

SUBJECT	Local Recycling Centres (bring sites)
REPORT OF RESPECTIVE CABINET MEMBER	Environment Portfolio Holder, Cllr Luisa Sullivan
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 considers the future provision of recycling centres (bring sites), which the authorities provide. This report was considered by the Environment PAG on 20 November 2018 and the Portfolio Holder, having considered the advice of the PAG, agreed to recommend that the remaining eight recycling centres (bring sites) in the South Bucks District be closed with notice to the public in advance.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Cabinet consider the recommendation to close the remaining eight recycling centres and the future direction for this service

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 A report from the Joint Waste Team covering the three districts in the Joint Waste Partnership was presented to the 3rd October meeting of the Joint Waste Collection Committee (JWCC). The report recommended to JWCC the closure of all recycling centres within the three council areas and also recommended that reports be presented to the three Council Cabinets seeking authorisation to close the bring banks in their respective districts.
- 2.2 In recent years, officers have undertaken strategic reviews of the public bring banks or recycling centres it operates, in consultation with Members and key stakeholders. The kerbside recycling collection offered to residents of the three districts is of a high standard and a wide range of recycling opportunities is presented to each household. The relative importance of the recycling banks in terms of recycling tonnages has therefore dramatically diminished.
- 2.3 Recommendations have previously been made for the closure of various individual sites for reasons that included miss-use, contamination of materials, fly tipping, litter issues, safety concerns, and lack of use.
- 2.4 Eight sites remain in each of the three districts and there is now an opportunity to review them, ahead of the commencement of the new Joint Waste Collection Contract for the three authorities in Spring 2020.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

The removal of the eight recycling centres located in South Bucks District is recommended for the following reasons:

- (a) Recycling centres continue to be subject to miss-use by businesses for the disposal of trade waste. Little effort is made to separate waste, resulting in excessive levels of contamination and poor quality material.
- (b) Contaminated containers are being tipped as rubbish – see table 1.
- (c) Poor quality paper recycling bins are being tipped with mixed recycling. However, this is having an adverse effect on the quality of the mixed recycling.

Table 1.

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

		5	n/a	5	n/a	n/a	0	n/a		
		Tipped as rubbish				Tipped as either 'Dry mixed' or 'clean recycling'				
Month	Site	No. of bins	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

- (d) Poor quality material does limit options for sustainable reprocessing outlets, as demonstrated by the regulations introduced by China.
- (e) The benefits delivered by the recycling centres in terms of useful recycling and convenience for residents are now not proportionate to the costs of collection and sorting of material, the need for clearance of spillages and fly tips and the cost of disposal of contaminated material.
- (f) Resource used to clear debris and fly-tipped waste from recycling centres, could be more efficiently utilised in other high demand service areas.
- (g) Residents can effectively access all the recycling streams (and more) offered by the recycling centres, including larger pieces of card that arise from mail order packaging, through the kerbside collection service.
- (h) The removal of all recycling centres across the three districts will be helpful in that it will simplify the procurement process currently underway for a new joint waste collection and street cleaning contract, which is due to commence in spring 2020.
- (i) Looking forward we want to ensure the authorities are in the best possible position with reduced contamination and improved quality, if risk of managing the material is to be borne by the authorities.
- (j) Where the recycling banks occupy parking spaces or reduce access in car parks, removal may lead to reduced pressure on car parking spaces at some locations and increase revenues.

4. New Joint Waste Service

- 4.1 Procurement work is well under way for the next joint waste collection and street cleaning contract and this presents an opportunity to try and reach a common position across all three districts with the discontinuation of council operated recycling centres throughout. In common with most contract procurements it is felt that costs may rise and making minor service changes such as this are a way of mitigating potential increases without significantly reducing future service levels.
- 4.2 It is proposed that the current kerbside recycling service will remain unchanged in the new contract. This covers food waste, paper, dry mixed recyclables (cardboard, mixed cans, plastics, foil, mixed glass bottles, food cartons such as tetra pak) textiles, garden waste, small WEEE and batteries. Reasonable amounts of oversized card are also collected as side waste if it is flattened and folded to a manageable size and presented neatly.

