

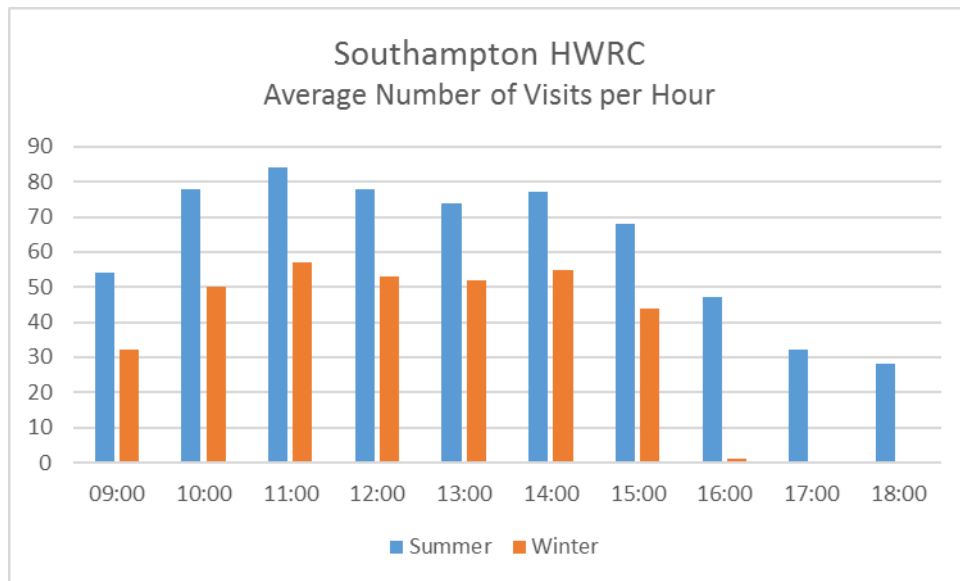
<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	<b>CABINET</b>		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE - SERVICE EFFICIENCIES</b>		
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	<b>16 AUGUST 2016</b>		
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT</b>		
<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
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<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>	
<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>	
<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>	
<p>To agree opportunities to operate the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) at City Depot and Recycling Park more efficiently, which would require changes to the current operation. Service efficiencies would contribute to an existing approved savings target for the Waste &amp; Recycling Service.</p>	
<p>Any future changes need to be consistent as far as possible across Southampton City Council, Hampshire County Council (HCC) and Portsmouth City Council (PCC) as different opening times may result in increased numbers of visitors from outside the City and a resultant increase in disposal costs.</p>	
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>	
(i)	<p>To reduce opening hours at the HWRC by two hours per day in the winter and Monday – Friday in the summer and by one hour per day on Saturday and Sunday in the summer. To close the HWRC, one day per week on a Thursday each week. Revised opening times would be 11am – 6pm, Monday – Friday and 10am – 6pm, Saturday and Sunday in the Summer and 11am – 4pm in the Winter, starting from 1 January 2017;</p>
(ii)	<p>That authority be delegated to the Service Director – Transactions and Universal Service, following consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport and the Service Director, Legal &amp; Governance, to implement all of the necessary operational and contractual changes and other actions for the recommendations to take effect.</p>

<b>REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
1.	To realise savings from the cost of running the HWRC service.
2.	To ensure there is consistency as far as is reasonably possible with regard to future service changes with Hampshire County Council and Portsmouth City Council.
<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED</b>	
3.	A range of options were consulted on during the HWRC consultation as set out in the HWRC consultation document, some of which were rejected.
<b>DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)</b>	
4.	Public consultation was undertaken in 2016 by SCC and members of the public were asked their views on how they think savings can best be made in the cost of running Southampton's HWRC. The analysis of this is covered in this report and Appendix 1.
5.	Under the Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act and Section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 Southampton City Council has a legal duty to provide residents of its area with a free household (including bulky) waste disposal route through an HWRC. The HWRC must be reasonably accessible and available at reasonable times for residents to deposit their bulky waste, including a period of time on a Saturday.
6.	Southampton has one HWRC, whilst HCC operates network of 24 HWRC sites. Portsmouth also has one HWRC. These are currently all open seven days a week, except for Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.
7.	In order to gain an understanding of residents and site users' views on how savings can best be made. Southampton City Council undertook a public consultation from 12 <sup>th</sup> April to 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2016. In total there were 935 responses to the consultation on the proposal for changes to the Household Waste & Recycling Centre. They were received as online surveys. All the questionnaire submissions that had at least one question completed were included in the analysis, to ensure every piece of feedback was considered.
8.	There were a further 75 responses from the Hampshire County Council consultation carried out between 16 <sup>th</sup> March to 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2016. All responses received within the timescales set out have been analysed, with a brief summary of key results presented in the next section. The statistical analysis is presented as Appendix 1 to this report.
9.	To help reduce the cost of running Southampton's HWRC, a number of savings proposals were developed, including either reducing the number of hours, or days, that the site is open – these were included in the public consultation online survey.
10.	The consultation was promoted in the following ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E-alerts, sent to subscribers of the Council's email marketing service. These featured hyperlinks to further information about the consultation and the questionnaire itself.</li> <li>• A link to the proposal for changes to the Household Waste Recycling Centre consultation web pages was included on the Council website 'have your say' page for the duration of the consultation along with a link to the webpage for the HCC consultation.</li> </ul>

