



Cabinet

Tuesday, 9 July 2019 at 4.30 pm

**Council Chamber - King George V House, King George V Road,
Amersham, HP6 5AW**

S U P P L E M E N T A R Y A G E N D A 1

Item

12 Review of Remaining Recycling Centres (*Pages 3 - 8*)

Note: All reports will be updated orally at the meeting if appropriate and may be supplemented by additional reports at the Chairman's discretion.

Membership: Cabinet

Councillors: I Darby (Leader)
M Stannard (Deputy Leader)
C Jones
P Martin
J Rush
E Walsh
F Wilson

Date of next meeting – Tuesday, 20 August 2019

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SUBJECT:	<i>Review of Remaining Recycling Centres</i>
RELEVANT MEMBER:	<i>Cllr. C Jones, Cabinet Member for Environment</i>
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	<i>Chris Marchant, Head of Environment</i>
REPORT AUTHOR:	<i>Daniel Sexton, Waste Policy & project Team Leader</i>
WARD/S AFFECTED:	<i>All</i>

1. Purpose of Report

RECOMMENDATION TO CABINET:

- 1. Based on information contained within this report, Cabinet agrees the recommendation to close 5 of the 8 sites. Leaving sites in Great Missenden, Prestwood and Little Chalfont subject to further review. With the eventual aim to close (all) subject to further progress report to Cabinet three months from now.**

2. Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1. Recycling centres were introduced before the Council provided each household with a comprehensive domestic collection service.
- 2.2. The benefits delivered by the recycling centres in terms of useful recycling and convenience for residents are now not proportionate to the costs of operating these facilities.
- 2.3. The material collected from recycling centres is regularly contaminated with non-recyclable waste which ends up being sent for energy recovery. The Government's waste strategy in England has a strong emphasis on improved quality of materials sent for recycling. Looking forward we want to ensure the authorities are in the best possible position to secure good value and sustainable market opportunities.
- 2.4. At this critical stage in the procurement of the new joint waste collection contract for the three authorities, both SBDC and WDC have progressed plans to close facilities, in order to realise efficiencies.
- 2.5. It is essential to release this specialised resource, in order to support front line collection services to flatted communities, an area which has seen considerable growth since the start of the current contract.
- 2.6. The continued use of these facilities by businesses for the disposal of commercial waste needs to be addressed. On-going enforcement or a presence to police these facilities is not considered a viable option for the Joint Waste Team or its partners.

3. Background and timeline

- 3.1. In 2017 recycling centres in Chiltern and Wycombe were reduced to eight and seven sites respectively. These eight sites were kept as a temporary measure to

consider whether there was a genuine need to retain some strategic sites and to gauge the effect of closing the other sites.

	Chiltern	Wycombe	South Bucks
1	Link Road car park, Great Missenden	No sites remaining	No sites remaining
2	High street car park, Prestwood		
3	Snells Wood car park, Little Chalfont		
4	Rickmansworth Road, Amersham		
5	Blizzards Yard car park, CSG		
6	Church Lane car park, CSP		
7	Watermeadow car park, Chesham		
8	Cameron Road, Chesham		

3.2. In October 2018, officers presented a recommendation to Joint Waste Collection Committee (JWCC) to close all of the recycling centres.

3.3. JWCC approved the recommendation

3.4. In November 2018, officers sought support from the Services Overview Committee on the recommendation to close the remaining eight sites.

3.5. Services Overview Committee agreed with the rationale presented, but rejected the recommendation highlighting specific concerns set out in section 3.9.

3.6. On 13 June 2019, officers presented a report to Services Overview Committee addressing concerns that were raised in November 2018

3.7. Services Overview Committee raised concerns, highlighted in section 3.10

3.8. Cabinet are advised that it is within the scope of the current contract to close the recycling centres.

3.9. Services Overview Committee

The Committee did not support the recommendation highlighting the following concerns:

3.9.1. The timescale for the implementation of the closures was too short. A replacement service would need to be in place and any outstanding issues resolved prior to any of the centres being removed. This would need to be communicated to residents in advance.

3.9.2. Residents living on high streets would have no suitable alternative recycling service.

3.9.3. The centres were well used and valued by local residents. Evidence was needed on the usage of each individual recycling centre before a decision could be taken on whether to remove them. This could be used to explain the decision to residents.

3.9.4. The closures would increase the burden on kerbside collections.

3.9.5. Fly tipping was a problem across Bucks; removing the recycling centres would exacerbate this and any savings made may be offset by increased clear-up costs.

3.9.6. There was a lack of monitoring/enforcement at recycling centres to improve the quality of material collected and to deter fly tipping.

3.9.7. A response to these specific concerns has been provided in **section 4**.

3.10.1. That the evidence provided suggests that these facilities are well used and therefore must be needed, giving residents the choice for recycling outlets.

