

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Friday, 11 October 2019

Household Waste Recycling Centres - Update

Executive/routine	Routine
Wards	All wards
Council Commitments	49

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that Committee notes the contents of this report and agrees to receive an updated Household Waste Recycling Centre Access Policy within two cycles.

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Household Waste Recycling Centres Update

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report updates Committee on the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) following the revision to opening hours which took effect on 1 April 2019.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 5 March 2019 [Transport and Environment Committee](#) approved the introduction of revised operating hours at the Council's three HWRCs. The sites moved to a standard 0900 opening time and a 1700 closing time, with the exception of an 1830 closure on a Thursday.
- 3.2 It was agreed that Committee would receive a report within six months monitoring the impact of the changes and any provide data on fly tipping instances.

4. Main report

- 4.1 The revised operating hours for the HWRCs were introduced on 1 April 2019.
- 4.2 Since the changes were introduced there have been a number of site closures, all of which either related to Health and Safety or traffic volumes on site. These occasions were:
- 4.2.1 **Sighthill Recycling Centre – 27 April 2019.** The Recycling Centre was forced to close due to breakdowns to two pieces of plant machinery. These could not be repaired on the day and the site stayed open until such time as the skips reached capacity and a closure was forced.
- 4.2.2 **Seafield Recycling Centre – 9 June 2019.** The Recycling Centre closed for a period in the afternoon due to high volumes of traffic on the site and queuing traffic on Seafield Road. This incident coincided with it being the first weekend of the revised traffic layout at the depot. Following this incident some changes were made to the site to allow for better traffic management on the site.
- 4.2.3 **Sighthill Recycling Centre – 21 July 2019.** The Recycling Centre closed approximately 75 minutes early due to high volumes of traffic and a vehicle

breakdown on site, leading to skips becoming full and no ability to replace them with empty containers.

4.2.4 Sighthill Recycling Centre – 24 August 2019. The Recycling Centre was forced to close due to plant and vehicle breakdowns. An inability to replace full containers with empty ones, or the ability to crush the waste, forced a site closure.

- 4.3 As can be noted from the closure incidents listed above, availability of plant and vehicles has proved problematic. There are now third-party standby arrangements in place for skip vehicles at weekends and additional plant has been provided to the Sighthill site to provide contingency in the event of further breakdowns.
- 4.4 The ongoing Transfer Station development at Sighthill is now reaching a conclusion and is expected to be fully operational at the end of September 2019. Part of this development included a number of tipping 'hatches' at the Southern end of the Transfer Station. These were designed for the public to tip waste directly into the Transfer Station. These are now being utilised.
- 4.5 With regard to the closure at Seafield Recycling Centre, this coincided with the first weekend of the revised access and egress on Seafield Road. Following the traffic issues experienced some minor layout changes were made to help ease traffic on site. Although traffic continues to be busy, particularly at weekends, there have been no further site closures.
- 4.6 Staff have provided continual feedback since the revision in hours that there has been an increase in the number of vans using the site which is contributing towards site congestion. Subject to the size of the van these can take anything from 30 to 45 minutes from point of entry to exit. Customers in hire vans are required to produce two forms of identification and a copy of the hire documents. Branded vans are not allowed at any of the three sites and unbranded vans are only permitted if two forms of identification are provided. Staff are encouraged to check documentation and the contents if there is any suspicion of commercial waste.
- 4.7 Neighbouring Councils have, over the past eighteen months, introduced various restrictions or booking arrangements for vans and trailers in order to better manage larger vehicles and attempt to better identify and restrict vans carrying commercial waste. The impact of these may have led to an increase in traffic at Edinburgh HWRCs. Appendix One outlines the access policies for vans and trailers from the three neighbouring Councils.
- 4.8 Clearly there are a range of tools available to better manage larger vehicles, thus avoiding traffic impacts at peak times of usage. Councils across Scotland are being contacted to gather up to date information on site access policies, with particular reference to vans and large trailers.
- 4.9 In advance of any further policy proposals coming to Committee traffic data is now starting to be gathered on each of the three HWRCs and staff are taking daily information on van movements.

Fly Tipping

4.10 Figure One provides data on dumping and fly tipping records for April to August 2019 and by comparison, the same period for 2018.

