

SUBJECT:	Local Recycling Centres (bring sites)
REPORT OF:	Environment Portfolio Holder
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Head of Environment, Chris Marchant
REPORT AUTHOR	Waste Policy & Project Team Leader, Daniel Sexton
WARD/S AFFECTED	All

1. Purpose of Report

This report presents a case to consider the future provision of recycling centres (bring sites), which the authorities provide.

RECOMMENDATION:

1.1 That JWCC consider and support in principle the recommendation presented by Officers for the closure of recycling centres, with support through subsequent reporting for the respective authorities to make an informed decision

2. Background

2.1 In recent years the client teams have undertaken strategic reviews of its public recycling centres it operates, in consultation and with support of Members and key stakeholders.

2.2 As kerbside services have evolved with easy to use and convenient collections, our reliance on recycling centres as disposal points to recycle domestic waste has dramatically diminished.

2.3 Recommendations were previously made for the closure of many of these facilities for reasons that included miss-use, health & safety concerns and being under-used.

2.4 In Chiltern, South Bucks and Wycombe eight sites remain in each. In CDC more are expected to close, as work is completed to improve direct access to recycling facilities locally.

2.5 We now have the opportunity to consider what is done with the last remaining recycling centres ahead of the commencement of a new Joint Waste Collection Contract for the three southern districts.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 That Joint Waste Collection Committee consider the recommendation presented, at this critical juncture prior to the commencement of a single joint waste collection contract for the three southern districts.

3.2 That consideration is given to timely intervention in shaping the future service, mindful of benefits as well as any disadvantages.

4. New Joint Waste Service

4.1 As work to procure a new joint service provider commences, we have an opportunity to decide what the councils do in regard to the local recycling centres we operate.

4.2 Confident that the service will continue to see at least the same range of materials collected for recycling at the kerbside, we should consider if recycling centres are really needed.

4.3 There is a case to argue that by removing all remaining recycling centres, the council can help to contain future service costs. By removing the requirement to service recycling centres, this will help to minimise the impact of any cost increases for the new contract.

4.4 Removing the need to frequently cleanse these facilities would create resilience and efficiencies within resource. Looking forward it might represent further indirect cost savings and/or inspire innovative solutions for cleansing practise.

4.5 If the recommendation was carried forward, any cost savings realised would be determined at the point a change notice was issued to the contractor.

5. Current Position

5.1 Our residents continue to make use of the easy and convenient domestic collection services available; some now using this service instead of taking material to a bring site as demonstrated in parts of Marlow (Wiltshire Road and Liston Road).

5.2 Provisional figures for July 2018 suggest the month was one of our most successful ever, thanks to a successful World Cup campaign. We saw an unprecedented increase in material collected for recycling. This would suggest residents are benefiting from the convenience of the kerbside collection service, proving this is the most reliable method for disposing domestic waste.

5.3 Our policies have been reviewed and modified to enable extra recycling to be collected, providing clarity for residents on the benefits of using the service. This practise has been encouraged through communications we have since publicised.

5.4 As closures to the majority of former public recycling centres have demonstrated, recycling performance has remained at a consistent level.

5.5 Following closure, problems of nuisance behaviour, miss-use and fly-tipping previously associated with recycling centres, have improved or been eradicated.

5.6 Fall out and impact following the closures has been minimal to none. We currently maintain a selected number of sites across the authorities as secondary

outlets for residents. This acted as a safety mechanism to lessen the impact of comprehensive closure, or expose frailties in the collection service.

5.7 We are confident that the vast majority of our residents have access to domestic waste collections that include recycling facilities. We have been working closely with some social landlords in recent months to introduce recycling facilities for the last few local communities, who were previously without direct access (*Little Chalfont).

5.8 We continue to consult on planning applications to ensure comprehensive waste facilities are in place for new build developments.

5.9 We have adapted services to ensure facilities are in place for the most challenging cases and we will work closely with individuals who come forward to request access (and support) to recycling collections, in order to find practical solutions.

5.10 Long gone are the days of having to take glass bottles, papers, cans and plastic bottles to the local recycling centres.

5.11 Based on past experience and mindful of the future service, the authorities now have an opportunity, to consider whether there is any value and benefit in retaining these facilities.

