

Title of meeting:	Environment & Community Safety Portfolio Decision Meeting
Date of meeting:	17 November 2016
Subject:	Household Waste Recycling Centre Service Efficiencies Implementation
Report by:	Director of Property and Housing
Wards affected:	All
Key decision:	No
Full Council decision:	No

1. Purpose of report

To inform the Cabinet Member for Environment & Community Safety of Hampshire County Council's (HCC) intention to delay the previously agreed reduction in opening hours and introduction of a full day closure from an effective date of 01 January 2017 to a revised implementation date of 01 October 2017.

2. Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member for Environment & Community Safety approves the implementation of the recommendations set out below:

- In line the Hampshire wide network of Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRC)s, P.C.C. implement a reduction in opening hours at the Port Solent site of 2 hours per day, with revised opening of 11am - 6pm in the Summer and 11am - 4pm in the Winter, commencing 1st October 2017.
- In line with the Hampshire wide network of HWRCs, close our Port Solent site on a Thursday each week, commencing 1st October 2017.

3. Background

Port Solent HWRC, is part of a Hampshire wide network of 26 HWRCs. Along with the other Waste Disposal Authorities (WDA's) - HCC and Southampton City Council (SCC) - Portsmouth City Council (PCC) agreed to undertake a full review of all HWRCs in the county in order to deliver a HCC savings target of £1.55m This would also result in savings for SCC and PCC.

A county wide consultation of service users and the public was undertaken, which ran from 16 March 2016 to 25 May 2016, via an online and paper questionnaire. A total of 11,497 responses were received, plus a further 137 letters and 5 petitions.

Respondents were asked to consider 3 separate proposals for reducing costs across the HWRC network as follows;

1. To reduce opening days and hours
2. To partially close one or more HWRC sites
3. To fully close one or more HWRC sites

The vast majority of residents preferred the option to reduce opening days and hours, as opposed to site closures. As such, HCC's Executive Member for Environment and Transport took the decision on 22 July 2016 to implement changes to reduce the opening hours and implement a day closure across the network.

From 1 October 2016, a new system for DIY charging was also implemented across the network.

4. Reasons for recommendations

HCC have taken the decision to delay the implementation of opening hours and day closures until 01 October 2017.

See appendix 1, 3.8 'There is some confusion precipitated by the Government's intervention and the uncertainty now surrounding future waste definitions, it is deemed prudent to re-programme the implementation of the proposed opening hour reductions (including the Thursday closures) to allow time for clarity on the future of the HWRC service.'

HCC have agreed to reimburse PCC for the share of saving that would have been realised for the reduction in hours and day closure from 1 January 2017 to 01 October 2017 which has been calculated at £24,184. This delay will allow HCC, SCC and PCC to review the implementation of charging and the impacts that this may have had on the waste streams and other concerns such as fly tipping, as well as get clarity on future waste definitions.

5. Equality impact assessment

It is considered that any proposed changes to the service would have a low impact on the protected characteristics of age, disability, poverty, pregnancy and maternity.

The delay in changes to opening hours will not have a detrimental effect on residents. The impact of implementation has already been addressed in the EIA that accompanied the report on 22 September 2016.

6. Legal implications

The EIA as dealt with in the report on 22 September 2016 revealed that whilst there are potential risks, the ongoing risks are limited. The proposal to delay the implementation of changes to opening hours will not have an adverse impact on any of the protected characteristics.

The proposals are considered to be compliant with the E.P.A 1990 and the Local Authorities (Prohibition of Charging Residents to Deposit Household Waste) Order 2015 in that there remains a discretionary basis for charging until 1st April 2020.

The need for clarity on future waste definitions is noted and should be kept under review.

7. Director of Finance's comments

The recommendations within this report are linked to the decision made by Hampshire County Council's Executive Member for Environment and Transport on 3 November 2016 following uncertainty relating to future waste definitions. HCC have agreed to reimburse PCC for the share of saving that would have been realised for the reduction in hours and day closure from 1 January 2017 to 01 October 2017 which has been calculated at £24,184.

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Signed by:

Appendices:

Item 1. HCC, Executive Decision Record, Household Waste Recycling Centre Service Efficiencies Implementation, 03 November 2016

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: