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Date: *5 March 2014*

NOTIFICATION OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION

On 5 March 2014, Cllr E J Heron, the Environment Portfolio Holder, made the following decision. Any member of the Council, who is not a Portfolio Holder, who considers that this decision should be reviewed should give notice to the Monitoring Officer (Grainne O'Rourke) (in writing or by e-mail) to be received **ON OR BY WEDNESDAY 12 MARCH 2014**.

Details of the documents the Portfolio Holder considered are attached.

DECISION:

To respond to a consultation from Hampshire County Council on the future management of Household Waste Recycling Centres, in the terms set out in the report considered by the Portfolio Holder.

REASON(S):

As set out in the report considered by the Portfolio Holder.

ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED:

As set out in the report considered by the Portfolio Holder.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED:

The Portfolio Holder disclosed a non-pecuniary interest on the grounds that he is a member of Hampshire County Council, to which the response is being made. He did not consider that there were any issues under common law to prevent him from taking this decision.

For Further Information Please Contact:

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Head of Environment Services
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CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Hampshire County Council is in the initial stages of consultation on options for the future management of the 26 Household Waste Recycling Centres across Hampshire. The current contract comes to an end on 31 January 2015.
- 1.2 Members of the Council received a presentation on various options for the future management of the Household Waste Recycling Centres on 24 February 2014. The proposed response was formulated by those members that attended that presentation. The Environment Portfolio Holder was present.

2.0 PROPOSED RESPONSE

2.1 Maximising Landfill Diversion

- 2.1.1 This Council welcomes all economically and environmentally sound measures to promote the re-use of materials and their recycling, minimising the amount of residual waste that is sent to landfill.

2.2 Advertising at Household Waste Recovery Centres

- 2.2.1 The Council has no comment to make on the raising of income through adverting at the sites, provided that the activities advertised do not conflict with the core values and business activities of the various waste collection and disposal authorities.

2.3 Commercial and Industrial Waste Acceptance

- 2.3.1 This Council would welcome the introduction of measures to allow small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to dispose of waste arising from their business activities, at a reasonable cost, through Household Waste Recycling Centres. The options for such businesses to dispose of waste legitimately, at a reasonable cost, are currently very limited. It is this Council's view that the lack of such affordable and accessible options for waste disposal is one of the driving mechanisms that encourage fly-tipping, which is a significant problem in remote rural areas, with the New Forest, which is a national park, being particularly vulnerable.
- 2.3.2 The "Full System Costs" of any proposals should be taken into account. The lack of provision of cost effective waste disposal for SMEs diverts significant costs onto waste collection authorities, local businesses and landowners who have to meet the cost of disposing of fly-tipped material. There may be an overall saving achieved by allowing SMEs to dispose of waste through this route.
- 2.3.3 There would also need to be clarity on any differential in the treatment of commercial enterprises and community/charitable organisations. Any charging structures should respect the role that the third sector plays in supporting vulnerable people in the community.

2.4 Soil, Rubble, Plaster Board and Asbestos

- 2.4.1 This Council would be deeply concerned by any proposals to restrict householders' current ability to dispose of soil, rubble, plaster board and asbestos through the Household Waste Recovery Centres. While recognising that these materials do not fall within the definition of the waste which the County Council are legally obliged to accept, householders must have some legitimate route through which to dispose of waste arising from normal household maintenance and improvement. Removing the current arrangements would inevitably create further fly tipping problems, which in addition to the environmental impact would generate further additional costs for waste collection authorities, businesses and landowners. The "Full System Costs" should once again be taken into account. The introduction of a small charge could however be explored to mitigate the cost to the County Council.

2.5 Trade Waste Controls

- 2.5.1 The Council would be concerned by proposals to introduce height barriers at the entrance to Household Waste Recycling Centres if these were set at a level that prevented the entry of taller vehicles in common domestic usage, such as 4 x 4 vehicles.

2.6 Opening Hours

- 2.6.1 This Council would not support curtailing the opening hours of Waste Recovery sites during the summer months. Householders need to dispose of garden and other waste during the evening, and should they find the Centre closed, other sites in the vicinity would be vulnerable to fly-tipping, out of hours. In addition, the Recycling Centres in the New Forest District already have long traffic queues, which can impede the local road network. A reduction in hours would exacerbate this problem. The County Council could explore using differential opening hours between centres to match the hours available at each centre to local demand.

2.7. Site Rationalisation

- 2.7.2 This Council would need to see more information about the travel patterns to the Household Waste Recovery Centres in this County and across County borders before it could support any proposals to reduce the number of Centres that are available to the public. The potential for increased fly-tipping and traffic congestion around the remaining sites should also be taken into account.
- 2.7.3 The provision of Household Waste Recycling Centres should also take account of projected housing development and recognise that the cumulative effect of numerous smaller scale schemes can generate a significant number of additional households.

2.8 Voluntary/Third Sector Engagement

- 2.8.1 This Council supports all cost effective measures to divert waste away from the residual waste stream.

2.9 Additional points

- 2.9.1 The Council would welcome the improvement of the infrastructure at Household Waste Recycling Centres to ensure that they can be used by everyone, including those with disabilities.
- 2.9.2 The Council would advocate consultation on these proposals with the New Forest Consultative Panel in order to get the views of the wider Forest community.
- 2.9.3 The Council would advocate the introduction of web cams showing the traffic queue at the Household Waste Recovery Sites to allow local people to plan their visits to minimise queues.

3. FINANCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, CRIME & DISORDER AND EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

The County Council's decision on the future management of the household waste recycling centres has the capability to have implications for each of these factors, as set out in more detail above.

4. ANY OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 4.1 None

5. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED:

- 5.1 The Portfolio Holder, Cllr E J Heron, disclosed a non-pecuniary interest on the grounds that he is a Member of Hampshire County Council, to whom the response is being made. He is satisfied, however, that there are no issues under common law to prevent him from taking this decision.

6. RECOMMENDATION

That the County Council be advised of this Council's comments in respect of their consultation on the future management of Household Waste Recycling Centres, as set out above.

Portfolio Holder's endorsement: I agree the above recommendation.

SIGNED: CLLR E HERON

Cllr Edward Heron
Portfolio Holder for the Environment

DATE: 5 MARCH 2014

Date on which notice given of this Decision - 5 March 2014

Last date for call-in - 12 March 2014

For Further Information Please Contact:

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