

Changes to Household Waste Recycling Centre Opening Times

Cabinet

15th March 2017

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

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To agree changes to reduce the opening hours at the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) to allow for efficiency savings following the work to improve traffic flow across the site.
- 1.2 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 Approve the proposals to change the opening hours of the HWRC with effect from 8th May 2017 to achieve the £96,000 full year saving proposal in the council budget 2017/18 presented on 23rd February 2017.
- 2.2 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

- 3.1 Changes are proposed to the opening hours at the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) at Waterside Park. These changes will reduce the costs of operating the HWRC by £96,000 per year through reductions in contractor payments and staff savings.
- 3.2 Public Power Solutions (PPS) Ltd operates 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. The Environmental Protection Act 1990 applies a statutory duty on the Council to provide a site for use by residents within the area and prescribes conditions on the types of waste that must be accepted. A report approved by Cabinet on 7th December 2016 applied stricter restrictions on commercial waste and some types of difficult wastes (Cabinet Minute 69, 2016/17 refers).

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

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3.3 The current opening times are:

- Summer months (01 Apr to 31 Oct), Monday to Sunday, 6am to 8pm
- Winter months (01 Oct to 31 Mar), Monday to Sunday, 8am to 4.30pm

3.4 The proposed opening times are:

- Summer months (01 Apr to 31 Oct), Monday to Sunday, 8am to 5pm
- Summer months (01 Apr to 31 Oct), late opening Thursday, 8am to 8pm
- Winter months (01 Nov to 31 Mar), Monday to Sunday, 8am to 4pm
- Closed all day Wednesday throughout the year

3.5 This proposal reflects similar changes that have been implemented in neighbouring authorities in Wiltshire and Oxfordshire, and a wider national trend to reduce opening hours. All sites in Wiltshire open 5 days each week from 10am to 4pm, operating a rolling programme of daily closures. The nearest site at Purton closes on Tuesday and Wednesdays. In Oxford City, they open 8am to 5pm throughout the week with one late night until 8pm on a Thursday.

3.6 It is proposed to implement the change in hours from 8th May 2017 allowing for the known peak for Easter and the first May bank holiday to pass.

3.7 There have been recent improvements to the site infrastructure to improve safety and reduce queuing times. This includes a new tipping area for commercial waste vehicles and vans, separating them from household cars. This will reduce congestion at the site and improve queues at peak times.

3.8 Periodic checks to ascertain Swindon residency will be undertaken to ensure only Swindon residents are utilising the facility.

3.9 Any potential impact on waste disposal issues such as fly tipping will be closely monitored but we are not aware of any specific issues experienced from other councils who have already reduced their hours of operation.

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 extended hours service and the savings within the proposed budget will need to be reviewed.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

5.1 The proposals will deliver a budget saving of circa £96,000 per year.

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- 5.2 PPS are aware of the proposed changes and have agreed that a change in the contract will be accepted if the proposals are implemented.

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.

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.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Section 151 Officer and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 None

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

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