11.	<p>SCC and HCC were interested in gathering residents' views about charging for access to the HWRC. Therefore, in addition to the proposals around the savings, respondents were also asked to answer a question regarding charging for access to the site, in order to gauge public opinion. In early 2015, Central Government prohibited by law the charging of residents to access their local HWRC. However, such an approach would be likely to generate sufficient funds so that the requirements to further reduce opening hours at sites, would be greatly reduced. Support for such a charge could be used as evidence to lobby for a change in legislation. It is noted that the HCC, Executive Member for Environment and Transport has been requested to give approval for a request to be made to central government to review the legislation that currently prohibits the charging of residents to access the HWRCs, and to enable a charge to be made by Waste Disposal Authorities if they choose to do so.</p>
12.	<p>Data has been analysed regarding the usage of the site, which informs the Council of the busiest and quietest times.</p>
13.	<p>Respondents were asked to rank a number of options related to the various savings proposals; they were allowed to select "Least Preferred" for multiple options on any questions that asked them to rank options, and also were not obliged to rank all options. In addition, 'free-text' boxes were provided at a number of points within the consultation to allow respondents to put forward comments and views on the proposals, as well as any additional information they wished to submit for consideration. A summary of the results is contained in Appendix 1.</p>
14.	<p>A demographic breakdown of respondents to the consultation can be found in Appendix 2.</p>
15.	<p>The majority of respondents (61%) most preferred the option of reducing opening hours with a number of respondents offering alternative proposals and cited time changes in their feedback.</p>
16.	<p>Data collected from the Southampton HWRC (see Figure 1 below) showing average visits per hour in summer and winter shows that early morning and late afternoon are less busy than the middle part of the day.</p>

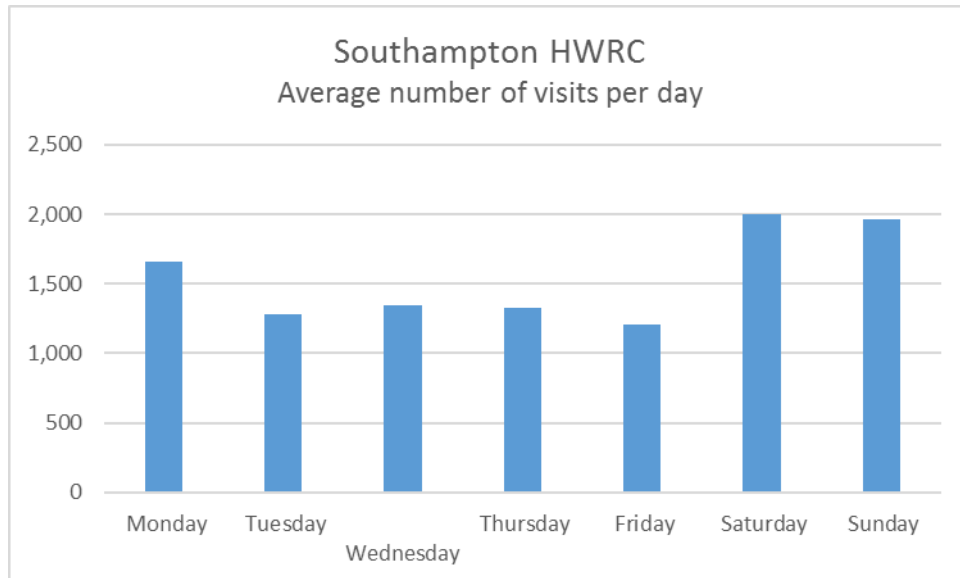
**Figure 1**



17.