Response:

- *Case study (appendix A – available upon request) demonstrates residents choose to use facilities, despite access to kerbside collection services*
- *Residents were not familiar with the policy to collect extra recycling, including large flattened cardboard boxes*
- *Our policy has been adapted to allow for the collection of extra recycling and/or collection of larger flattened cardboard boxes*
- *We are working with partners Serco to raise awareness this includes educational tool box talks for the collection crews*
- *Communication campaigns, designed to raise public awareness on this topic, will be delivered this summer as part of a wider programme promoting the domestic collection service*

3.10.2. Residents not educated enough on the charging structure now enforced at the county's HRCs. This may lead to increased fly-tipping, particularly if the districts recycling centres are closed. **Response:**

- *Officers will feedback comments to colleagues at BCC and will support efforts to communicate the new arrangements*
- *Further, we will continue to work with partners to tackle fly-tipping activity such as enforcement action as appropriate*
- *Materials currently collected at our recycling centres is not chargeable at the county councils HRCs*

3.10.3. Officers undertake to promote the domestic collection services, advising residents on the policy of collecting extra recycling. Recycling centres should not be closed before this programme is undertaken. **Response:**

- *Officers will promote the policy that allows for the collection of extra recycling*
- *This includes promotional hangers attached to bins; use of digital media platforms; promotion through collaboration with town & parish councils*

3.10.4. Collection operatives retrained to ensure a consistent and reliable approach to the collection of extra recycling – including larger flattened cardboard boxes.

Response:

- *Officers will continue to work with Serco to address service reliability and consistency issues such as those identified above*
- *Our efforts will combine communications to help educate staff, collection crews and residents*

3.10.5. Solutions needed to overcome the limited storage areas in Great Missenden High Street and Church Street. **Response:**

- *Temporary solution presented in 5.1, while further work is undertaken to promote behavioural change through educational campaign.*
- *Direct engagement to educate and support residents. Includes mail drops and door-knocking to promote behavioural change.*

3.10.6. The Council should use this time to educate residents and leave the decision to close recycling centres to the new unitary authority. **Response:**

- *A campaign to promote behavioural change, inform and educate residents will commence at the earliest opportunity*
- *It is unlikely that the provision of these facilities will continue under the new Joint Waste and Street Cleansing contract*
- *This report highlights the urgent need to release this specialist vehicle. Resource would then be freed to help with collections from flatted communities. This service area is under increased demand due to the exponential property growth during the term of this contract*

4.1. Officers acknowledged concerns raised by Committee. Measures were taken to address each concern raised.

4.2. Including a review of local flatted communities to ensure access to recycling facilities were provided as detailed below.

Town	Location	Solution
Little Chalfont	1. Halifax House;	1 & 2: shared facility (bulk bins)
	2. Applefield;	
	3. Chenies Parade;	3: shared facility (bulk bins)
	4. Nightingale Corner;	4: modified solution (sack/box/bags)
	5. Snells Wood Court	5: shared facility (bulk bins)
Chesham	1. Victoria Road;	1: shared facility (bulk bins)
	2. Gordon Road;	2: modified solution (sack/box/bags)
	3. Springfield Road;	3: modified solution (sack/box/bags)
	4. Stoney Grove;	4: shared facility (wheeled bins)
	5. Greatacre	5: shared facility (wheeled bins)

4.3. Committee were reassured on all previous concerns, including confirmation flats above shops in high streets were supported with facilities to recycle through the domestic collection services.

4.4. A separate study conducted (referred as appendix A – available upon request) found residents chose to use the recycling centre, despite access to the domestic services. There was a lack of knowledge that extra recycling would be collected at the kerbside. On this topic there is a clear need for improved communication and re-education. It will be a key message delivered to residents as identified in this report.

5. Way forward

5.1. The following three sites retained while further review is completed for an informed decision on future provision of this service –

- Link Road, Great Missenden
- High Street car park, Prestwood
- Snells Wood car park, Little Chalfont

- 5.1.1. Provide cardboard recycling facilities at these three sites.
 - 5.1.2. Swap-out the current large containers for 1100 litre bulk bins – eradicate need for specialised collection vehicle.
 - 5.1.3. A commitment to undertake communication programme to educate and inform local residents to support behavioural changes
 - 5.1.4. Monitor use of facilities, gathering evidence to determine future position.
 - 5.1.5. Report back to Cabinet the results of the review by autumn 2019.
- 5.2. Close the following five recycling centres:
- Rickmansworth Road, Amersham
 - Blizzards Yard car park, CSG
 - Church Lane car park, CSP
 - Watermeadow car park, Chesham
 - Cameron Road, Chesham
- 5.2.1. Undertake to notify stakeholders of the decision to close sites prior to implementing full closure.
- 5.3. Time line of all proposed works to be shared once developed by officers.

6. Corporate Implications

- 6.1 The proposal to swap out resource to support services provided to flatted communities will be cost neutral for Chiltern District Council for the remainder of the current Waste Collection & Street Cleaning contract.
- 6.2 Requests for additional kerbside containers can be met from existing budgets.
- 6.3 There are no legal implications as it is within the scope of the current contract to close the recycling centres
- 6.4 There is a significant risk to service quality and corporate reputation if the proposal to support services offered to flatted communities is not realised.

7. Links to Council Policy Objectives

- 7.1 This proposal helps the authority to achieve our three shared headline objectives:
- Delivering cost- effective, customer- focused services
 - Working towards safe and healthier local communities
 - Striving to conserve the environment and promote sustainability
- 7.2 Keeping residents at the centre of our objective to provide easy, convenient and accessible domestic collection services, to ensure customer satisfaction remains high. Latest available figures from November 2018 show customer satisfaction in Chiltern at 93.4% (*recycling collection service*)
- 7.3 Providing services that represent good value and divert much needed resource to front line services
- 7.4 Reducing anti-social activity, whilst improving the local community street scene through sustainable services and solutions.

8. Next Steps

Decision by Cabinet based on options presented in section 5.

Background Papers:	Previous report: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local Recycling Centres (bring sites) – recommendation to Services Overview Committee 27 November 2018• Recycling Centre Recommendation – report to JWCC October 2018• Recycling Centre report and study to Services Overview Committee 13 June 2019
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