

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Simon Jones, Corporate Director, Growth Environment and Transport

DECISION NO:

OD/25/00011

For publication

Subject matter: Vehicle Restriction Policy at the Household Waste Recycling Centres – specifically in relation to pick-up vehicles.

Cabinet Member or Council/Cabinet decision to which this action relates: number and weblink

Key Decision: Review of the Household Waste Recycling Centres' Policy and Network (11/01815)

[Issue details - Review of the Household Waste Recycling Centres' policy and network - 11/01815 \(kent.gov.uk\)](#)

Decision:

As Corporate Director for Growth, Environment and Transport, I agree:

For the Resource Management and Circular Economy (RMCE) service to make a small amend to the existing vehicle restriction policy at the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) (Decision Number 11/01815), to remove the restriction on domestically used pick-up type vehicles. This will allow customers with a pick-up vehicle to have access to the HWRCs, with their own domestic waste, without the requirement of a vehicle voucher.

Background:

In 2012, as part of a suite of policy changes implemented across the network of HWRCs, a vehicle restriction policy was introduced with the aim to limit the amount of trade waste being brought to the HWRCs illegally.

The policy excludes all commercial type vehicles including pick-ups, vans, and agricultural vehicles from the HWRCs. An exception scheme is in place for over-height vehicles (i.e. those higher than the 2m height barrier) used by customers with a disability. A voucher scheme was also introduced and has been in place since for households who do not own any other vehicle, except an excluded vehicle. Eligible households are provided 12 vouchers per year to be used across the network of HWRCs.

Since the policy was introduced, there has been a significant change in the ownership of commercial type vehicles, especially pick-ups with rear seats, where these are now being increasingly used as domestic vehicles.

Furthermore, the HWRC booking system, introduced in 2020, allows us to manage use of the HWRCs much better, which, together with a more robust trade waste enforcement process, allows us to be more aware of those bringing in trade waste to the HWRCs illegally. Working with our HWRC site operatives, we are therefore able to investigate potential incidences of trade waste being brought to the HWRCs for disposal, regardless of what vehicle is being used.

A slight operational amendment was already agreed by the Head of Service (in role at the time) to allow vouchers for pick-ups even if they have another suitable (unrestricted vehicle) in their household i.e. not required to be the sole vehicle.

With this change already being implemented, along with the reasons detailed above, the Decision recommendation is to make pick-ups exempt from requiring vehicle vouchers when entering the HWRC. Monitoring of trade waste will still be in place by the Enforcement Team. This further amendment will be viewed positively by many customers.

Furthermore, there is a potential annual saving of approximately £6,500, consequent of no longer being required to print and post vouchers to households with pick-ups that wish to use the HWRCs, as well as a reduction in workload, due to fewer applications being required to be processed.

It should be noted that a review of the entire vehicle restriction policy and process has been undertaken, with a further recommendation to digitise the process and integrate with the booking system. As a result, the print and postage saving will be even greater. The RMCE service will also formalise and digitise the gesture of goodwill process, which sees one-off / a small number of vouchers to be issued for exceptional circumstance e.g. hire vehicles, restricted vehicles for single bulky items / deceased relative house clearance, homeless individuals.

Financial Implications:

There is a potential annual saving of approximately £6,500, consequent of no longer being required to print and post vouchers to households with pick-ups that wish to use the HWRCs. Savings will be greater once the whole process is digitised too. There will be no costs associated with this small policy amendment.

Legal implications:

KCC is the statutory Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) for the county. There has been a duty on the WDA to provide HWRCs since the Civic Amenity Act 1967. The duty is now embodied within section 51 of the Environmental Protection act 1990. The Act states that a WDA should provide places at which residents in its area may deposit their household waste, and that this should be free of charge.

As such, KCC deems certain vehicle types as 'commercial type' vehicles, meaning the restrictions are permitted.

Equality Implications:

There are no negative changes as a result of this small change to policy. An EqlA will be required prior to digitising the process.

Comments received from members consulted:

The small change may be mentioned as part of the Cabinet Member / Director update, or an update paper at an ETCC meeting.

Any alternatives considered and rejected: None.

Any conflict of interest declared by any executive member consulted by the decision maker and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer: None.



11/02/2025

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signed

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date