6. Challenges ahead

6.1 With a growing population and limitations on current resource felt more keenly across the service in Chiltern & Wycombe, pressures to add new properties to existing collection rounds are having a considerable impact.

6.2 There is a risk that service quality could be compromised and suffer detrimentally as a consequence. Performance objectives could fall below target and any resulting penalties applied could further impede the contractor's ability to recover.

6.3 A recent review undertaken by Serco to rationalise and find efficiencies in the bulk bin collection rounds servicing flats & schools, found current resource levels were close to saturation. Service demand through continued property growth will very soon exceed capacity and it is already a challenge to manage current service levels. Planned property growth in Princes Risborough and the north of WDC highlights pressures likely to come for the service.

6.4 If the remaining recycling centres in Chiltern & Wycombe were closed, there would no longer be need of a specialist collection vehicle. The contract requires use of a specialist Front End Loading vehicle to empty the recycling banks in use.

6.5 Consequently a proposal to replace the FEL vehicle with another RCV should be considered, which could be used to alleviate pressures on the bulk bin rounds highlighted above, whilst improving resilience in critical front line services.

6.6 Such an approach could save the authorities considerable outlay in bringing in additional resource to manage this risk for the remaining contract term and would be a point of negotiation with the contractor.

6.7 If this option was not pursued and the authorities decided to acquire the additional resource, three illustrative cost options have been presented in the table below:

1	Purchase new RCV	£200,000	4 to 5 month delivery time
2	Purchase pre-owned RCV	£35,000	1 to 2 month delivery time
3	Hire an RCV for duration of contract (March 2019 - March 2020 without extension period)	£1,000 per week (£52,000)	1 month delivery time
+	Annual staffing costs (driver + loader)	£52,000	
+	Vehicle maintenance per annum	£5,000 - £10,000	New vehicle versus used vehicle, inclusive on hire vehicle
+	Fuel - based on 50,000km per annum	£35,000	

6.8 There is the option to do nothing to address this risk.

6.9 Recycling centres continue to be subject to miss-use by businesses for the disposal of trade/commercial waste. Very little effort is made to separate waste accordingly, resulting in excessive contamination and poor quality material.

6.10 Poor quality material collected from recycling centres is a continuous problem and is a major cause for concern in SBDC. The situation is so bad, that all recycling bins are now emptied as rubbish, to help manage the problem. If a bin is found to contain acceptable material/s, then a recycling vehicle is diverted to empty the contents. In some instances paper recycling is tipped as 'mixed' container recycling, because the quality is too poor to be collected as clean paper alone.

6.11 As a consequence this is increasing the fibre content within the 'mixed' recycling sent to the MRF and that is having a financial impact upon the service.

6.12 Looking forward, we want to ensure the authorities are in the best possible position (when it comes to risk share). With sensitive global markets, material quality will inevitably dictate any residual value, or associated costs for sorting and separation (gate fees).

6.13 Poor quality material could also limit the availability of sustainable reprocessing outlets. We've seen already the impact the regulations introduced by China can have on markets and material end destinations. For added security, improving the quality of the material we collect must be seen as a priority.

6.14 BCC are currently publicly consulting following its review of the Household Recycling Centres (HRCs). This consultation will no doubt shape future service design. With outcomes yet to be determined, we are minded to consider possible implications such as a reduced network of HRCs. We would welcome thoughts in respect to the proposals and the live consultation.

6.15 Demand for convenient public parking continues to be a challenge for the authorities. Here there is an opportunity to increase the number of parking spaces

within council owned car parks, on land currently occupying recycling containers. Realising an increase in revenue as a result of making extra spaces available, is a possibility the authorities could benefit from.

7. Assumption

7.1 Through a predetermined programme of works, the Joint Waste Team would undertake to notify local stakeholders of the decision taken to close the remaining recycling centres.

7.2 This would then be communicated to the wider public. As we have experienced previously, some residents come forward to make known they don't have direct access to recycling services. This tends to result in provision of appropriate containers and educational information. In the past we have made containers available for free to encourage the effective management of waste within home.

7.3 There would follow a stand-still period before sites are decommissioned. It is our recommendation that changes are implemented after Christmas/New Year.

7.4 We would proactively encourage use of the easy to use kerbside collection service, through public campaigns the team could deliver.

