

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 13 NOVEMBER 2014

HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES – OPERATING, ACCESS AND WASTE ACCEPTANCE POLICY SECOND REVIEW

Report by Deputy Director for Environment & Economy (Commercial)

Introduction

1. Oxfordshire County Council (the Council) currently provides seven Household Waste Recycling Centres across Oxfordshire. These are provided for Oxfordshire householders/residents to dispose of household waste free of charge (with the exception of certain items of DIY waste and tyres which they are charged for). The sites are not for the deposit of commercial (trade) waste produced as a result of any commercial activity.
2. The operation of these sites is currently subcontracted to three operators, Viridor, FCC Environment and Weymouth & Sherborne Recycling.
3. The Council monitors and manages the existing contracts to ensure the Household Waste Recycling Centres are operated in accordance with EU and national legislation, health and safety requirements and within the terms of the Environment Agency permit.
4. The policy may be read in conjunction with the Van and Trailer e-Permit Scheme Policy

Exempt Information

5. No exempt or confidential information is involved.

Policy Background

6. The Household Waste Recycling Centres – Operating, Access and Waste Acceptance Policy defines the site rules and policies the Council currently has in operation at the Household Waste Recycling Centres. The purpose of the document is to clarify and ensure consistency across sites with particular regard to enforcement of all site rules and policies.
7. The policy is intended to provide one point of reference for employees of the Council, contractors and members of the public/site users.

Policy Amendments

8. The policy was revised and approved by the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure in March 2011. At the same time the Waste Management Group was granted the authority to make minor alterations to the policy.

9. This review is being undertaken in order to reflect changes to operations at the Household Waste Recycling Centres; namely the establishment of an Energy Recovery Facility at Ardley and transition to a paperless Van and Trailer e-permit scheme.
10. Wording throughout the document has been changed to reflect that residual waste is now being disposed of at the Energy Recovery Facility rather than at landfill. This has resulted in changes to how residual waste is separated at the Household Waste Recycling Centres and a new policy statement has been introduced to clarify arrangements for the collection of gas bottles at Household Waste Recycling Centres. This material can cause problems at the Energy Recovery Facility and it is important to set out the policy with regards to gas bottles (see Introduction and Policy Statement 9 at Annex 1).
11. The Van and Trailer Permit scheme is moving to a paperless e-permits system known as Van and Trailer e-permit scheme. The Waste Acceptance Policy has been updated to reflect this and also to take into account minor amendments to the scheme changed as part of a periodic review. The content of the Waste Acceptance Policy mirrors that of the new Van and Trailer e-permit scheme policy to ensure that all policies are accurate and up to date (see Policy Statement 2 at Annex 1).
12. Guidance on manual handling weight limits has been updated to reflect contractors own policies (see Policy Statement 4 at Annex 1).
13. A list of common household and garden chemicals has also been added to the document to clarify the sorts of items which can be accepted and to seek to avoid confusion (see Policy Statement 7 at Annex 1).

Communications

14. Contract managers and site staff will be fully informed of the changes and provided with an updated version of the policy.
15. The updated policy will be available for customers to view or download from the council website. A hard copy will be available on request.

Financial and Staff Implications

16. It is not anticipated that the amendments to the policy will have any effect on finance or staff.

Equalities impact

17. A social and community impact assessment for the Household Waste Recycling Centres was undertaken in 2013 and the amendments to this policy do not have any impact on that assessment.

RECOMMENDATION

18. **The Cabinet Member for Environment is RECOMMENDED to:**
- (a) approve the amendments to the Household Waste Recycling Centres – Operating, Access and Waste Acceptance Policy;**
 - (b) continue to authorise the Deputy Director for Environment & Economy (Commercial) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment to make minor textual changes and amendments to the Household Waste Recycling Centre – Operating, Access and Waste Acceptance Policy from time to time for the purposes of clarification or, as the case may be, where necessary to comply with changes to applicable legislation, guidance or policy.**

MARK KEMP

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Background papers:

Van and Trailer e-Permit Scheme

Health and Safety Executive guidance and Environment Agency reports

Customer Satisfaction Survey 2013

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