



## Officer Decision Report

**Title:** Revision of the Council's Waste Access and Acceptance Policy relating to the Household Recycling Centre service for charges relating to DIY waste (effective from 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023).

**Decision Date:** 19th December 2023

Martin Dickman, Director of Neighbourhood Services

**Author:**

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Neighbourhood Services

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**Wards affected:** All

**Decision:**

1. To approve the revision of the Waste Access and Acceptance Policy (WAAP) relating to the Household Recycling Centre service for charges relating to DIY waste (effective from 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023).
2. To approve the revision of the Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)
3. To approve the revision of the Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA).

## **Reasons for Decision:**

The principles set out in WAAP, DPIA and EqIA were approved by Cabinet 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Authority was delegated to finalise the WAAP, DPIA and EqIA to the Director of Legal Services, Director of Neighbourhood Services and the Head of Strategic Waste Management and Enforcement in consultation with Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment.

## **Summary of the key changes**

WAAP has been updated to reflect the administration of the legislation changes as follows:

- Changes to the Controlled Waste Regulations 2012. Introducing a free allocation for household DIY waste and a single visit and quantity of waste that is accepted for free.
- Charges remain in place above the free allocation.
- A new DIY waste e-permit.
- Extending charges for all non-Buckinghamshire users, to all 10 Household Recycling Centres (HRCs).

## **Authority to take this decision**

This decision has been delegated to the Director of Legal Services, Director of Neighbourhood Services and the Head of Strategic Waste Management and Enforcement in consultation with Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment.

## **Alternative options considered and rejected**

**Option A: Do nothing.** This would mean no changes would be implemented in line with the legislation. This is not a recommended option.

Pros – No resource cost implications to implement.

Cons – The Council would be acting outside its legal powers which would result in reputational, legal, and financial consequences for not complying with the legislation.

**Option B: Remove all charges for construction and industrial waste (household DIY waste).** This would mean all household DIY waste is allowed in for free across all the HRCs, no visitor frequency limits, or volume restrictions would apply. This is not a recommended option.

Pros – No control measures at the site entrance which will make it easier for HRC site users. Customers would prefer this option.

Cons – There would be congestion at the sites and there would be cost implications of up to circa £1.8m per annum. It is likely a large portion of this cost will come from abuse by commercial/ trade persons and landlords.

**Option C: Control the quantity of household DIY waste allowed in for free, apply charges above threshold and not monitor the frequency of visits of householders.** There are risks and financial implications related to commercial abuse with this option because the frequency of visits is not being monitored. This is not a recommended option.

Pros – Allows limited enforcement of the scheme. Customers would prefer this option.

Cons - Likely to be significant costs as there is only limited capacity for controlled household DIY waste. Implementation of a new enforcement and monitoring system as part of WAAP.

**Option D: Control the frequency of visits of Buckinghamshire residents and Local Authorities with an SLA in place (Slough Borough Council) for household DIY waste but apply no limit to the quantity accepted without charge.** There are risks and financial implications related to commercial abuse with this option because the quantity of household DIY waste is not being monitored. This is not a recommended option.

Pros – Allows for limited enforcement of the scheme.

Cons – Likely to be significant costs as there is limited capacity for controlled waste and if frequency of visits is not monitored and charges applied as part of this process there is increased risk of commercial operators benefitting from the householder concession and loss of revenue for excess deposits. Implementation of a new enforcement and monitoring system as part of WAAP.

**Details of any conflict of interest declared:**

No conflict of interest has been identified or declared.

**Feedback from Consultation**

The WAAP is an adopted policy by the Council and was last reviewed January 2023, the fees and charges are reviewed annually as part of MTFP and budget setting cycle, including budget consultation. We will also include updates to local Councillors & Community Boards as part of the communications plan. We expect to engage on key points of how we communicate and the details of the proposed implementation.

**Accompanying Documents:**

Appendix 1 - Waste Access and Acceptance Policy (WAAP) Dec 2023

Appendix 2 - Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) Dec 2023

Appendix 3 - Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) Dec 2023

**Approved:**

**Martin Dickman, Director of Neighbourhood Services**

Signature 

**Date 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**Nick Graham, Director of Legal Services**

Signature 

**Date 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023**