Count of enquiry_number	Column Labels		2018					2018 Total	2019					2019 Total	Grand Total
	Row Labels	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug			
01-Almond		24	26	21	21	27	119	24	34	22	28	47	155	274	
02-Pentland Hills		113	134	153	91	84	575	82	89	95	137	79	482	1057	
03-Drum Brae/Gyle		13	18	11	12	20	74	21	14	19	23	16	93	167	
04-Forth		88	43	31	44	53	259	57	56	42	71	55	281	540	
05-Inverleith		21	18	18	22	36	115	21	15	28	29	30	123	238	
06-Corstorphine/Murrayfield		4	2	14	9	9	38	8	18	14	19	16	75	113	
07-Sighthill/Gorgie		80	78	94	84	79	415	70	84	80	78	96	408	823	
08-Colinton/Fairmilehead		44	44	38	35	39	200	27	9	18	37	31	122	322	
09-Fountainbridge/Craiglockhar		47	54	47	39	61	248	38	30	33	29	43	173	421	
10-Meadows/Morningside		17	43	39	42	62	203	36	42	43	51	47	219	422	
11-City Centre		31	49	45	53	67	245	38	47	46	76	92	299	544	
12-Leith Walk		42	68	66	68	65	309	45	42	51	61	86	285	594	
13-Leith		29	34	38	41	39	181	43	52	47	62	53	257	438	
14-Craigentiny/Duddingston		22	33	31	43	33	162	26	39	43	57	46	211	373	
15-Southside/Newington		30	36	26	55	46	193	27	29	40	69	56	221	414	
16-Liberton/Gilmerton		22	26	23	25	26	122	37	26	28	44	32	167	289	
17-Portobello/Craigmillar		10	22	35	18	26	111	28	49	30	66	40	213	324	
No code allocated		4	7	4	2	6	23	13		4	15	14	46	69	
Grand Total		641	735	734	704	778	3592	641	675	683	952	879	3830	7422	

4.11 In the first three months of 2019/2020 dumping and fly tipping reports were down when compared to the same period the year prior. A significant spike occurred in July and although reducing into August still remains high in certain Wards, particularly Portobello and Craigmillar.

4.12 Given 2019 figures increased significantly in July and remained high in August this may be more associated with the waiting times associated with Special Uplifts rather than as a direct consequence of revised opening and closing hours, given these were introduced in April.

5. Next Steps

5.1 The next steps taken following this Committee report are:

5.1.1 To review access arrangements for vans and trailers implemented by other Councils.

5.1.2 To present a revised Access Policy for Committee approval within two cycles for introduction from 1 April 2020.

6. Financial impact

6.1 Any expenditure associated with the actions required in order to revise the Waste and Cleansing performance reporting is anticipated to be contained within existing resources or funded as part of wider change projects.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 This report does not impact on any existing policies and no risks have been identified pertaining to health and safety, governance or compliance. Further, there are no regulatory implications that require to be taken into account.
- 7.2 The Waste and Cleaning service meets the public sector duty to advance equal opportunity by taking account of protected characteristics in designing services, and by seeking to make services more accessible to all citizens.
- 7.3 Sustainability is one of the Council's 'cross-cutting themes' and the Council has made a corporate commitment to address the social, economic and environmental effects of activities across Council services.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 [Household Waste Recycling Centre Opening Hours](#) – Report to Transport and Environment Committee, 5 March 2019.

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 - Table outlines the access policies for neighbouring Councils in relation to vans and trailers.

Appendix 1 – This table outlines the access policies for neighbouring Councils in relation to vans and trailers

Local authority	Number of recycling centres	Access Policy
East Lothian	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling centres for household and trade use. • Householders may be asked for proof of residency when visiting recycling centres. • Vans and trailers can only access recycling centres 8.30-10.30am seven days a week, height barriers in operation outwith these times. • All vans must be registered using an application form. • Domestic vans and trailers limited to 12 visits per year for non-recyclable waste, garden waste, rubble, wood/laminates, soil, DIY waste and construction & demolition waste. • Commercial waste can be taken to a waste transfer station Mon-Fri 9-10am and 2-4pm and paid for. Waste carrier registration (or equivalent) required. • Businesses with a trade waste collection contract will be provided with a recycling permit free of charge to allow them to use recycling centres for recycling glass, metals, plastic bottles, and paper, card & cardboard. • Businesses without a collection contract can buy an annual recycling permit (application by email). • Commercial customers are not restricted to the 12 visits per year • See https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210561/bins_and_recycling/12064/waste_and_recycling_services_for_businesses/2 for more information.
Midlothian	2	<p>Recycling centres for household and trade use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vans and trailers can only use one of the recycling centres and must be booked in in advance online. <p>Vans towing trailers are not accepted. Domestic visits limited to 6 times per year. Trade use limited to one recycling centre. Vans and trailers need to be booked in in advance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/1054/bins_and_recycling/346/household_waste_recycling_centres for more information.
West Lothian	5	<p>Recycling centres for household and trade use (limited to some recyclable materials).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of residency may be required. • Automatic Number Plate Recognition in place. • Local businesses can recycle glass, paper & cardboard, metal, books, DVDs and clothes free of charge and require a Business Recycling Access Pass to do so (applied for by email). The use of recycling centres is limited to week days only. • Livered vans and commercial vehicles used for taking household waste to a recycling centre require a Residential Exemption Permit. The permit is free of charge and limits visits to 24 per year. Application form available online and can be returned by email, post or taken to a service point. • See https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/recyclingpermits and https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/tradewasterecycling for more information

