



Frequently Asked Questions

Public consultation on proposals for changes to West Sussex Household Waste Recycling Sites (HWRSs)



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why we are proposing changes?

This year the Council continues to be faced by significant reductions to the funding it receives from central government, which along with your Council Tax, pays for the services we provide.

These reductions are forcing the Council to find ways to save money and reduce costs. That is why in last year's budget we decided to review our Household Waste Recycling Sites (HWRSs) with the aim of making significant savings of around £2m per year from our Waste Services budget. We have now completed a review of our HWRSs.

It has shown that our current provision is well-run and well used by residents, but there are efficiencies that can be made which would provide significant savings, and still provide an effective service to our residents.

We appreciate that these proposals will have an impact on some residents but in every single case we have tried hard to find solutions which save money, but minimise the inconvenience to the largest number of residents.

We think this is the right thing to do when budgets are being squeezed ever harder, as we think we should be prioritising the money we spend on people, not waste.

What our review found

We looked at a range of different information as part of our review, such as usage of the sites, the amount of waste brought to HWRSs and our statutory duties. Our analysis is that there is an opportunity to make changes to the service that will deliver significant savings, whilst still meeting the needs of the public and our statutory duties, maximising recycling and ensuring sites meet the highest standard of efficiencies.

We are proposing a package of five proposals, rather than a selection to choose from, which as a whole will deliver the savings needed. Each proposal is detailed in this consultation for your comments.

Q: How much will we save?

If all of the proposals are implemented it is expected that Waste Services could make savings of approximately £2 million each year, whilst still maintaining a well-run and efficient service for residents.

Q: When is the consultation taking place?

The consultation opens on Monday 16 May 2016 for a period of 4 weeks, closing at midnight on Sunday 12 June 2016.

Q: How do I respond to the consultation?

You can respond to the consultation online at: <https://haveyoursay.westsussex.gov.uk/waste-management-services/hwrs>

Alternatively paper copies can be obtained from your local library or by calling 01243 642106 or emailing wastes.servicescontracts@westsussex.gov.uk

If you need this information in another format, for example, on audio CD or in a different language, then please email wastes.servicescontracts@westsussex.gov.uk.

Q: Who should respond to the consultation?

Everyone: we would like to hear from anyone in West Sussex who uses the HWRSs. Even if you don't currently use the sites, we'd still like to hear your views in case there is anything we could do to make the service more accessible to you in the future. We also welcome any feedback from local businesses, charitable or community organisations and anyone else with an interest in the service.

Q: When will we hear the outcomes of the consultation?

The feedback received through the consultation will directly inform how required savings against the cost of running the HWRS network are achieved. The outcomes of the consultation will be made public when the feedback has been analysed.

Your feedback will be collated and presented to the West Sussex County Council's Cabinet in July 2016. Cabinet will make the final decisions on whether to proceed with, amend, or withdraw any or all of the proposals included in this document. This report will be publicly available and include responses from the Council to issues that emerge through the consultation.

Q: When will the changes be introduced?

No decisions have been made yet and this will depend on a number of factors, including the feedback we receive through this consultation. It is however possible that any changes to opening hours at HWRSSs might be implemented in October 2016.

Q: Will the proposals mean recycling rates will go down, resulting in increased landfill costs?

No we do not expect a decrease in recycling as a result of the proposals. We have worked hard not to close any sites and to ensure that residents can still access the HWRSS service.

Although we are proposing changes to the non-household waste materials we will accept at HWRSSs, because materials such as soil and hardcore or tyres are not classified as household waste, these types of waste do not count towards our statutory recycling rates.

Q: Would fly-tipping increase if these proposals were implemented?

No. There's no evidence to show that West Sussex residents will resort to fly-tipping – which is a criminal offence and blights local areas - if they cannot use a recycling centre for whatever reason. People who are prepared to travel to a recycling centre are unlikely to even consider fly-tipping, let alone do it.

All the evidence shows that the vast majority of fly-tipped waste is material that could go in people's

bins at home or be brought to recycling centres for free. It's most likely that unscrupulous trade waste operators fly-tip rubbish because they don't want to pay the costs of using a legal waste site – even if they have charged their customers for providing the service. If someone offers you a service like this, check they have papers to show they are an authorised waste operator and ask what their arrangements are for disposing of the waste. That is important - because, if your waste is flytipped, you could be liable for the clear up costs and a big fine.

