

Appendix E - Portsmouth Recycling Centre Management Contract

Section 8 – Proposed Changes to the Site Operation

A new contract is required for the management of the Paulsgrove HWRC from 1 February 2015. The HWRC enables the council to meet its statutory obligation of providing a HWRC for its residents to use.

The letting of a new contract allows for the opportunity to review site operations in light of examples of best practice within the operation of HWRC's nationally which can support the council's aim of providing good value services at less cost.

The areas of site operation that are being reviewed consist of:

Maximising landfill diversion and increased recycling of materials

This will include evaluating the options to separate our additional materials from the HWRC waste that is currently sent to disposal such as:

- Carpets and underlay
- Hard plastic items
- Mattresses

Partnership working

This would principally be with the voluntary sector to maximise the amount of material that is diverted to reuse and would support work in other areas; such as increasing the range of options for reuse of waste from bulky collections.

Changes to opening hours

75% of the fixed management costs associated with the operation of HWRC sites are labour costs due to the 7 day operation and long site opening hours. It is clear from tracking the number of visitors against the time of day that they visit the sites that the bulk of visitors use the sites between the core hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm.

Residents who wish to use the sites outside of core hours probably prefer to visit later rather than earlier. The proposal is to mirror the retail sector by offering late night opening on certain days.

It is therefore proposed that to provide greater value for money that site opening hours be adjusted. Enclosed below is an example of one option for changing site hours.

	Dates	Opening time	Closing time
Current - winter	1 October to 28 Feb	8:00am	4:00pm
Current - spring	1 March to 31 March	8:00am	5:00pm
Current - summer	1 April to 30 September	8:00am	7:00pm
Proposed - winter	1 October to 31 Mar	9:00am	4:00pm
Proposed- summer	1 April to 30 September	9:00am	7:00pm
Proposed - summer	Late night opening - Thursday	9:00am	9:00pm

Alternative methods of managing inputs of DIY waste.

The history of HWRC sites can be traced back to the Refuse Amenities Act of 1978 which required Waste Disposal Authorities to make available locations where residents could deposit items of waste too large for their kerbside collections. The original intention being that sites would receive bulky items such as items of furniture, washing machines, cookers and fridges etc.

Over time residents have been carrying out increasing amounts of DIY work themselves and using the HWRC to deposit the waste that they are producing.

With the national economy showing signs of improvement we are seeing a knock on effect at the HWRC sites with inputs increasing. A significant part of this increase is DIY type wastes, such as plasterboard, soil, rubble and asbestos, generated by residents undertaking structural type changes to their properties.

In line with Defra's informal guidance the HWRC's do accept restricted amounts of DIY waste at a significant cost to the council, although there is no legal requirement to do so.

Portsmouth City Council spent £84,250 in 2012/13 on disposing of DIY type waste made up of asbestos, plasterboard and soil and rubble. The council also spent over £120,000 on disposing of wood an element of which would be generated by residents undertaking large DIY projects.

With the authority having to reduce the amount of money that it spends on waste disposal it is proposed to:

- Work with HCC on a system to better monitor the current arrangement that allows residents to deliver in small amounts of DIY waste free of charge.
- Work with HCC on developing a range of options for residents who have large amounts of DIY waste to dispose of, such as;
 - Evaluating the options for levying a reasonable charge for residents to deposit larger amounts of DIY waste at the HWRC sites;
 - Working with private sector waste disposal companies to reduce minimum charges for residents with large loads of DIY type wastes, as an alternative to using the HWRC.

Acceptance of commercial waste from SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises)

To support local SMEs in increasing opportunities for them to recycle their waste which are currently limited. This option would allow SMEs including "man in a van" type business to deposit waste and recyclables at the HWRC for a reasonable charge.

Within the specification for the new contract the bidders will be asked to put forward an option for accepting waste from SMEs and how this might be integrated into the HWRC network.

This would provide the council with an income stream and maximise the use of the facilities.