

North Tyneside Council

Report to Cllr Sandra Graham, Cabinet Member for Environment

Date: 24th June 2022

Title: North Tyneside Council's consultation response to booking systems and DIY waste disposal costs at Household Waste Recycling Centres

Portfolio: Environment	Cabinet Member: Cllr. Sandra Graham
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Report from Service Area:

Environment

Responsible Officer:

Samantha Dand, Director of Environment

Tel: (0191) 643 7294

Wards affected:

All

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

In April 2022 the Government released a “call for evidence on booking systems at household waste recycling centres and a technical consultation on preventing charges to householders for the disposal of “DIY” waste at household waste recycling centres.”

The Authority currently operates a booking system for the use of the household waste recycling centre and charges householders for the disposal of “DIY” non-household waste.

This report seeks approval of the Cabinet Member for Environment on the Authority's response to the Government consultation.

1.2 Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Environment:

- a) Note the contents of the report
- b) Agree that the Authority should respond to the consultation; and

- c) Approve the draft response, attached, to **Appendix 1** and, in consultation with the Director of Environment, make any final amendments to the draft response before the submission of the final response to the consultation.

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 13 May 2022.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to the following priorities in the 2021 - 2025 Our North Tyneside Plan:

As Green North Tyneside:

- We will keep increasing the amount of waste that can be recycled and introduce food waste collections and deposit return schemes.
- Council environmental hit squads will crack down on littering.
- We will publish an action plan of the steps we will take and the national investment we will seek to make North Tyneside carbon net-zero by 2030.

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Background

In April 2022 the Government released a “call for evidence on booking systems at household waste recycling centres and a technical consultation on preventing charges to householders for the disposal of “DIY” waste at household waste recycling centres.”

The Government’s stated position in the consultation document is that;

- Household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) play an important role in helping people manage the waste they produce in a convenient and sustainable way.
- They play a key role in supporting kerbside collections and in boosting recycling.
- They need to be accessible to all residents – both in when they are available and by not charging fees that some may be unable to afford.
- They help ensure waste is disposed of in a responsible way, rather than being fly-tipped.

The Resources and Waste Strategy 2018 commits Government to “ensuring charging regimes are clear, and to ensuring that householders are not charged for depositing small-scale construction waste (“DIY waste”) at HWRCs.”

The consultation is split into two parts:

- Section one – charges for DIY waste for householders.
- Section two – call for evidence on booking systems at HWRCs.

Section one – charges for DIY waste for householders

The proposal is “to clarify in legislation when construction waste should be treated as DIY waste and should therefore be classified as household waste.”

The proposed criteria being consulted on is as follows:

- The construction waste is produced by householders whilst carrying out construction works themselves at their home. Construction is defined in the 2012 Regulations as including improvement, repair or alteration.

- The construction waste is not produced as a result of commercial activities or by a commercial contractor charging for work in a domestic premises.
- The construction waste is of a volume, which is no greater than 300L (based on the approximate boot size of a family car).
- The construction waste is not produced on a regular basis requiring HWRC visits more frequently than once a week.

The proposal states that the “criteria are intended to allow householders to dispose of DIY waste for free but allows local authorities to still be able to charge for other construction waste – which is called industrial waste. For example, if a householder brought more than 300L of construction waste to the HWRC on a regular basis, it would not be DIY waste and could be charged for.”

The Authority’s response is included in Appendix A – attached.

Section two – call for evidence on booking systems at HWRCs

The consultation states the Government’s concern that “booking systems are discouraging use at household waste recycling centres with a risk to both increased residual waste and fly tipping” and seeks to understand Authorities current booking arrangements (if any), future plans and any evidence available to show the impact on recycling levels.

The Authority’s response is included in Appendix A.

1.5.2 North Tyneside HWRC current operating position

In November 2017, Cabinet approved the introduction of charges for non-household waste at the HWRC.

The Authority charges for the disposal of the following non-household waste;

- Plasterboard
- Paving stones
- Rubble and hardcore (such as stone, brick, concrete, tiles)
- Pipes
- Soil, gravel, and stones
- Bricks and concrete

The following charges apply:

- £2 for a bag of loose material or a sheet of plasterboard
- £12 for a fully loaded hatchback / normal family car
- £20 for a trailer less than 1.5m in length
- £40 for a trailer over 1.5m (plus £10 for every 30cm up to the 3-metre limit)
- £80 for a transit van full of non-household waste.

The details of these charges are included on the Authority’s website.

Following the introduction of these charges the Authority recorded a reduction in non-household waste disposed of at the site. There has been a 25.9% reduction in scrap metal and a 19.7% decrease in rubble taken to the site.

The Household Waste Recycling Centre temporarily closed in March 2020 due to Covid 19 lockdown restrictions. To facilitate the re-opening of the site in a socially distanced and 'covid secure' manner, a permit scheme was introduced allowing residents to book an appointment to visit and use the site.

After a number of operational reviews, the Authority increased the number of appointments available for residents to book in order to meet high demand.

The site now allows 720 visitors per day, meaning that over 260,000 appointments are available each year. Since the introduction of the system, almost 500,000 appointments have been booked by residents and the Authority has received very positive feedback from residents on the operation of the system and the benefits it brings to using the site.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by the Cabinet Member for Environment:

Option 1

Decide that a response to the consultation be submitted and approve the proposed course of action set out at 1.2 to allow the response to be submitted.

Option 2

Decide not to submit a response to the consultation.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

The response to the consultation will enable the Authority to communicate its view to the consultation and support key changes to the waste sector.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix 1: please see the attached document.

1.9 Contact officers:

Laura Manley, Environmental Sustainability Project Officer – 07896355313
Paul Nelson, Head of Environmental Sustainability – (0191) 634 6467
David Dunford, Senior Business Partner, Strategic Finance, (0191) 643 7027

1.10 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) [Cabinet Report November 2017: Proposals to change the operational arrangements at North Tyneside's Household Waste Recycling Centre](#)

- 2) [DEFRA's consultation on booking systems and charges for DIY waste at household waste recycling centres](#)

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

Financial implications from future Government legislative changes will be reported through the Authority's financial management framework.

2.2 Legal

There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

The Local Government Act 2000 permits the Elected Mayor to determine how functions which are the responsibility of Cabinet should be discharged. The options include such functions to be discharged by Cabinet as a whole, single members of Cabinet acting alone, committees of the Cabinet, or officers.

The Authority's Constitution (Part 3.4) contains the Elected Mayor's Delegation Scheme. That Scheme lists the decisions that the Elected Mayor has delegated to individual Cabinet members and includes "approving the Authority's response to government consultation papers".

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

The Authority's response has been developed by officers from the Environmental Sustainability Team. The Cabinet Member for Environment has been consulted.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

The Authority has consulted with Suez, the Authority's waste contractor and manager of the HWRC, in shaping the consultation response.

2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights implications directly arising from the content of this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no equality and diversity implications directly arising from the content of this report.

2.6 Risk management

There are no risk management implications directly arising from the content of this report.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications directly arising from the content of this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability implications directly arising from the content of this report.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive x
- Director(s) of Service x
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s) x
- Chief Finance Officer x
- Monitoring Officer x
- Assistant Chief Executive x