

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE – 24 MARCH 2011**

### **AMENDMENT TO THE HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES – OPERATING, ACCESS AND WASTE ACCEPTANCE POLICY**

**Report by Deputy Director of Environment & Economy - Growth and  
Infrastructure**

#### **Introduction**

1. Oxfordshire currently has eight Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) in operation. The operation of these sites has been subcontracted to three operators, Viridor Waste Management Ltd, Waste Recycling Group Ltd, and Weymouth and Sherborne Recycling.
2. Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) monitor and manage the contracts in place to ensure the HWRCs are operated in accordance with EU and national legislation, health and safety requirements and within the terms of the Environment Agency Permit; ensuring a safe and accessible site for all Oxfordshire's Householders.

#### **Policy back ground**

3. The HWRC – Operating, Access and Waste Acceptance Policy, is an amalgamation of the site rules and policies OCC currently have in operation at the HWRCs. The purpose of the document is to link, clarify and ensure consistency across sites in enforcement of site rules and policies.
4. The document is one point of reference for employees of OCC, contractors and members of the public/ site users.

#### **Policy amendment**

5. The HWRC – Operating, Access and Waste Acceptance Policy was approved by the Cabinet Member nominated to make delegated decisions for Growth and Infrastructure, in October 2010.
6. There are two amendments to the policy document.
7. A change in the guidance produced by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) on the presentation of asbestos at the HWRC means that OCC have to stipulate to householders to use a 1000 gauge plastic to wrap asbestos, as opposed to the 400 gauge plastic currently advertised. See Policy Statement 6 'Asbestos' at Annex 1.

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8. The second amendment is to specify the maximum length of carpet accepted as one item under the DIY 123 for Free scheme. This ensures the site operatives have a quantifiable and enforceable length when charging for DIY waste, removing any subjectivity when deciding how much to charge. See Policy Statement 4, table 2 at Annex 1.
9. Additionally, we are proposing authority be granted to the Head of Waste Management to make minor alterations to the policy. As described in the recommendations below, this would be in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure.
10. These changes would be based on new legislation and guidance from relevant bodies such as the HSE, which OCC have an obligation to follow and implement. Minor points which clarify the schemes operated at the HWRC would also be amended.
11. Since the scheme was adopted in October 2010, there has been a need to amend the policy twice. The purpose of requesting the authority to make minor changes is to reduce bureaucracy and officer/member time involved.

### **Exempt Information**

12. No part of this report or annex, are deemed to be exempt.

### **Communications**

13. Site operatives will inform members of the public of the changes as and when necessary, so they are aware for the next visit to the HWRC.
14. The new policies will be advertised through the website and leaflets will be updated as they are reprinted.

### **Financial and Staff Implications**

15. It is not anticipated that the amendments to the policy will have any effect on the income from the DIY 123 for Free scheme.

### **Equalities impact**

16. An equalities impact assessment has been carried out for the HWRCs, and the policy and procedures reflect the outcomes.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

17. **The Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure is RECOMMENDED to:**
  - (a) **approve the amendments to the Household Waste Recycling Centres – Operating, Access and Waste Acceptance Policy; and**

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- (b) **authorise the Director of Environment & Economy, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure, to make where necessary minor textual changes and amendments to the Household Waste Recycling Centres – Operating, Access and Waste Acceptance Policy for the purposes of clarification or to comply with changes to applicable legislation, guidance or policy.**

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Background papers:

Reports for policies on:

DIY 1,2,3, for Free

Tyre Scheme charging

Van and Trailer Permit Scheme

HSE recommendation and Environment Agency reports

Customer Satisfaction Survey 2010

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