

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT
AND PROPERTY****CHANGES TO RECYCLING CENTRE SERVICES****Purpose of the Report**

To inform Members of recent and impending changes to Recycling Centre services.

Information and Advice

1. Members will recall 2014/15 and 2015/16 budget proposals which included various changes at the council's network of Recycling Centres. The approved proposals included the implementation of a new recycling centre access scheme for all County residents to protect against cross border use, and a charging structure for disposing of non-household inert materials delivered to site in vans, pick-ups and trailers.

Recycling Centre Access Scheme

2. It was determined that a new Recycling Centre Access scheme was required as there is significant cross border usage of Nottinghamshire's Recycling Centre sites by residents of other local authorities with research indicating that on average, 15% of the users of the sites were from out of county.
3. This is particularly true of Nottingham City due to the proximity of several of Nottinghamshire's sites to their borders. 2014/15 figures showed that the waste per household deposited at Nottinghamshire Recycling Centres was 235kg, compared to 52kg per household at the site in Nottingham City.
4. These factors combine to result in a net import of waste into Nottinghamshire which is estimated to be costing the taxpayer over £1m per annum in unnecessary waste disposal costs.
5. The new Recycling Centre Access scheme went live on 21 March 2016 and allows Nottinghamshire residents to register on the County Council's new Self Portal, and assign their vehicles for use at the County's Recycling Centres. The

system is quick, free and easy with registration done either online or via the Customer Service Centre (CSC).

6. This new system supersedes the existing van, trailer and pick-up permit scheme and individuals with these existing permits will still need to register their vehicles through the new system, though existing permits will continue to be accepted until the new system is fully implemented. Individuals can register up to 2 vehicles, although only one of these may be a van or pick up type vehicle.
7. Registration is only available to Nottinghamshire residents and is done by running a check against a credit agency to return a confidence rating as to whether that individual lives at the address they are registering with. This check is not a credit check and has no bearing on the individual's credit rating, nor will the details be passed on to any other organisations. Individuals who fail the authentication check but who are Nottinghamshire residents (i.e. who have recently moved into a new home but have currently no 'footprint' at that address) can still use the sites by taking some sort of identification confirming Nottinghamshire residency with them until they are fully registered.
8. Whilst it is believed that the majority of out of county users will accept the policy and therefore use Recycling Centres within their own local authority area close monitoring of the levels of fly-tipping will be undertaken in partnership with Veolia and the Waste Collection Authorities (WCA).
9. The system therefore restricts registrations to individuals within Nottinghamshire (excluding Nottingham City) and is expected to make savings in disposal costs with a net benefit of £200,000 per annum.
10. Appendix 1 shows a step-by-step process for registering vehicles on the Council's new Self Portal.
11. A Communications Plan around the new scheme is being implemented with materials available on the Recycling Centres for distribution to individuals, posters on site and at county, district and parish buildings, lamppost banners throughout the County along with a variety of press articles and promotion through social media. The website hosts Frequently Asked Questions covering the common questions and concerns, this has also been circulated to the CSC and to the Recycling Centre sites.
12. Enforcement of the scheme will come fully into effect from September 2016 in order to allow individuals plenty of time to register although vans, trailers and pick up type vehicles without an existing paper permit will be checked and given information on how to register if they haven't already. Prior to the enforcement a further communications push will be undertaken to drive home the message.

Checking of vehicles will be undertaken by site staff and the County Council's Environmental Compliance Officers using handheld devices.

13. Similar schemes that restrict access to residents within the local authority have been implemented in several other local authority areas including Bradford, Rutland and Bath. These have proved very successful and have made significant savings through disposal costs.

Charging for inert materials and plasterboard delivered in Vans, Trailers and Pick-ups

14. The 2015/16 budget approved the implementation of a charging structure for the disposal of construction and demolition waste (including hard-core, bricks, soils, tiles and ceramics) as well as plasterboard (gypsum) delivered to the Recycling Centre network in vans, trailers and pick up type vehicles. This is due to be operational from 1 July 2016.
15. Waste of this type is not Household Waste and therefore a charge can be levied for the disposal of these materials.
16. Members will recall that a subsequent proposal to introduce charges for these materials when delivered in a car was recently rejected by the County Council following a public consultation.
17. Under the charging scheme vans trailers and pick-ups will be restricted to disposing of inert materials and plasterboard at certain times and at specific sites. Bookings will have to be made through the Council's Self Portal at least 24 hours in advance. Bookings can be made from 1 June onwards for dates commencing 1 July 2016. Bookings for vans, trailers and pick-ups will be restricted to 5 sites (Bilsthorpe, Calverton, Giltbrook, Hucknall and Worksop) on the following days and times;
 - Tuesday to Friday only.
 - 08:30 – 10:00 and 14:00 – 15:00 plus 18:00 – 19:00 (during summer hours)
 - No bookings at weekends, on Mondays or on public or bank holidays.
18. The above restrictions will allow sites to manage appointments and avoid busy periods such as weekends and bank holidays. Residents will be able to make a booking up to 16:30 the day before the appointment in order to give Veolia and site staff advance notice of bookings.

19. The charging structure is based on vehicle type and size as follows;

- Transit type LWB Van - £60 + VAT
- Transit type SWB Van or Pick-up - £45 + VAT
- Single axle trailer towed by a car - £35 + VAT
- Twin/Double axle trailer towed by a car - £45 + VAT

20. Residents delivering inert waste and plasterboard in a car will be able to continue using any of the 12 Recycling Centres without incurring a charge or booking a time slot.

21. It is expected that these measures will save the County Council around £150,000 a year through charges and elimination of trade waste on the sites. Other local authorities have already introduced a charge for inert materials including North Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cornwall and West London.

22. Concerns have been expressed that these charges will lead to an increase in fly tipping. Whilst it is believed any increase in fly tipping will be minimal the County Council will be working closely with Veolia and the WCA's to monitor this and prosecute individuals found to be doing this.

Other Options Considered

23. This is an information report, these changes have been approved by Full Council during previous budget setting processes.

Reasons for Recommendations

24. To make Members aware of the recent and upcoming Recycling Centre changes.

Statutory and Policy Implications

25. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

26. The proposals set out in the report will result in net savings estimated at £350,000 per annum. These estimated savings will contribute to the budget proposals agreed as part of the 2014/15 and 2015/16 budget setting processes.

Legal Implications

27. None – this report is for noting only.

Implications for Service Users

28. All residents of Nottinghamshire wishing to use the Recycling Centres will now need to register their vehicles either online or via the Customer Service Centre. There is no change to the types of vehicles that residents can access the site in, nor is there any change to the policy around number of visits they can make. The registration process is free, quick and easy and should improve the service at the Recycling Centre sites by restricting access to Nottinghamshire council tax payers only.

29. Individuals bringing inert materials and plasterboard into the sites with a van, trailer or pick-up vehicle from 1 July 2016 will be restricted to certain sites at specific times and required to pre-book and pay for these materials to be disposed of. Waste of this type is not considered to be Household Waste and therefore we have no legal obligation to accept it. However, by implementing this charge and restrictions on these vehicle types the County Council can continue to offer this service and other vehicle types that are allowed access to the sites can continue to dispose of these materials without booking and at no charge.

Recommendation

30. That Committee:

- I. Note the information report in relation to the recent and impending Recycling Centre service changes.

Jas Hundal

Service Director, Environment, Transport and Property

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (31.03.2016 (EP))

This report is for noting only therefore constitutional comments are not required

Financial Comments (RWK 12/04/2016)

The financial implications are set in paragraph 26 of the report.

Background Papers

None.

Electoral Divisions

All