8. Corporate Implications

8.1 Financial: In closing the remaining recycling centres there are not expected to be any operational costs, that aren't already covered within the Bill of Quantity day rates.

8.2 Financial: It should be anticipated some remedial works will be necessary to 'make good' land currently used to occupy recycling containers

8.3 Financial: Free provision of any recycling containers for requests made by residents during a period of amnesty

8.3 Legal & Financial: A Change notice will be required to the existing contract terms of service, at which point any associated cost savings would be established.

8.4 Legal & Financial: Negotiation for provision of replacement RCV further to the closure of the recycling centres (Serco contract)

8.5 Financial: Increased revenues resulting from car parking spaces vacated by recycling containers

8.6 Reputation: process to decommission sites managed through clear and effective communication

9. Links to Council Policy Objectives

This matter relates to the following council objectives -

9.1 Provide great value services

9.2 Promote Sustainability

Background Papers:	None
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Appendix A

Recycling Centres by District

Authority	Town	Location
Chiltern DC	Amersham	Rickmansworth Road car park
	Chesham	Cameron Road
		Water Meadow car park
	Chalfont St Giles	Blizzards Road car park
	Little Chalfont	Snells Wood car park
	Chalfont St Peter	Church Lane car park
	Great Missenden	Link Road car park
	Prestwood	High Street car park
Wycombe DC	Loudwater	Doctors Surgery, Queensmead Road
	Hazlemere	Beaumont Way car park
		Park Parade car park
	High Wycombe	Asda store (Cressex)
		(formerly) Plant & Harvest Garden Centre, Chorley Road
		Morrisons store, Bellfield Road
	Marlow	Riley Road car park
	Princes Risborough	Stratton Road car park
South Bucks DC	Beaconsfield	The Beacon Centre, Holtspur Way
		Penncroft car park, Burkes Road
		Waitrose, Penn Road
	Burnham	Summers Road car park
	Farnham	The Broadway car park
	Gerrards Cross	Packhorse Road car park
	Iver	Evreham Sports Centre, Swallow Street

*Please note: This list does not include some HRCs where the authorities provide their own containers for recycling, for instance dry mixed recycling.

Appendix B

Sample of SBDC contamination reports for a three month period - May/June/July 2018

Month	Site	No. of bins	Tipped as rubbish			Tipped as either 'Dry mixed' or 'clean recycling'		
			08.05.2018	21.05.2018	25.05.2018	08.05.2018	21.05.2018	25.05.2018
May	The Beacon Centre	8	3	1	1	5	7	7
	Penncroft Car Park	9	5	3	3	4	6	6
	Waitrose	7	0	0	1	7	7	6
	Summers Road Car Park	5	5	4	2	0	1	3
	The Broadway Car Park	8	8	7	1	0	1	7
	Packhorse Road Car Park	9	6	6	6	3	3	3
	Evreham Centre	5	5	5	n/a	0	0	n/a

Month	Site	No. of bins	Tipped as rubbish			Tipped as either 'Dry mixed' or 'clean recycling'		
			02.06.2018	04.06.2018	22.06.2018	02.06.2018	04.06.2018	22.06.2018
June	The Beacon Centre	8	1	5	3	7	3	5
	Penncroft Car Park	9	1	3	2	8	6	7
	Waitrose	7	1	1	0	6	6	7
	Summers Road Car Park	5	2	3	5	2	3	0
	The Broadway Car Park	8	2	4	0	6	4	8
	Packhorse Road Car Park	9	1	3	5	8	6	4
	Evreham Centre	5	n/a	5	n/a	n/a	0	n/a

Month	Site	No. of bins	Tipped as rubbish				Tipped as either 'Dry mixed' or 'clean recycling'			
			09.07.2018	16.07.2018	20.07.2018	23.07.2018	09.07.2018	16.07.2018	20.07.2018	23.07.2018

July	The Beacon Centre	8	5	3	1	8	3	5	7	0
	Penncroft Car Park	9	9	6	2	3	0	3	7	6
	Waitrose	7	0	2	2	0	7	5	5	7
	Summers Road Car Park	5	5	n/a	1	5	0	n/a	4	0
	The Broadway Car Park	8	8	4	3	8	0	4	5	0
	Packhorse Road Car Park	9	0	2	9	4	9	7	0	5
	Evreham Centre	5	4	3	n/a	1	1	2	n/a	4