5. Current Position

- 5.1 Other closures have taken place and recycling performance has not dropped, demonstrating that the closures have not had a negative impact. Complaints about the recycling centres and associated anti-social behaviour have reduced.
- 5.2 Local policies have been reviewed and modified to enable extra recycling to be collected at the kerbside. This has been further reinforced through recent publications including the new waste collection calendars and accompanying myth busting information.
- 5.3 BCC recently concluded a public consultation on proposals for a reduced service at it's operated Household Recycling Centres (HRCs). Their preferred option is to close facilities at Bledlow Ridge (WDC) and Burnham (SBDC). In addition, reduced operating days at three sites and the option to introduce charging systems for non-Buckinghamshire residents, will enable the authority to make substantial savings to service costs. It is anticipated that service changes will be implemented by April 2019.

5.4 Table 2 – remaining SBDC recycling centres

No	Location
1	Beaconsfield – The Beacon Centre
2	Beaconsfield – Penncroft car park Burkes Road
3	Beaconsfield – Waitrose Penn Road
4	Burnham – Summer Road car park
5	Farnham Common & Farnham Royal – The Broadway car park
6	Gerrards Cross – Packhorse Road car park

7	Iver – Evreham Sports Centre
8	Iver – High Line Yachting Mansion Lane

6. Consultation

6.1 Cabinet Members for Environment from each of the three southern districts have been consulted at Joint Waste Collection Committee (JWCC).

6.2 There are no planned consultations pending Cabinet decision. Local stakeholders will be notified of the decision.

7. Options (if any)

7.1 *Do nothing. Maintain status quo.*

Any savings and service efficiencies would not be realised.

Service costs are anticipated to rise, if provision for this service is included within the new joint waste contract.

7.2 *Close remaining recycling centres – recommended*

Implement a closure programme after the Christmas holiday period.

Mitigate risks associated with material ownership and minimise service cost increase for the new joint waste contract.

8. Corporate Implications

8.1 No additional contract costs are anticipated due to the proposed closures, apart from some ad hoc cleansing works and making good of land currently used to occupy recycling containers. Any financial savings in the contract sum would be identified at the point a change notice is issued to the contractor. Requests for new kerbside containers will be met from existing resources.

8.2 Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA 1990), the Council does not have a legal duty to collect waste using recycling centres. It does however have duty to collect household waste from domestic properties although the frequency of collection is not specified. There is also a legal duty under S45A of the EPA 1990 to collect a minimum of two streams of recyclable household waste, separate from any residual household waste, from the kerbside. The proposal in this report does not therefore impact upon any waste or recycling collection duty that the council currently has.

8.3 Contractual change notices and other arrangements will be managed by the Joint Waste Team with advice from Legal Services if this is necessary

9 Links to Council Policy Objectives

This recommendation contributes to the following headline shared objectives:

- Delivering cost-effective, customer-focused services
- Striving to conserve the environment and promote sustainability

And links with the following themes from the Joint Sustainable Community Strategy:

- Sustainable Environment - *Minimise waste by reducing usage, reusing and recycling as much as possible; Keep public places clean, tidy and litter free, working together to tackle fly-tipping*
- Safe Communities - *Reduce the incidence and impact of anti-social behaviour in our community; Improve road safety to reduce the risk of death or serious injury from transport incidents,*
- Health and Wellbeing - *Improve connectivity by improving parking*

10 Next Steps

10.1 If the recommendation is approved, working to a project plan, the Joint Waste Team would undertake to notify local stakeholders of the decision taken to close the remaining recycling centres in their areas. Support to access services would be provided to residents in need. Any closure programme would commence after the Christmas holidays and catch up period for kerbside refuse and recycling collections.

10.2 The Joint Waste Team will work closely with colleagues from the Communication Team to develop and deliver a clear and effective strategy.

10.3 As with previous experience of recycling centre closures, some residents may come forward once publicity starts as they don't have access to kerbside recycling services. If this happens, officers can assist by working out solutions with the contractor, and by providing new appropriate containers and recycling information as support.

Background Papers:	Recycling Centre Recommendation – report to JWCC October 2018
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