We will continue to monitor the sites through CCTV and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and carry out inspections to assess any impact of reductions in opening hours and days. We will work closely with the District Councils to ensure any incidents of fly-tipping are promptly reported, cleared and investigated fully.

Q: Does the council receive income from selling the recyclable material collected and does this offset the cost of providing HWRSSs?

Any income generated from the sale of materials for recycling goes to our contractor Viridor, who manage and run all the HWRSSs under a contractual arrangement with West Sussex County Council. There are significant costs in operating the service in terms of transport, staffing costs, ongoing maintenance costs of the sites and equipment, business rates, gas/ electric/water bills and costs incurred through operating a permitted waste facility. Any income that we get through the sale of recyclable materials works to offset the cost of the service.

For both soil & hardcore and commercial tyres there is no income generated, however we are liable for the disposal charge. The current arrangement in which the Council accepts these 'non-household' waste streams, cost the Council £600,000 last year in management and disposal costs.

Frequently Asked Questions - continued

Q: Would it be possible to generate income by allowing trade waste to be disposed of at HWRSs?

Yes. The current arrangement enables commercial waste customers to dispose of waste at the waste transfer stations at a charge. There is no proposed change to our three sites at Westhampnett (Chichester), Crawley and Burgess Hill, they would remain open 7 days per week. These sites are our main transfer stations as well as HWRSs, and as such have to be manned and open for the District and Borough councils to use 7 days a week.

Q: Do you expect carbon emissions to rise significantly because people in areas where their mobile HWRSs have been closed or their nearest HWRS is closed on some days, would be forced to travel further?

This is a possibility, however we would encourage residents to change the days they use the HWRS rather than travel further to another HWRS on a regular basis.

If residents cannot take their waste on another day we would encourage residents to combine this journey with another in the same direction to save time, fuel and emissions.

Q: Is it not the case that rural communities are being more adversely affected?

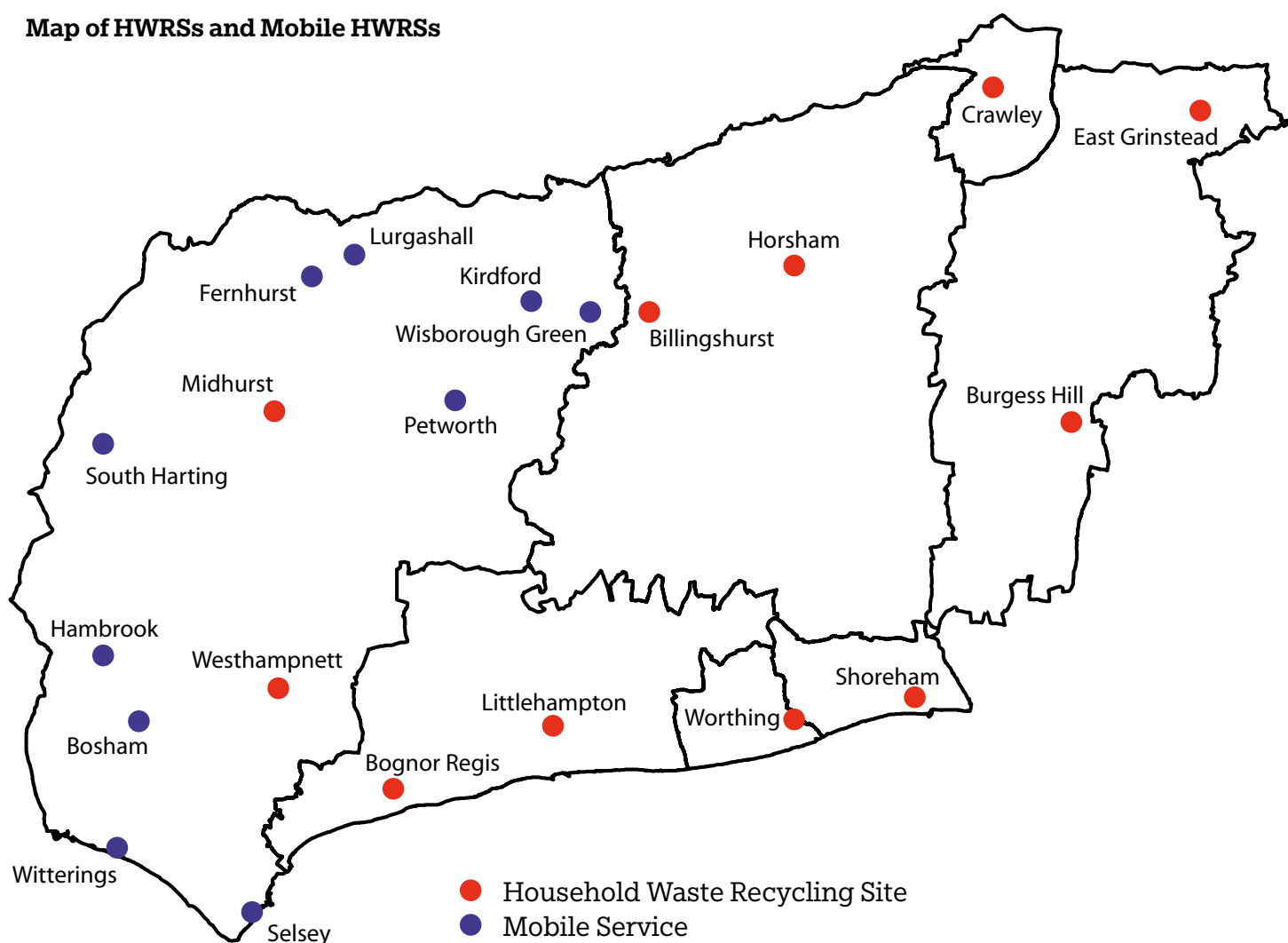
The current Mobile HWRS service in Chichester District Council does serve some rural communities. We appreciate that these proposals will have an impact on residents using the mobile HWRSs but we have worked hard to find solutions which save money, but minimise the inconvenience to the largest number of residents.

