

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE

8 JULY 2020

Title:

Household Recycling Centre issues and proposals

Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Steve Williams, Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Head of Service: Richard Homewood, Head of Environmental & Regulatory Services

Key decision: Yes

Access: Public

1. Purpose and summary

- 1.1 To make the Executive aware of the issues being experienced with the Waverley Borough Council Household Recycling Centres due to misuse and fly-tipping, propose a way forward to deal with these issues and inform the Executive of feedback from the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee which considered the report at its meeting on 25 June 2020.

2. Recommendation

It is recommended that:

1. The containers for co-mingled recycling at the Household Recycling Centres listed in Annexe A be removed as soon as possible to avoid any ongoing additional payments to Biffa.
2. The banks for textiles and WEEE (waste electrical and electronic equipment) be removed following the introduction of the kerbside textiles and WEEE collections from households (Autumn 2020)
3. An effective communications plan be developed to promote the additional kerbside recycling collection services and the reasons for removing these sites.

3. Reason for the recommendation

- 3.1 The household recycling centres have historically suffered widespread abuse and increasingly high levels of contamination with non-recyclable items by residents

and businesses. This has resulted in high levels of rejection at the materials recycling facilities. This has now reached a level of contamination where collections from these sites can no longer be made in conjunction with household kerbside collections and an additional vehicle and crew has to be used to service them at additional cost to the council which has not been budgeted for.

- 3.2 The introduction of kerbside collections of Textiles and small electrical appliances means that all items that can legitimately be deposited at these sites will be collected at the kerbside from households and as such there should be no need for these bring banks.

4. Background

- 4.1 Waverley Borough Council has recently mobilised a long term contract with Biffa Municipal for the supply of refuse, recycling and street cleaning services which started on 2 November 2019 for a period of 8 years with the potential to extend for a further two periods of 8 years subject to satisfactory performance.
- 4.2 The Waverley Borough Council bring sites were provided historically prior to the establishment of the kerbside collection service for all recyclables, to provide a facility for residents to recycle material generated in the home and divert it from the waste stream. The current sites are listed in Annexe A.
- 4.3 Since their introduction, every household has now been provided with recycling facilities for a wide range of materials from the kerbside, and the bulk bins at the bring sites are entirely replicated by the kerbside service apart from textiles and small electrical appliances. As part of this service, residents can request as many recycling bins as required to accommodate their recycling needs from the kerbside, or present excess recycling contained beside their bins. There is therefore no genuine reason for retaining the bring sites for co-mingled recycling at the sites which is their legitimate use.
- 4.4 Waverley plan to introduce textiles and small electrical appliance collections from the kerbside from Autumn 2020. The textiles and WEEE collections are carried out by separate contractors, and can continue on an interim basis pending the implementation of these recommendations.
- 4.5 In 2017 the bring sites were fully refurbished, replacing damaged bins and replacement of lids to reduce contamination, improved signage to all of the locations at a cost of around £70,000. They are now in need of further refurbishment due vandalism and wear and tear at a similar cost.
- 4.6 The sites have been the subject of fly-tipping, misuse and criminal activity. Residents and businesses have been using the sites to dispose of household waste which is not recyclable as well as trade waste , resulting in overflowing banks and significant litter around the banks, which then gets blown across the car parks. Some examples of items we regularly find in the bins are garden waste, bathroom suites, electrical items such as hoovers, black bag waste. In addition, there are often significant amounts of waste left around the banks on the floors.

- 4.7 Businesses are required to make their own arrangements for disposing of trade waste and householders should take non-recyclable items to the Surrey County Council Community Recycling Centres.
- 4.8 The levels of misuse and the volumes of non-recyclable waste deposited at these sites has increased significantly during the Covid-19 crisis and due to the closure of the SCC Community Recycling Centres.
- 4.8 This has resulted in the issuing of an increased number of fixed penalty fines to residents and businesses but more significantly it has led to most of the loads collected from these sites being rejected by the end processor due to high levels of contamination with non-recyclable materials. On each bring site collection Biffa have to make a judgement about whether the content of the material at the sites is recyclable. Generally the waste in the bins is such poor quality that is cannot be taken for recycling and has to be disposed of as residual waste.
- 4.9 Under the new Biffa contract collections from these sites were planned to be part of the normal household recycling collection rounds. As a consequence of the high levels of contamination in the banks, this operational method is not achievable, and Biffa have been forced to introduce an additional vehicle for collections solely from bring sites, to ensure the waste does not contaminate the kerbside recycling resulting in even higher rejection rates. Whilst this introduction of an additional vehicle is a temporary solution, Biffa indicated that they could not continue to bear this cost past the end of March 2020. As a consequence since 1 April an additional payment is being made to continue the use of the additional vehicle and crew. This is costing in the region of £2,800 per week (£146,300 per year), plus additional costs to clear fly-tipped material from the floors of the sites.
- 4.10 This additional cost has not been budgeted for and at a time of severe financial constraint the continued operation of these sites is unsustainable due to their misuse by the public and businesses (dumping non-recyclable and trade waste).
- 4.11 It is therefore proposed that the bins serviced by Biffa for Dry Mixed Recycling (DMR) be removed as soon as possible to avoid ongoing additional costs. As a second phase, the banks for textiles and WEEE should be removed once the implementation of this kerbside service has been introduced. Residents will continue to have access to other sites across the borough which are not managed by Waverley Borough Council and these are listed in Annexe B.
- 4.12 Whilst the removal of the DMR bins could create space for additional parking bays and potentially extra income, there are currently discussions underway for use of these areas for cycle parking or cycle hire schemes.

