

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE CONSULTATION

Councillor Sir Beville Stanier

Cabinet Member for Waste and Licensing

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide information on the BCC consultation to changes to the household waste recycling centres (HRC) in Aylesbury Vale and the Southern Districts of Bucks

2 Recommendations/for decision

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| 2.1 To note the contents of the report and submit a formal Cabinet response to Bucks County Council's HRC consultation based on the identified issues in Section 4 of the Cabinet report. |
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3 Supporting information

- 3.1 The Districts and County are part of the Bucks Waste Partnership. The partnership's aim is to provide a forum to align waste disposal and collection strategies. The partnership authorities signed up to a waste strategy in 2016 to reduce, reuse and recycle waste to achieve 60% recycling rate by 2020. Further more the Partnership fund and supports the Flytipping Partnership, which focusses on reducing flytipping and seeking cost recovery through prosecution of flytippers.
- 3.2 AVDC were notified through the BWP that BCC were undertaking a piece of work to assess the efficiency of the BCC owned HRC's. The partnership districts were not given the opportunity to inform the analysis and BCC have not since shared any of the analysis supporting the proposed changes to the HRC's
- 3.3 The BCC proposals for their HRCs are as follows:

A: Proposals already approved by BCC

- Reduce the number of opening days at our Aylesbury (Rabans Lane), Burnham and Chesham sites, from 7 days a week down to 5
- Introduce charges at all sites for some types of waste
- Close down completely one site, perhaps two sites
- Consider charging residents from outside Bucks for disposing of all waste types at our sites, or preventing them using our sites altogether.

B: Areas of proposals open to consultation

- Whether to close one site or two
- Our preferred option for one site to close would be Bledlow
- Our preferred option for two sites to close would be Bledlow and Burnham
- Which two weekdays it would it be better to close Aylesbury (Rabans Lane), Burnham and Chesham sites
- Whether to charge residents from outside Buckinghamshire for using our sites, stop them using the sites altogether or continue to allow the same access as Bucks residents.

- 3.4 Only section B above is open to the consultation process.
- 3.5 In line with decreasing public spending nationally some other councils have reviewed their HRC's and implemented charges and/or changes to opening hours. AVDC understand that APSE has undertaken a research piece on BCC HRC's and it is assumed supporting evidence and lessons learned has been obtained from other councils to support BCC proposals.
- 3.6 AVDC or the 3 southern Districts have not been privy to any of the research undertaken, nor has there been an opportunity to shape and develop the proposals together as a waste Partnership.
- 3.7 It is not clear from the consultation documents online (www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/waste-and-recycling/hrc-service-review/) What analysis or consideration has been made concerning the impact of the changes to the waste collection and street cleaning services provided by AVDC.
- 3.8 BCC have undertaken three assessments relating to customers using the HRC's and the wider public. These are published on their website:
- Equalities Impact Assessment (www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/4511862/eqia-hrc-consultation.pdf);
 - Needs Assessment (www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/4511863/needs-assessment-final.pdf)
 - Health Impact Assessment (www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/4511864/hia-bucks-cc-hrc-review-final.pdf)
- 3.9 From the data BCC have published, it is not evident that BCC have undertaken any assessment of the impact of their proposals to Waste Collection Authorities.
- 3.10 BCC have used the Association for Public Sector Excellence (APSE) to undertake an impact of their proposal on flytipping rates. BCC have quoted APSE as saying "there was no evidence that site changes caused an increase in attributable incidents". It is not clear what attributable incidents have been considered. Furthermore BCC state that "In our own experience, changes to this service do not directly affect fly tipping."
- 3.11 BCC have also cited a Surrey County Council Cabinet report relating to similar changes implemented by Surrey, that notes that following similar changes to HRC's they did not see an increase in flytipping.
- 3.12 BCC do not appear to have included assessment of the significant growth in households and population expected in Aylesbury Vale, or the impact of increased traffic movements to the HRC's due to restricting the number of days the sites operate.
- 3.13 Whilst reviewing the requirements of the HRC's it would be expected that service improvements would also be identified, particularly in relation to the Buckingham HRC which serves a vital function to residents in the North of the districts; particularly given the growth expected in central and northern areas of the district. The Buckingham site is often congested due to its size and currently would not meet the needs of a growing population in the north of Aylesbury Vale

4 Conclusion

- 4.1 As a joint financing partner of the Bucks Waste Partnership it is most unfortunate that this forum was not used early on to help shape BCC's options and proposals, share the learning of the research and have the

opportunity to discuss the impact of the proposals on AVDC as a Waste Collection Authority in Buckinghamshire.

- 4.2 Officers have had to approach the proposals not fully understanding the potential or unforeseen implications to our waste collection services. Furthermore the approach to consultation taken by BCC in this matter undermines the potential to work collaboratively through already established partnership routes, which has led to AVDC not having the opportunity to help shape or influence BCC decisions, which will ultimately impact on our local communities, which all parties have a shared interest in.
- 4.3 **Savings Potential:** It is clear that opportunities to achieve efficiencies and savings for all councils is paramount. Although it is unclear what consideration and assessment has been made of the full quantum of costs versus saving, when considering the entirety of the waste services (from collection to disposal) For example if there is an increase in flytipping as a result of day closures, this will add to AVDC's requirement to collect the waste at an increase in cost to AVDC. AVDC need to understand what assessment BCC has made of the total cost to the tax payer as a result of closing sites and levying charges.
- 4.4 **Charging Customers for specific waste types such as rubble, plasterboard, soil etc:** BCC have presented introducing charges to customers at HRC's as a fait accompli. However AVDC have not been provided any analysis or assurance around the impact on household waste collections. It is reasonable to expect that small amounts of waste such as soil or rubble that previously would have been taken to HRC's would now be diverted to household waste bins. This waste will then enter the general waste stream and result in potential collection issues (overloaded bins/H&S issues etc). Ultimately this waste is then sent to EfW.
- 4.5 **Growth and Improvements:** From the evidence presented it is not clear what consideration BCC has given to the major growth in the district in the coming years particularly in and around Aylesbury when looking at the closure of Rabans Lane on specific days. The saving related to this particular aspect of the proposal has not been modelled against growth. Buckingham HRC is well used and has previously been identified as a site that requires improvements. Again the analysis undertaken does not look at opportunities to reinvest in other sites.

5 Resource implications

- 5.1 None.

Contact Officer
Background Documents

Rebecca Newbutt (01296) 585329
BCC HRC Consultation: <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/waste-and-recycling/hrc-service-review/>