

LAF update

New contract to improve household waste recycling centres

WRG (Waste Recycling Group) have been awarded the new contract for Buckinghamshire County Council's ten household waste recycling centres which will come into place from 1st April 2012. This contract will deliver an anticipated saving of between £2.1m and £3.2m* over 7 years for Buckinghamshire taxpayers.

The new contract will provide an improved customer experience, this will include enhanced signage, improved layouts of the recycling containers, 'meet and greet' attendants who will help customers unload waste to ensure items are recycled and there are also changes proposed for reuse of items, details of which will be released shortly.

Following a robust procurement process, WRG will now be working with the Council to deliver an efficient and affordable service which aims to reduce waste sent to landfill and achieve overall countywide recycling targets of 60% by 2025.

The contract is anticipated to be worth up to £22m**. This contract will provide the Council with the flexibility to provide service levels and costs which are affordable during these difficult financial times and in the future as well.

Once the contract commences, the most immediate change will be the opening hours at the sites. The sites will open an hour later and have fixed summer and winter opening hours. From 1st April – 30th September summer opening times will be in place and all the sites will open to the public from 9am – 6pm. From the 1st October - 31st March, winter opening hours will be in place and the sites will open to the public from 9am – 5pm. This follows the traffic counter data gathered during the consultation phase of the project, which showed that the lowest customer usage time period was between 8am and 9am daily across the week. The recycling centres will continue as present to close on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day. Ten minutes prior to closing time, customers shall be advised of the limited time available to unload and will be asked to leave the sites by closing time.

The new contract is for a seven year period with options to extend annually for up to a further three years. The new contract will commence from the 1st April 2012 – 31st March 2019 with options to extend up until 31st March 2022.

For more information on the Council's recycling centres please visit www.buckscc.gov.uk

* It is anticipated the new Contract has resulted in an anticipated saving of circa 30% from the current approved budget. The contract will be subject to variables such as waste arisings, contract indexation, day work rates etc.

** Over the term of the contract including any possible extension it is estimated value of the Contract is anticipated could be up to £22m. The contract will be subject to variables such as waste arisings, contract indexation, day work rates etc.