A number of respondents also commented about the option of closing Southampton HWRC for a period of time. 58% of respondents preferred later opening times with later closing times. Data collected from the Southampton HWRC (see Figure 2 below) showing average number of visits per hour shows that Tuesday to Friday are the least busy days of the week with Monday, Saturday and Sunday the busiest days.

**Figure 2**



18.

Regarding the option of charging for using the HWRC, 71% of Southampton respondents did not support this change.

19.

It is proposed that the HWRC at City Depot & Recycling Park reduces its opening hours by 2 hours per day in the winter, by 2 hours per day Monday – Friday in the summer and by one hour per day Saturday and Sunday in the summer. To also close one day per week on a Thursday each week, which will produce savings of approximately £51,300 per annum. The table below sets out opening times for the winter/summer:

	<b>Day</b>	<b>Current winter hours</b>	<b>Proposed winter hours</b>	<b>Current summer hours</b>	<b>Proposed summer hours</b>
	Monday	9 – 4pm	11 – 4pm	9 – 6pm	11 – 6pm
	Tuesday	9 – 4pm	11 – 4pm	9 – 6pm	11 – 6pm
	Wednesday	9 – 4pm	11 – 4pm	9 – 6pm	11 – 6pm
	Thursday	9 – 4pm	Close	9 – 6pm	Close
	Friday	9 – 4pm	11 – 4pm	9 – 6pm	11 – 6pm
	Saturday	9 – 4pm	11 – 4pm	9 – 6pm	10 – 6pm
	Sunday	9 – 4pm	11 – 4pm	9 – 6pm	10 – 6pm
	It is intended to monitor the impact of the above changes.				
20.	Implementation of the recommended option to reduce opening hours and close the HWRC one day a week, will require adequate time for communication, but should be delivered as soon as practically possible. This would commence 1 January 2017.				
21.	Fly-tipping was raised as a concern as part of the consultation. Incidents will be monitored.				
22.	It is noted that Hampshire County Council (HCC) are recommending, that a system of cross-border charging is introduced of £2 per visit for non-Hampshire residents to commence from 1 September 2017. (It has been confirmed by HCC that there are no plans to change the existing arrangements between HCC/PCC/SCC, which allows residents to use any site in Southampton, Hampshire and Portsmouth without a charge).				
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>					
<b><u>Capital/Revenue</u></b>					
22.	There are no capital/revenue costs incurred by the Council as part of implementing the recommended option to reduce opening hours and close the HWRC one day a week. There are no set up costs in delivering the proposal. At this stage it is not anticipated that disposal costs themselves will be reduced. However, the proposal that the HWRC at City Depot & Recycling Park reduces its opening hours, as set out in recommendation (i), is estimated to reduce contract payments by £51,300 per annum. This change in Service will contribute to an existing approved savings target for the Waste & Recycling Service.				
<b><u>Property/Other</u></b>					
23.	No property implications are identified.				
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>					
<b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b>					
24.	There are no legal implications to current proposals. If charging for the use of Southampton HWRC is introduced in the future, legislation changes may need to be passed by central government.				
<b><u>Other Legal Implications:</u></b>					
25.	Fly-tipping is an existing issue and this will be monitored.				

**POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS**

26.	The proposals support the Council's policy framework.
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<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
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<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	<b>All wards</b>
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**Appendices**

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| 1. | Consultation results<br>A full list of comments received as part of the consultation are available on request. |
| 2. | HWRC Consultation Respondents Demographic Breakdown  |
| 3. | Equality and Safety Impact Assessment  |

**Documents In Members' Rooms**

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|----|-------|
| 1. | None. |
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**Equality Impact Assessment**

<b>Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.</b>	<b>Yes</b>
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**Privacy Impact Assessment**

<b>Do the implications/subject of the report require a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) to be carried out.</b>	<b>No</b>
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**Other Background Documents**

Other Background documents available for inspection at:

<b>Title of Background Paper(s)</b>	<b>Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)</b>
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