The mobile HWRS service is a concessionary service provided historically by West Sussex County Council primarily to service the rural communities in Chichester District Council. However, all the communities affected have access to a HWRS which provides access to recycling, reuse and recovery services for 29 different waste streams, rather than the 'residual waste' only services currently provided at the majority of the mobile HWRSs.

In addition to the potential savings of £250,000 per year as a result of the proposed closure of the mobile HWRSs, we also have a statutory duty to follow the waste hierarchy, i.e. to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, with landfill as a last option.

As such, the sustainability of a general waste only service cannot be justified from either a cost or statutory duty perspective.

Map of HWRSSs and Mobile HWRSSs



Distance from Chichester Mobile sites to nearest HWRSSs

	Westhampnett (Chichester)	Midhurst	Billingshurst
Bosham	6 miles		
Fernhurst		5.8 miles	
Hambrook	7.5 miles		
Kirdford			5.2 miles
Lurgashall		6.1 miles	
Petworth		7.2 miles	
Selsey	9.9 miles		
South Harting		8 miles	
Wisborough Green			2.5 miles
The Witterings	9.7 miles		

Frequently Asked Questions - continued

Q: If you implement these changes will you be in breach of the legal requirements around HWRS provision?

No. Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, Waste Disposal Authorities, like West Sussex, have a duty to:-

'Arrange for places to be provided at which persons resident in its area may deposit their household waste.'

This duty does not specify the number of sites to be provided nor the opening hours of such sites.

Q: Why not reduce the hours and days of operation across the whole HWRS network?

We are proposing changes to all HWRSs except the three HWRSs which are also transfer stations at Westhampnett (Chichester), Crawley and Burgess Hill. There are no proposed changes to these sites and they would remain open 7 days per week.

As they are our main waste transfer stations as well as HWRSs, they have to be manned and open for the District and Borough Councils to use 7 days a week.

Q: Are charges for disposing of non-household waste going to make a "profit"?

No, only certain types of waste are legally defined as 'household waste'. The council must provide facilities to dispose of these types of wastes for free.

The only costs that are being introduced are for legally defined 'non-household waste' such as soil, hard-core and commercial tyres as listed in Proposal 3.

The council currently allows disposal of these types of waste at HWRSs free of charge although there is no legal requirement to do so. This costs the council over £600,000 per year.

In line with many other councils across the country we are proposing to introduce charges for the disposal of these types of wastes at HWRSs. The charges would cover the cost of providing the service.

Q: I do not drive, where can I take my waste if the Mobile HWRSs are stopped?

