

Overview of Responses and Recommendations

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| Budget Proposals 16/17 Phase Two: Smallmead Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) | | Jackie Ward Waste Manager | 24 March 2016 Version 2 (Executive/Council) |
| Proposal: | To withdraw from the re3 waste partnership, which allows residents from West Berkshire to use the Smallmead Household Waste Recycling Centre at Island Road, Reading. | | |
| Total budget 15/16: | £299,190 | Recommended officer saving 16/17: | £97,000 (pro rata) |
| Initial proposed saving 16/17: | £97,000 (32%) | Final recommendation to Executive/Council: | To proceed with this savings proposal |
| No. of responses: | <p>In total, 69 responses were received, 61 of which included comments. Of those who responded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 64 were individuals • Four were Town/Parish Councils • One was a District Councillors <p>Six responses were from non-users of the service.</p> | | |
| Key issues raised: | All but one of the 61 responses objected to the proposal. The majority of the objections were based upon the proposal being unsustainable due to the lack of facilities in the east, the overall impact on the environment, an increase in travel to the alternative facilities and therefore additional cost to residents, an increase in fly tipping, the savings not be realised due to the monitoring of HWRC use and disposal of waste elsewhere and finally that the West Berkshire HWRCs and Kerbside Collection are unsuitable as an alternative service. | | |
| Equality issues: | The Stage One Equality Impact Assessment identified the impact on the elderly and people on low incomes. The Consultation raised issues surrounding the impact on Age, people with Disabilities and families with young children (Pregnancy and Maternity), therefore a Stage Two Equality Impact Assessment as been completed. The recommendation is that the Padworth HWRC should be developed to mitigate the impact on the target groups. | | |
| Suggestions for reducing the impact on service users: | Suggestion | Council response | |
| | Improving the Padworth HWRC by increasing the types of waste collected and increasing access / opening hours. | The council is currently considering this suggestion. | |
| | Providing special arrangements for the disabled (<i>although these arrangements were not specified</i>). | The site staff at the HWRCs should already provide assistance when requested. | |
| | Changing the district borders and service boundaries; the service shouldn't be | This would be a matter for council Members to decide. | |

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| | governed by borders and should be managed on a national scale and if WBC can not afford to look after the east change the eastern boundary. | | |
| | Making changes to the Collection Services which included weekly collections, to provide bigger bins, the addition of extra materials and free bulky collections. | These suggestions may reduce the impact but would not make the savings. | |
| Alternative options for applying the saving in this area: | Suggestion | Council response | |
| | Increase Council Tax. | This would be a matter for council Members to decide | |
| | Delay the proposal until the Padworth HWRC is upgraded to the standard of Smallmead HWRC. | The council is currently considering this suggestion. | |
| | Upgrade Padworth HWRC to the standard of Smallmead HWRC. | The council is currently considering this suggestion. | |
| | Make a small charge at Smallmead HWRC. | The council is currently considering this suggestion. | |
| | Set up a weekly collection point at a community location / or a recycling centre at Denefield School. | These suggestions may reduce the impact but would not make the savings. | |
| | Close Padworth and/or Newtown Road HWRC and redirect users to Smallmead HWRC. | The council is currently considering this suggestion. | |
| | Stop Hampshire residents using West Berkshire HWRCs. | The council is currently considering this suggestion. | |
| | Change the Waste Collection Service; the addition of extra materials, weekly recycling, provide a free bulky collection service, stop collecting food waste and additional green bins at a cost. | These suggestions may reduce the impact but would not make the savings. | |

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| Suggestions for how others may help contribute: | Pay more Council Tax to keep the service. | | |
| Officer conclusion and recommendation as a result of the responses: | <p>Feedback has not uncovered any issues which would prevent the council from continuing with this proposal, however it is unlikely that the arrangement will be stopped from the 1 April 2016, therefore the savings will be pro rata.</p> <p>However Members may wish to think about improving the Padworth HWRC before access to Smallmead HWRC is restricted, so that it can be demonstrated that we have met the authority's responsibilities in relation to equality.</p> <p>It is recommended that the proposal be progressed.</p> | | |

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