

COUNCILLORS BRIEFING NOTE

No. 358

Service Area: Waste Management

Further Enquiries to: Tracy Carter

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Consultation on proposed closure of Everleigh household recycling centre

1. Background

The council operates 11 household recycling centres (HRCs) across Wiltshire for the use of those people resident within Wiltshire to dispose of their household waste.

Wiltshire residents can take more than 40 individual materials to the HRC for recycling or disposal. Between October 2016 and September 2017 the HRC network received over 1.4 million visits.

The council has a statutory duty to provide places at which residents may deposit their household waste free of charge and, along with the council's service providers, must ensure that those sites are compliant with all necessary consents.

Two contractors manage and operate Wiltshire's 11 household recycling centres on the council's behalf. FCC Environment operates the nine council-owned sites, with Hills Waste Solutions operating the remaining two household recycling centres on sites which they own. These contracts are due to end in 2026.

2. Budget

Wiltshire Council needs to save £26 million during the current financial year due to changing demographics, increased demand on key services and significantly reduced government funding. In respect of waste services, the council plans to implement charges at the HRCs for non-household waste, such as tyres and construction waste. In addition, from April 2018 residents have been asked to provide proof of address to use a Wiltshire Council HRC in order to ensure that access to sites is protected for those people resident in Wiltshire as these sites are funded by Wiltshire Council tax payers.

The waste team continually needs to consider options for making savings from the revenue budget in order to ensure that the service spend is maintained within the allocated budget.

The council is proposing to close Everleigh household recycling centre, which would result in revenue budget savings of £100,000 per annum and avoid additional costs incurred by keeping the facility open.

These extra costs include:

- £43,000 of additional revenue costs per annum to fund the provision of extra equipment in order for the site to offer the same recycling opportunities provided at other sites in Wiltshire
- Capital investment costs of £100,000 required to make the necessary infrastructure changes.

3. Issues

Site usage

The council monitors the use of household recycling centres by counting the number of vehicles which access each site. The graph below shows the number of visits to all sites in Wiltshire from October 2015 to September 2016 compared to usage in the same period for 2016/17. This consistently shows that the number of visits to Everleigh is significantly lower than to all other sites in Wiltshire, with 38,475 recorded visits from October 2016 to September 2017. By comparison, all other sites received in excess of 80,000 visits with four sites receiving in excess of 149,000 visits over the same period.

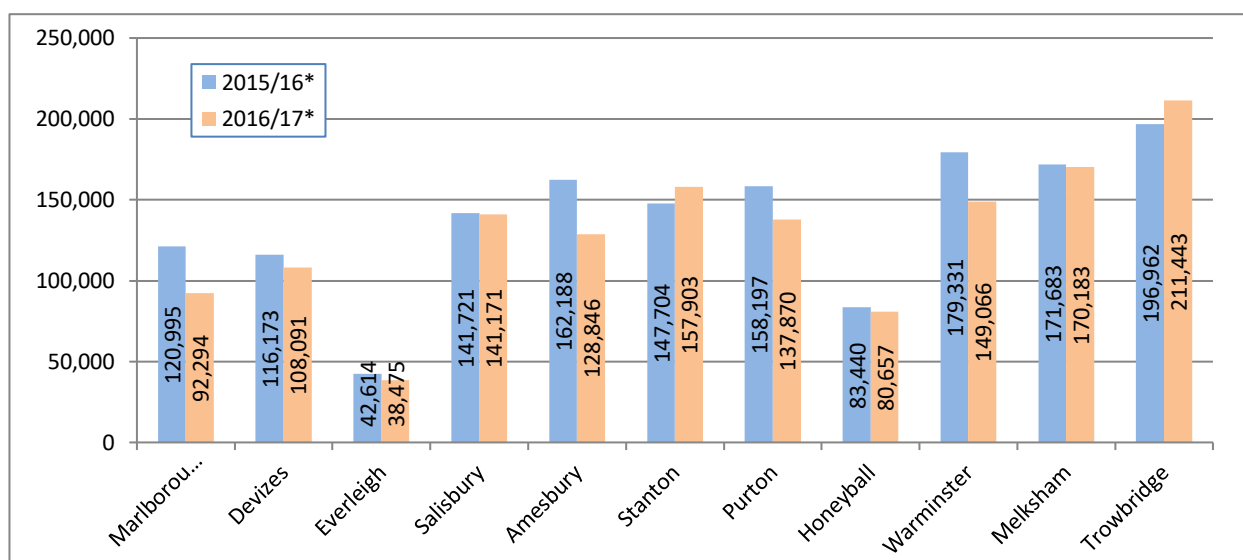


Figure 1 – Total number of visits per site from October 2015 to September 2016 compared to the totals for the same period in 2016/17

Site performance

The council monitors the total amount of waste which is collected at each site and the amount of waste diverted from landfill through reuse or recycling.

