

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

**CABINET
4th October 2016**

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor John Powell
Portfolio Holder for Waste and Recycling

SUBJECT: Household Waste Recycling Centre Review –
Consultation on Future Options

REPORT FOR: Decision

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The Council currently provides five Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) for residents to deposit bulky waste and recycling. The statutory requirement is to provide at least one facility.
- 1.2 A proposal put forward in the Medium Term Financial Strategy, agreed in principle by Council in February 2015, is to close two of the five sites to realise a saving of £700,000 from April 2017.
- 1.3 A number of options are now being considered as part of this HWRC review which include reducing opening days and materials accepted at all sites as well as a reduction in the number of facilities.
- 1.4 So that Cabinet can make an informed decision on the future of these sites, it is proposed that a consultation process is carried out to determine opinion on the available options and also evaluate the impact of the implementation of these options.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Under Section 51(1)(b) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Council has a statutory obligation to provide its residents with at least one facility where they may deposit their household waste.
- 2.2 These sites, known as Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) allow residents to deposit bulkier waste and material not collected at the kerbside for either recycling or disposal. For the financial year 2015/16, 18,755 tonnes of waste passed through these sites, which represents 27.3% of the total municipal waste. 68.6% of this was recycled, contributing 18.7 percentage points to the total recycling rate of 58.85%. The sites being operated under the new contracts are now routinely achieving in excess of 80% recycling.
- 2.3 There are currently five sites across Powys, operated under contract, with two owned by the Council (Ystradgynlais and Brecon) and three owned by the contractor (Newtown, Llandegley and Welshpool). In order to retain the service

within the then existing budget, the site at Machynlleth was closed in January 2015 with users being directed to Newtown.

- 2.4 As part of the savings proposals included in the MTFS for HTR a proposal was included to close two HWRCs in order to save £700k. The MTFS was agreed in principle by Council on 11th February 2015 with the caveat that this proposal would need to be worked up in greater detail before being considered for approval by Cabinet.
- 2.5 As part of the HWRC review, both short and long term options have been considered. As the service is currently operated under contract, negotiations are underway with the contractor to explore options for savings. The longer term options include potentially operating the service in house or as part of any future commissioned operating vehicle. The Council is currently securing its own facilities in Llandrindod and the north of the county.
- 2.6 There has been considerable opposition to the potential closing of sites, which does highlight the popularity and importance of the service. Whilst alternative options are available if a site is closed it is recognised that it is an inconvenience to site users.

3.0 Proposal

- 3.1 To carry out a full consultation on the following options:
- 3.2 **Option 1** – Reduce opening days at all sites to three per week to include Saturday, Sunday and one weekday – potential savings of up to £140k (£28k per site).
- 3.3 **Option 2** – Close one HWRC, either one in Montgomeryshire or one in Brecknockshire – potential savings of up to £350k.
- 3.4 **Option 3** – Close one HWRCs and reduce opening days at the remaining sites – potential saving of up to £462k.
- 3.5 **Option 4** – Close two HWRCs to leave one in each shire – potential savings of up to £700k.
- 3.6 **Option 5** – Close two HWRCs and reduce opening days at the remaining sites – potential saving of up to £784k.
- 3.7 There is also the potential to charge for some wastes that are not classed as household, such as soil and rubble, plasterboard, and other DIY waste. This could potentially save up to £50,000 if introduced at all sites.

4.0 One Powys Plan

- 4.1 One of the key priorities of the One Powys Plan is remodelling council services to respond to reduced funding.

5.0 Options Considered/Available

- 5.1 All options would be considered following the consultation process.

5.2 It should be noted that the only options that will deliver the financial requirements of the MTFS will require the reduction of sites to one in each shire. All potential savings identified are indicative and additional work is being undertaken to provide definitive figures. If an option is progressed that does not in itself deliver the MTFS requirements of £700k from April 2017, then savings will need to be identified elsewhere.

6.0 Preferred Choice and Reasons

6.1 To consult on the options under 3.0 above.

7.0 Sustainability and Environmental Issues/Equalities/Crime and Disorder,/Welsh Language/Other Policies etc

7.1 The consultation itself will not impact on sustainability and environmental issues.

7.2 An Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out where major changes to the service are proposed.

7.3 The proposal does not impact on Crime and Disorder, Welsh Language and other policies.

8.0 Children and Young People's Impact Statement – Safeguarding and Wellbeing

8.1 The proposal does not impact on securing the safety and protection of children and young people and supporting the promotion of their wellbeing.

9.0 Local Members

9.1 All Members will be affected by the proposal as it will be a countywide revision to the service.

10.0 Other Front Line Services

10.1 The consultation will not impact on other front line services and will be carried out in house by the Communications Team.

11.0 Support Services (Legal, Finance, HR, ICT, BPU)

11.1 Finance – the Finance Business Partner Place notes the contents of the report. There is a saving for closure of 2 HWRC's built into the MTFS of £700k, if the full saving isn't achieved via this means then it will have to be proposed by the service as to how the remainder of the saving can be achieved.

Finance are working closely with the service to fully cost the proposed options.

11.2 Legal – comments have been sought.

11.3 Comments from HR, ICT and BPU are not required.

12.0 Local Service Board/Partnerships/Stakeholders, etc

12.1 There is no direct impact on the Council's partners and stakeholders.

13.0 Communications

13.1 The consultation will be extensively communicated through the press, website and social media giving all residents an equal opportunity to respond.

13.2 The view of the Senior Communications Manager is "This issue is of significant public interest and Cabinet's decision should be publicised widely by press release and through all the council's social media channels."

14.0 Statutory Officers

14.1 Comments have been sought from the Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer).

14.2 The Strategic Director Resources (S151 Officer) notes that attention is drawn to paragraphs 2.4 and 5.2 as well as the comments made by Finance.

If savings cannot be delivered by a selected option the directorate will be required to bring forward additional savings to ensure the MTFS is balanced.

15.0 Members Interests

15.1 The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
To carry out a full consultation exercise on the options for HWRCs as outlined in 3.0 above	To inform the decision making process for HWRC options from April 2017

Relevant Policy (ies):	Powys Change Plan		
Within Policy:	Yes	Within Budget:	Yes

Relevant Local Member(s):	All Members
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Nigel Brinn
Date By When Decision To Be Fully Implemented:	Consultation to be carried out in October 2016

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