

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member and Advisers for Waste and Emergency Planning
2.	Date:	Monday 7th April 2014
3.	Title:	Review of Provision of Household Waste Recycling Centres
4.	Directorate:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

This report nominates days for the closure of Household Waste Recycling Centres in accordance with Minute No. 185 of Cabinet on the 5th February 2014. The new working arrangements are proposed to commence from 1st June 2014.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Waste and Emergency Planning approves the following Household Waste Recycling Centre closures:

- 1. Magilla, Common Lane, North Anston on Tuesday each week.**
 - 2. Car Hill, Rotherham on Wednesday each week.**
 - 3. Warren Vale, Rawmarsh on Thursday each week**
 - 4. Lidget Lane, Ravenfield on Friday each week.**
 - 5. That the revised arrangement apply with effect from 1st June 2014.**
 - 6. That a further report be presented after 6 months of operation to determine if budget savings can be achieved.**
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7. Proposals and Details

Further to the decision of Cabinet, 5th February 2014, Minute No185 this report reviews the current provision of the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) in Rotherham and recommends reducing the days of operation to achieve the budgetary savings required for Financial Year 2014/15

The Council as a Waste Disposal Authority has a statutory obligation under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 for “places to be provided at which persons resident in its area may deposit their household waste and for the disposal of waste so deposited”. It is up to the Council to decide how it fulfils this duty in respect of how many Centres are provided, where they are situated and their opening days and hours

The management of Rotherham’s HWRCs is arranged through a joint BDR (Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham) contract with FCC Environment Limited. The contract with FCC Environment Limited sets out their duties in relation to the Council’s network of HWRCs. In order to change any contractual obligation, a variation to contract needs to be agreed with the service provider

In previous Financial Years the required budgetary savings have been achieved by cutting back on the daily opening times. It is now considered that normal opening times stand at a minimal level. Further narrowing of the daily opening times would leave insufficient hours in the day for it to be worthwhile opening a Centre. Closing selected Centres on specific days would best address the key issue of achieving the required budgetary saving whilst avoiding the need to close any HWRC permanently.

In order to achieve the required level of savings we need to close the equivalent of one Centre for four days per week. In accordance with Cabinet’s recommendation and to avoid disadvantaging one area of the borough unfairly, we intend to close each of our Centres for one day a week. In determining which Centre to close on which day we have consulted with the service provider, FCC Environment Limited, to receive their agreement and benefit from their operational experience.

It is proposed that with effect from 1st June 2014:

- **Magilla is closed every Tuesday**
- **Car Hill is closed every Wednesday**
- **Warren Vale is closed every Thursday**
- **Lidget Lane is closed every Friday**

8. Finance

The estimated saving from this proposal is £26,000 per annum (at current levels). In Financial Year 2014/15 FCC will submit a “one-off” claim for compensation for having to make payments to their staff in lieu of giving the full notice period required to vary their contracts of employment. The need to make compulsory redundancies will be avoided if we proceed with this arrangement agreed with FCC.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

There is a small risk that incidents of fly tipping may increase. It is considered this situation will not be exacerbated by the limited closure of our Centres as alternative HWRC provision will remain for Rotherham householders to use and it is thought the majority of the general public will not resort to illegal behaviour. This view is supported by the fact that no significant change in the volume of fly-tipping was recorded when individual HWRCs have been closed for site improvements.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The provision of HWRC's contribute towards achieving the Corporate Priority "All areas of Rotherham are safe, clean and well maintained".

Reducing the days of operation should have no impact upon equalities and diversity. The days of operation will be proportionately reduced across the whole service. The HWRC network will be left intact and able to continue to provide a high quality service to residents with no particular group or area adversely affected.

The impact on the Council's recycling rate should be minimal as there are other opportunities for householders to recycle their waste; this includes kerbside collections and the bring bank network.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Cabinet 5th February 2014 – Minute No. 185

Cabinet Member for Waste and Emergency Planning 3rd February 2014 – Minute No. 42

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