From October 2016 to September 2017, compared to all sites in Wiltshire, Everleigh received the lowest amount of waste and also diverted the least amount of waste from landfill.

HRC	Total waste (t)	Total diverted (t)	Diversion rate (%)
Trowbridge	8,106	6,716	83%
Salisbury	7,053	5,522	78%
Stanton	7,139	5,747	80%
Warminster	6,152	4,974	81%
Melksham	5,999	4,917	82%
Purton	4,794	3,851	80%
Amesbury	5,586	4,177	75%
Devizes	4,589	3,601	78%
Lower Compton, Calne	4,280	3,322	78%

Marlborough	3,437	2,830	82%
Everleigh	2,244	1,663	74%
TOTAL	59,378	47,320	80%

Total amount of waste received and diverted per site from October 2016 to September 2017

4. Consultation proposal and options considered

The council has a statutory duty to act fairly. This duty may require public consultation on proposals in certain situations. This can arise in a number of situations:

- Where there has been a promise or indication that there will be consultation on a proposal
- Where there has been consultation on similar proposals in the past
- Where the nature and impact of the proposal means that fairness requires it
- Severity of the impact of the proposal generally.

As the proposal to close Everleigh household recycling centre will affect those residents who currently use this service, the council has decided that a full consultation on future options is required.

A public consultation will therefore begin on 11 June 2018 and will run for a 12 week period. The closing date for all consultation submissions will be 3 September 2018.

The consultation will present the options that the council has considered when developing the proposal to close the Everleigh site, along with the impacts of the options considered and the associated costs. Savings and costs are subject to actual works carried out and contractual negotiations with FCC Environment.

The options considered, along with an information document, will be made available alongside a consultation questionnaire. This will help ensure that respondents are fully informed of all the issues and rationale before they submit their response.

The council will use the questionnaire to gather information from respondents about how they currently access and use the household recycling centre network in Wiltshire. In addition, the council will aim to understand the impact on residents of the closure of Everleigh HRC and what could be done to reduce any impact of the closure.

Following the consultation the results will be evaluated and considered before being presented to Cabinet for a final decision to be made.

5. Statutory duty and best practice

Wiltshire Council has a statutory duty (under section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990) to provide places where people resident in its area may deposit their household waste, free of charge.

The council currently provides a network of 11 sites, located across the county where residents are able to dispose of their household waste as well as recycle many other items, and dispose of other non-household waste items such as soil and rubble.

National best practice on household waste recycling centres has been developed by WRAP. The recommendations for minimum levels of HWRC provision are as follows:

- Maximum catchment radii of three miles in urban areas and seven miles in rural areas covering the great majority of residents
- Maximum driving times to a site for the great majority of residents of 20 minutes in urban areas and 30 minutes in rural areas; though preferably less than this by the order of 10 minutes in each case

- At least one site per 143,750 residents, with a maximum throughput for any site of 17,250 tonnes per annum
- Tonnage throughput at each site should be no more than 17,250 tonnes per annum

Compared to the best practice standards, in Wiltshire:

- The majority of residents live within a 20 minute drive of a recycling centre in urban areas and a 30 minute drive in rural areas
- The council provides one recycling centre per 43,000 residents, compared to the best practice guidance of 143,750 residents; this would increase to one site per 47,300 residents if Everleigh were to close
- The maximum annual tonnage delivered to one of Wiltshire's HRCs is recorded at Trowbridge at 8,106 tonnes. The maximum recommended in best practice guidance is 17,250 tonnes. The council projects that tonnage from Everleigh would be redistributed to HRCs at Amesbury, Devizes and Marlborough, all of which currently receive significantly less waste than Trowbridge HRC.

The council has researched the number of recycling centres per household in local authorities within the region. The table below shows that the council operates a good network of sites per household compared with neighbouring authorities. The table is based on figures from 2015/16. The number of households in Wiltshire has now grown to in excess of 217,000. This means that the ratio of households to sites within Wiltshire remains below 20,000.

	Authority	Households	No. Of sites	Ratio (h'hld : sites)
1	Somerset	245,780	16	15,361
2	Dorset	198,060	11	18,005
3	Devon	357,370	19	18,809
4	Wiltshire	211,665	11	19,242
5	Cornwall	265,570	13	20,428
6	Hampshire	573,580	26	22,061
7	Bath & North East Somerset	77,490	3	25,830
8	South Gloucestershire	112,830	4	28,208
9	Oxfordshire CC	274,670	7	39,239
10	Borough of Poole	67,500	1	67,500
11	Swindon Borough	93,210	1	93,210
12	Bristol City	192,350	2	96,175

6. More information

If you require any further information about the consultation outlined above, or if you have any questions, please contact the officers below –

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