

North Tyneside Council Report to Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure Date: 2 February 2018

Title:

Proposal to introduce a permit scheme and charges for non-household waste at North Tyneside's Household Waste Recycling Centre

Portfolio(s): Environment

Cabinet Member(s): Councillor
John Stirling

Report from Service Area: Environment, Housing and Leisure

Responsible Officer: Phil Scott, Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure
Tel: (0191) 643 7295

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

On 13 November 2017, Cabinet approved changes to how the Authority operates its Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) at Wallsend Road, North Shields. The changes related to the introduction of a permit scheme and charges for the disposal of non-household waste.

When approving these changes, Cabinet delegated specific authority to the Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, the Head of Finance and the Head of Law and Governance to introduce the permit scheme and to determine the level of charges.

This report outlines the proposed permit scheme and charging scheme for the presentation of non-household waste.

1.2 Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure:

1. Introduces the permit scheme outlined in paragraph 1.5.2 and Appendix 1 of this report; and
2. Introduces the charging scheme outlined in paragraph 1.5.3 and Appendix 2 of this report.

1.3 Forward Plan:

Twenty eight days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 20 November 2017.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to the following priorities in the 2016-19, Our North Tyneside Plan:

Our places will:-

- Be great places to live, and attract others to visit or work here
- Provide a clean, green, healthy, attractive and safe environment

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Background

The HWRC is a facility provided to receive household waste. Disposal of waste generated by tradespersons or from commercial premises at the facility is not permitted and it is a criminal offence to do so.

Over recent years, there has been an increase in the number of visitors and vehicles using the HWRC, which has led to some health and safety concerns. Suez, the Authority's waste disposal contractor, carried out vehicle monitoring during the early part of 2017, which showed that 40% of all vehicles using the site were vans (on average 200 vans per day).

Also, over the last three years, the Authority has seen a significant increase in the amount of waste being disposed of at the HWRC. For example, from April 2014 to March 2017, the overall waste disposed of at the HWRC increased by 23% (4,123 tonnes).

This increase occurred at the time when neighbouring authorities were introducing restrictions and permits at their HWRCs, which also resulted in a corresponding reduction in the number of visits and waste disposed of at their HWRCs.

On 1 July 2017, restrictions were introduced on the types of vehicle that could use the HWRC. The restrictions meant that very large vehicles were stopped from entering the HWRC. A vehicle is classed as a "very large vehicle" if it is either:-

- over 2m high;
- over 6m long;
- exceeding 3.5 tonne in weight; or has a trailer exceeding 3m in length, including the tow bar.

The introduction of the restrictions was to address concerns relating to health and safety issues, as well as to reduce the amount of trade waste being brought onto the site illegally. Following the introduction of the restrictions, there has been a significant reduction in traffic congestion and waste volumes at the site.

On 13 November 2017, Cabinet agreed to introduce additional measures to bring about further improvements, namely, the introduction of a permit scheme for specified types of vehicles intending to use the HWRC, as well as the introduction of charges for residents seeking to dispose of non-household waste. The agreed measures would bring the Authority into line with those adopted by neighbouring authorities.

1.5.2 Permits

Notwithstanding the vehicle restrictions already introduced, the Authority is aware that there are traders who continue to attempt to illegally dispose of their business waste at the HWRC. For example, vans which are smaller than the height restriction can still freely access the site with no restrictions to the number of visits made. Therefore, in order to reduce the extent of this non-compliance, it is proposed that the permit scheme outlined in **Appendix 1** be introduced during February 2018.

A list of Frequently Asked Questions has been developed and will be maintained to provide further advice to residents on the operation of the scheme.

1.5.3 Charges

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, local authorities are legally required to provide facilities for residents to dispose of their household waste free of charge. However, waste from construction or demolition works is not classed as household waste and a charge may be made.

Therefore, in order to reduce non-compliance at the HWRC, it is proposed that the charging scheme outlined in **Appendix 2** be introduced during February 2018.

1.5 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by the Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure:

Option 1

To approve the recommendations at paragraph 1.2 of this report.

Option 2

Not approve the recommendations at paragraph 1.2 of this report.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.6 Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

Restrictions relating to specified vehicles have improved health and safety at the HWRC and reduced the amount of trade waste being brought into the site.

The decision to approve the introduction of a permit scheme and charges will build upon the improvements made at the HWRC and bring the Authority in line with neighbouring authorities.

1.7 Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Permit Scheme for Use of Designated Vehicles

Appendix 2 - Charges for the Disposal of Non-Household Waste

Appendix 3 – Equality Impact Assessment

1.8 Contact officers:

Samantha Dand, Senior Manager, Local Environmental Services; Tel 0191 643 7294

Colin MacDonald, Senior Manager, Technical & Regulatory Services; Tel 0191 643 6620

Alison Campbell, Senior Business Partner; Tel 0191 643 7038

1.9 Background information:

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

- (1) Household Waste Recycling Centre, Cabinet Report 13 November 2017
<http://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/sites/default/files/meeting/agenda/cabinet%20for%2011%2012%202017.pdf>
- (2) Environmental Protection Act 1990
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents>
- (3) Controlled Waste (England & Wales) Regulations 2012
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/811/contents/made>
- (4) Household Waste Permit Application, Council website
<https://services.northtyneside.gov.uk/Waste/>
- (5) Frequently asked questions relating to the HWRC, Council website
<http://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/1123/household-waste-recycling-centre-faqs>

- (6) Using the HWRC, Council website
<http://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/82/household-waste-recycling-centretip>
- (7) Budget proposals 2017-2020 HWRC business case
http://october.northtyneside.gov.uk:7778/browse-display.shtml?p_ID=569409&p_subjectCategory=1521

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

Costs have been incurred including the development of an online permit scheme application system and setting up a debit/credit card payment terminal, which are being funded from within the existing waste disposal budget, along with the on-going maintenance costs. However the Authority is confident that the proposed schemes will reduce waste disposal costs overall and that they are essential to ensure the full delivery of the £0.200m efficiency target that was built into 2017-18 Budget.

