

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

DECISION TAKEN BY

**Mr Bryan Sweetland, Cabinet Member for Environment
Highways and Waste**

DECISION NO.

11/01815

Unrestricted

Subject: Review of Household Waste Recycling Centres and Future Service Delivery

(1) At its meeting on 19 March 2012 the Cabinet considered a report setting out the findings of a review of the Household Waste Recycling Centres.

(2) One of the proposals of the Cabinet report was to close the Household Waste Recycling Centre at Richborough but a petition was received opposing this and therefore the Cabinet at its meeting on 19 March resolved as follows:

(i) That all the recommendations set out on pages 329 to 331 of the Cabinet report be endorsed

(ii) It be noted that the petition received in respect of the proposals related to the Richborough Waste site will be debated at the meeting of the County Council on Thursday 29 March 2012.

(iii) As a consequence all the final decisions related to this matter are delegated to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste so that he can take these in the light of the Richborough Household Waste Recycling Centre debate at the County Council meeting on 29 March 2012.

(3) The proposal to close the Richborough Household Waste Recycling Centre was debated by the County Council at its meeting on 29 March 2012 and whilst the Council sympathised with the views expressed by the petitioners, no

reasons were presented to fundamentally change the Cabinet Report's recommendation. Indeed, the debate helped to reinforce the view that both the Richborough and Hawkinge waste sites should be closed as soon as financially, contractually and/or operationally viable.

(4) I have therefore decided, in accordance with the Cabinet report and the decision reached by the Cabinet at its meeting on 19 March, as follows:

The following operational policy changes are made at the household waste recycling centres.

- a) Tyres, asbestos and gas bottles are to be accepted by KCC's network of waste transfer stations only, and the quantity limited as follows.

Tyres:	Limit car tyres to a maximum of two, per visit.
Asbestos:	Limited to one sack or equivalent, per visit.
Gas bottles:	Limited to one "refillable" gas bottle, per visit.

A standard charge of £5 per unit (i.e. up to 2 tyres or one bag of asbestos or one gas bottle) is proposed, to be increased in line with future increases in disposal costs and administration.

- b) The amount of construction waste to be brought into a HWRC by any single vehicle, or combined vehicle and trailer, is to be set at a maximum of one car boot load of construction waste. This would be equivalent to 3 bags, of up to 30kg weight per bag, this being a bag weight that the average person can lift. The waste is to comprise spoil, hardcore, soil, rubble, or equivalent. For larger items such as baths, the material would not need to be bagged, but should not exceed approx. 90kg in total or one average car boot load per visit.
- c) All commercial vehicles including pick-up trucks, vans, agricultural vehicles including horse boxes are to be excluded from HWRCs.

An exception scheme for householders with disabilities using over-height vehicles is to be introduced.

A permit scheme for the small number of householders who do not own any other vehicle, other than an excluded vehicle, and those with large private vehicles is provided. All other conditions, such as the limit on construction waste, will continue to apply. Permits will provide access to the sites on up to 12 occasions per calendar year. Any additional applications for permits in one year from the same household will be subject to investigation to ensure the exclusion of trade waste.

- d) Access to HWRCs for trailers is limited to those of up to 1.0m³ capacity. The total combined quantity of construction waste is to be limited as set out above. (The quantity is not to be doubled for a combined vehicle and trailer.)
- e) Support the development of additional commercial capacity where there is evidence of under-provision of waste disposal for businesses. Carry out a feasibility study on the opportunities at Kent County Council waste sites to promote cost-effective waste disposal capacity for businesses in order to ensure there are alternatives to fly-tipping.
- f) Provide close monitoring of fly-tipping across Kent to identify any hot-spots arising from the implementation of operational policy or network changes. Ensure prompt action and support to investigate offences and arrange for the removal of waste by working with the waste collection authorities. Launch a new media campaign based on zero-tolerance of fly-tipping and promoting responsible waste disposal.
- g) A comprehensive communications plan and information programme to be provided to support implementation of the operational changes.
- h) The existing permit scheme at Dartford Heath HWRC for Kent only residents is retained. A similar trial permit scheme is considered in 2013/14, at Swanley HWRC.

It is further recommended that the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Environment to implement the decision in respect of policy changes through a phased approach to ensure sufficient capacity to manage a smooth transition and to keep progress under continuous review to maximise customer service.

It is further recommended that the following changes are introduced in respect of the HWRC sites network:-

- i) Carry out a site search in respect of the North West Kent and Mid Kent areas.
- j) Close the Richborough and Hawkinge waste sites as soon as financially, contractually and/or operationally viable.
- k) Review the HWRC provision in the Swale area subject to a further member decision when the replacement site for Church Marshes TS/HWRC is established.

Any Interest Declared when the Decision was Taken

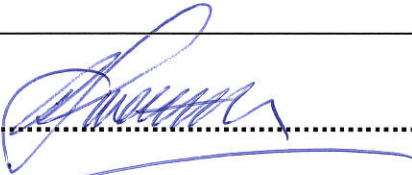
None

Reason(s) for decision, including alternatives considered and any additional information

I am taking this decision following endorsement of the recommendations of the report by Cabinet, a petition to County Council and the associated debate, and consideration of the public consultation responses and equalities impact assessment. The alternative options considered include not to make any changes to the operational arrangements at the household waste recycling centres and not to make any changes to the network infrastructure. Regard has been given to the budget provision and the medium term financial plan as well as the current capital programme which includes £18m of capital investment.

Background Documents:

Review of Household Waste Recycling Centres and Future Service Delivery - Cabinet Report (19 March 2012)
Public Consultation Report – Household Waste Recycling Centres (February 2012)
Equalities Impact Assessments (May 2011 – February 2012)



signed

03.04.2012

date