key Decision/Decision in Cabinet Work Programme and Forward Plan**

- 9.1 This is not a Key Decision and is included in the Cabinet Work Programme and Forward Plan for November 2016.