2.2 Legal

Section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 places a duty on local authorities to provide HWRCs for residents of the Borough to dispose of their household waste free of charge. However, authorities are permitted to restrict the availability of such centres for non-household or controlled waste. Additionally, a charge can be made for the disposal of non-household waste from construction and demolition works.

As outlined in Part 1 of the report, Cabinet has delegated authority to introduce a permit scheme and the setting of charges for the deposit of for non-household waste at the HWRC to the Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure following appropriate consultation.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

The proposals have been developed following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, the Head of Finance and the Head of Law and Governance following Cabinet approval on 13 December 2017.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

Discussions have been held with other local authorities and Suez to understand their approach and lessons learned.

Communications have also been carried out in relation to the proposed changes at the HWRC in 'Our North Tyneside' Magazine.

The site operator has been informing regular users over the last few months and distributing a flyer with more information and new signage has been installed at the HWRC.

Information has also been shared via the Authority's website.

2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights matters directly arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken in relation to the proposed changes and is included within the background information to this report. Blue badge holders will be excluded from the permit scheme and the impact on those with disabilities will be closely monitored at the implementation phase and thereafter.

2.6 Risk management

Residents may feel that the restrictions are an imposition and are unnecessary bureaucracy. This will be mitigated through on-going information and communication.

Failure to introduce the proposals outlined within the report will continue to leave the HWRC site open to compliance abuse issues by traders. The health and safety of the site may be compromised and waste disposal will continue to increase.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There may be an increase in fly-tipping by traders, however this will be monitored and managed using existing enforcement resources. Other authorities that have introduced restriction schemes at their HWRCs have observed no discernible long-term impact on fly-tipping that can be directly attributed to the schemes. Where an authority anecdotally reported a modest increase in levels of fly tipping immediately after introducing changes, particularly in close proximity to the HWRC, residents became accustomed to the charges within a couple of months and fly tipping reverted to its previous low levels.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

It is anticipated that implementation of the proposals outlined in the report will further reduce the amount of waste going through the HWRC which assists with good environmental practice.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Deputy Chief Executive X
- Head(s) of Service X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s) X
- Chief Finance Officer X
- Monitoring Officer X
- Head of Corporate Strategy X

Household Waste Recycling Centre: Permit Scheme for Use of Designated Vehicles

The Permit Scheme will apply to the following vehicles that are within the permitted size limits:

- a van
- a car towing a trailer or
- any vehicle with commercial branding
- any hire vehicle

These vehicles are prohibited from depositing household waste at the Council's Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) without a permit.

For the purposes of the Permit Scheme a van is defined as a commercial-type vehicle with one or more of the following features: no rear windows

- no rear side windows and/or panels in place of rear side windows
- no rear seats
- an open back, or a back which is separate to the main cab such as a closed cab pick-up

The HWRC is a facility provided to receive household waste. Disposal of waste generated by tradespersons or from commercial premises is not permitted and is a criminal offence.

Permit Conditions

The following conditions apply to the operation of the permit scheme:

- Permits will be available to residents of North Tyneside only;
- Residents must apply online for a permit before visiting the HWRC;
- Permits are digital (paperless) and will be checked electronically by a site operative on arrival at the site;
- Permits are limited to 4 per household, per year;
- Permits are specific to a single vehicle and residential address and cannot be transferred;
- Residents may be asked for proof of residence and to confirm that the waste is from a North Tyneside domestic property; and
- The Council reserves the right to take appropriate enforcement action against anyone found to be abusing the Permit Scheme.

Charges

Permits are free.

Application for a Permit

Permits are available on line from the Council's website with provision being made for those that do not have access to the internet or require assistance.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The Council has produced a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) providing further advice on the operation of this Permit Scheme which are available on the Council's website to view.

**Household Waste Recycling Centre:
Charges for the Disposal of Non-Household Waste**

The Council has no legal obligation to accept construction or demolition (non-household) waste. North Tyneside residents may take small quantities of such waste from their own home to the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC). The Council charges for providing this service in order to help cover the costs for disposing of this waste.

What is non-household waste?

Non-household waste is primarily construction and demolition material. To dispose of this at the HWRC, this must be from a North Tyneside property and produced by the resident (but not a commercial operator).

Application of Charges

Charges apply to the following type of waste:

Plasterboard	Pipes
Paving stones	Soil, gravel and stones
Rubble and hardcore	Bricks and concrete

The Site Manager has discretion to incur a charge for related types of construction and demolition waste.

Schedule of charges

A bag of non-household waste, or equivalent	£2
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Fully loaded vehicles will be charged as follows:

Standard car or hatchback	£12
Small van/4x4/Pick-up/Estate	£20
Trailer of less than 1.5m	£20
Trailer of more than 1.5m	£40 Plus £10 per 30cm (up to a maximum of £80 for 3 m trailer)
Transit type van	£80

A member of staff will advise of the amount payable which must be made by debit or credit card at the HWRC.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The Council has produced a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) providing further advice on the operation of this charging scheme which are available on the Council's website to view.