A kerbside collection for general household waste and dry mixed recyclables is provided by Chichester District Council (CDC). Chichester District Council also offer a Green Waste Collection Service for your garden waste needs.

Excess waste can be taken to Westhampnett (Chichester) HWRS, however if you cannot visit the HWRS for any reason a bulky item collection can be arranged by contacting Chichester District Council.

Detailed information can be found online at <http://www.chichester.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling>

Q: Why is the Mobile HWRS service being stopped?

The mobile HWRS service is a concessionary service provided historically by West Sussex County Council primarily to service the rural communities in Chichester District Council.

Changes in legislation regarding the increased need to prioritise recycling services, the ongoing austerity measures being faced across the public sector and our need to increase recycling performance to meet targets in 2020, has meant that we must now prioritise and safeguard our statutory requirements.

Currently there are 10 mobile HWRS sites provided by West Sussex, they are all within the District of Chichester. The provision of this service varies; some are provided weekly, some fortnightly and some 4 weekly.

Our review of this service has highlighted that whilst it is described as a mobile "Household Waste and Recycling" service - with the exception of the trial service at Selsey - only one container is provided and there is no recycling option.

The Council is required to follow the waste hierarchy, i.e. to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, with landfill as a last option. As such, the sustainability of a general waste only service cannot be justified from either a cost or statutory duty perspective.

To close all of the mobile sites could give a potential saving of £250,000 per year. This includes a saving in disposal cost by recycling a significant proportion of the waste.

Q: If recycling were introduced at the Mobile HWRSs, would this save money?

No. The introduction of recycling at the mobile HWRS service under the current arrangement would only increase costs due to increased management of wastes, containers and vehicle movements.

Q: Most of the waste I take to the Mobile HWRS is garden waste, how can I dispose of it without a Mobile HWRS service?

Chichester District Council can offer residents a kerbside collection of green waste, should you want this collected from your home rather than transport this yourself to your nearest HWRS.

Detailed information can be found online at <http://www.chichester.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling>

Q: Are there any other Mobile HWRSs operated within West Sussex?

No. West Sussex County Council do not subsidise the collection costs of any other mobile collection services outside of Chichester District.

Q: Midhurst seems to be smaller than Selsey, why do they have a permanent site?

The location of the permanent sites has been determined to provide a good coverage to residents across West Sussex. In particular Midhurst provides coverage to the North West of West Sussex.

Q: I now have to drive further to a HWRS, what about the environmental impact of this?

A kerbside collection is provided by all of the District and Borough Councils in West Sussex should you feel this offers greater environmental benefit than taking your waste and recyclables to the nearest HWRS.

Q: Traffic on the roads at peak times is terrible due to holiday traffic.

A comprehensive kerbside collection service is provided by Chichester District Council should you not wish to travel to your nearest HWRS during peak holiday season.

Q: Will I get a reduction on my Council Tax?

No. This year West Sussex County Council continues to be faced by significant reductions to the funding it receives from central government, which along with your Council Tax, pays for the services we provide.

These reductions are forcing the Council to find ways to save money and reduce costs. That is why in last year's budget we decided to review our Household Waste Recycling Sites (HWRSs) with the aim of making significant savings of around £2m per year from our Waste Services budget.

Frequently Asked Questions - continued

Q: I currently use the Hambrook site. Westhampnett (Chichester) is further away than Havant, can I use Havant instead?

As a resident of West Sussex, any of your household waste and recycling that you produce should be taken to a HWRS provided by West Sussex County Council within West Sussex.

Q: I don't want to pay Chichester District Council to collect my extra waste, what can I do?

HWRSs are available for extra waste and recycling, alternatively you could invest in a home composter for your garden waste and some food wastes.

More information about composting and waste prevention can be found here <http://www.wastepreventionwestsussex.co.uk/>

Q: Is the waste from the Mobile HWRSs currently sorted for recycling after it has been collected?

Where only one container is in operation at the mobile service, the collection method does not allow for extraction of recyclable materials for onward processing. This waste is destined for disposal and subsequent costs.

Q: Is a reduced frequency for the mobile service a possible option?

We want to hear your views on these proposals, no decisions have been made as yet and we are consulting to ensure that we have listened to your views. We would encourage you to 'Have Your Say' and respond via the online or offline consultation document, to ensure that your views and opinions are included in our response evaluation process.

If you would like this information in another format, please contact us on wastes.servicescontracts@westsussex.gov.uk