5. Relationship to the Corporate Strategy and Service Plan

- 5.1 The promotion of kerbside recycling will further the aims of the corporate strategy to promote a sense of responsibility for our environment and protecting the planet and encourage reduction and re-use as well as recycling.

6. Implications of decision

6.1 Resource (Finance, procurement, staffing, IT)

- 6.1.1 The removal of the bring sites will avoid the need for a supplementary estimate to fund additional collection costs of up to £146,000 per annum and refurbishment costs (estimated in the region of £70,000) and subsequent renewals.
- 6.1.2 The introduction of kerbside collections for textiles and small electrical appliances is included in the new waste, recycling and street cleaning contract.
- 6.1.3 A limited number of Fixed Penalty Notices have historically been issued for fly tipping at the bring sites and whilst the number has increased whilst the County Council sites have been closed these are now falling back to previous levels. Whilst there could be a slight loss of income but this would be offset by reduced demand for inspection, investigation and enforcement.
- 6.1.4 whilst there is a potential to create additional parking bays in the area freed up by the bring site removal and consequently an opportunity to generate additional income, alternative proposals for the use of these areas for cycle parking are under discussion.

6.2 Risk management

- 6.2.1 Ending the use of these bring sites will reduce the risk of unbudgeted costs going forward. There is a risk that fly tipping could increase and that dumping will continue at these sites for a period. The main sites will be monitored using CCTV and regular visits will be made by Environmental Enforcement Officers and further mitigation by an effective communications strategy.

6.3 Legal

There is no legal obligation to provide these sites. Appropriate arrangements are in place for WEEE recycling in accordance with the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013 (within the Biffa contract mentioned at 6.1.2 above)

6.4 Equality, diversity and inclusion

- 6.4.1 There are no direct equality, diversity or inclusion implications in this report. Every household in the borough is provided with kerbside collection facilities which these sites replicate. Kerbside collections from households are more accessible to everyone.
- 6.4.2 Equality impact assessments are carried out when necessary across the council to ensure service delivery meets the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010.

6.5 Climate emergency declaration

The closure of these sites and expansion of the range of materials for kerbside collections will further promote recycling and reduce the need for residents to travel to bring sites thus reducing vehicle emissions and unnecessary journeys.

7. Consultation and engagement

- 7.1 The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered this report at its meeting on 24 June 2020. The Committee welcomed the report, supported the recommendations set out in the report and commended them to the Executive.

8. Other options considered

- 8.1 Extensive efforts have been made to reduce the incidence of contamination of bring sites through the media, improved signage, the use of CCTV and enforcement patrols. A number of fixed penalty notices have been served on offenders who could be identified. Fly tipping by visitors and businesses at these sites continues, however, and has worsened during the Covid-19 crisis.

9. Governance journey

- 9.1 Environment O&S Committee 24 June – report on proposals seeking views and recommendations for Executive
Executive 8 July – report and response from Env O&S -

Annexes:

Annexe A – Current WBC Household Recycling Centres
Annexe B – Recycling Sites managed by other operators

Background Papers

There are no Background Papers as defined by Section 100D (5) of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Agreed and signed off by:
Legal Services: GLC 9.6.20
Head of Finance: date
Strategic Director: date
Portfolio Holder: date

Current WBC Household Recycling Centres

	Sites	Managed By
Cranleigh	Stocklund Square Car Park	Waverley Borough Council
	Village Way Car Park	Waverley Borough Council
Farnham	Central Car Park	Waverley Borough Council
	Upper Hart Car Park	Waverley Borough Council
	Waggon Yard Car Park	Waverley Borough Council
Godalming	Crown Court Car Park	Waverley Borough Council
Haslemere	Weyhill Car Park, Haslemere	Waverley Borough Council
Hindhead	Beacon Hill Car Park, Hindhead	Waverley Borough Council

Recycling Sites managed by other operators

	Sites	Managed By
Cranleigh	Cranleigh Community Recycling Centre	Surrey County Council
Farnham	Sainsbury's, Water Lane	J Sainsbury plc
	Bourne Mill Community Recycling Centre	Surrey County Council
Godalming	Sainsbury's, Woolsack Way	J Sainsbury plc
Witley/Milford	Witley Community Recycling Centre	Surrey County Council