

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Neighbourhoods & Community Services Scrutiny Panel  
**DATE:** 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019  
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**WARD(S):** All

### **PART I**

## **FOR COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION**

### **WASTE CHARGES AND COOPERATION WITH BUCKS CC**

#### 1. **Purpose of Report**

This report considers the issues surrounding SBCs provision of Household Waste & Recycling Centre Services. In particular, what has been the impact to Slough and to Slough residents of changes to HRC services provided by Buckinghamshire County Council at Burnham HRC and Langley HRC.

#### 2. **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

The Committee is requested to note the report and comment upon it.

#### 3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

##### 3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

No action recommended or decision requested, this report is for information only

##### 3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

Provision of Household Waste and Recycling Centres and charging for waste delivered to them impacts our waste management strategy, including our recycling rate, and potentially influences fly-tipping behaviour:-

- Outcome 3 - Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and stay

#### 4. **Other Implications**

##### (a) **Financial**

None - There has been no significant financial or operational effect on SBC to date as a consequence of BCC reducing the operating hours at Burnham HRC and introducing charges for non-household waste at Burnham and Langley HRC's.

## Risk Management

None - This report is for information only.

### (b) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

None - This report is for information only.

### (c) Equalities Impact Assessment

None - This report is for information only.

### (d) Workforce (*Please delete if no workforce implications*)

None - This report is for information only.

## 5. Supporting Information

### **Background**

- 5.1 We provide a HWRC at Chalvey for receipt of household waste. Use of the site is free to users. We receive a financial contribution from RBWM in return for allowing access to RBWM residents; the annual cost of waste disposal is allocated between the two Boroughs based on a survey of site usage by our respective residents.
- 5.2 BCC provide HRC's at Burnham and at Langley. SBC make a financial contribution to BCC in return for BCC allowing free access to SBC residents; the annual running costs and cost of waste disposal are allocated between the two Councils based on a survey of site usage by our respective residents.
- 5.3 Waste received at HWRCs and HRCs includes waste which is classed as non-household waste for which we have the power to make a charge. SBC don't currently charge for small quantities of non-household waste arising from domestic properties providing it meets our Acceptance Criteria which is summarised below and which is set out in full at Point 5.24:-
- Building / DIY and demolition materials - one visit/month with up to 6 sacks
  - Plasterboard – one visit per month maximum 2 boards
  - Tyres – one visit per month maximum 2 tyres
- 5.4 BCC needed to make a £1.25 million saving from their County wide HRC service in 2019/20 and implemented the following changes on the 1 April 2019:-
- Reduce opening at Rabans Lane (Aylesbury), Chesham and Burnham HRC's from seven to five days a week by closing them on Wednesdays and Thursdays.
  - Permanently close the Bledlow HRC from 1 April 2019.
  - Close the Burnham HRC permanently from 30 September 2019, subject to a financial review of the effectiveness of the other changes, which could mean that closure is postponed.

- Introduced charges for all non-household waste. This includes waste resulting from the construction, demolition, renovation or alteration of homes and outbuildings, and rubble, soil and treated wood resulting from garden landscaping.

### **Impact of BCC's decision to reduce the opening hours/close Burnham HRC**

- 5.5 SBC make a financial contribution to Burnham HRC and to Langley HRC based on usage surveys of the sites by Slough residents – we share the fixed operating costs and a proportion of the costs of waste disposal based on the prevailing survey results.
- 5.6 Our contribution to fixed operating costs will reduce at Burnham HRC with the reduction in days that it is open. The tonnage cost is variable depending on usage and may be influenced by the number of days that the site is open.
- 5.7 There will be no SBC contribution to either fixed costs or variable tonnage should the Burnham HRC close on 1 September 2019. If Burnham HRC closes then waste (site users) will travel elsewhere. If they go to Beaconsfield HRC then this will be at BCC cost. If they go to Langley HRC then the BCC charge to SBC for Langley HRC will go up. If they come to Chalvey HWRC then the SBC costs at Chalvey will go up.
- 5.8 The charge to SBC from BCC is made up of two elements - the Management Fee for the fixed costs of running the site and the cost of waste disposal. We pay a proportion of both and the proportion is set by the results of a Site Usage Survey. If on the survey day 40% of users are from Slough then we pay 40% of the costs.
- 5.9 Based on recent outcomes we would expect to pay BCC approximately £30k for Slough residents to access Burnham HRC in 2019/20 as a management fee (£15k for 6 months) and approximately £50k for waste disposal (£25k for 6 months).
- 5.10 Since Burnham HRC is to shut for 2 out of 7 days for the first 6 months then this would see the Management Charge for the first 6 months reduce to £11k ( $\text{£15k}/7\text{days} \times 5\text{ days} = \text{£11k}$  so £4k saving) and the Waste Disposal Charge could reduce to £18k ( $\text{£25k}/7\text{days} \times 5\text{ days} = \text{£18k}$  so £7k saving) if waste is taken elsewhere. This could give an £11k (£4k + £7k) saving for the first 6 months or £22k whole year saving if the site stays open beyond September.
- 5.11 If Burnham HRC shuts in September then the annual saving could be £11k + £15k + £25k = £51k.
- 5.12 Given that we don't know whether the site will shut in September or not and we don't know where the displaced waste will go, we are not offering any savings at the moment. The potential upside of £51k for the waste disposal budget is less than 1% of our Waste Disposal Budget all of which is variable depending on the number of tonnes presented and the various £/tonne charged for different waste types.
- 5.13 It is not felt that the closure of Burnham HRC in full will have a big impact on non-chargeable waste coming to Chalvey HWRC. We believe that the majority of non-chargeable waste will go to Beaconsfield HRC and Langley HRC rather than to Chalvey HWRC.

## Impact of BCC's decision to charge for all non-household waste

- 5.14 The decision by BCC to charge for non-household waste is likely to see an increase in these wastes delivered to Chalvey HWRC by Slough residents currently using Burnham HRC and Langley HRC unless we also make similar charges at our Chalvey HWRC. We already ask for proof of residency in Slough or Windsor & Maidenhead as part of our Acceptance Guidance for allowing entry into the Chalvey HWRC so we don't expect an increase due to out of borough residents.
- 5.15 Our decision to charge or not to charge for non-household waste at Chalvey HWRC needs to be informed by whether there is a material increase in costs to SBC as a result of BCC changes.
- 5.16 The unknown question is - How much additional cost will we incur, if any, and will this be offset by the reduced cost to SBC for our reduced share of the costs of operating Burnham HRC for the half year or the full year?
- 5.17 The table below compares volumes of waste received at our Chalvey HWRC in April/May 2018 with volumes in April/May 2019

Description	Apr-18	May-18	Apr-19	May-19	Ave/Mth (18mths)
Total HWRC Waste	732	698	653	633	540
Of which :-					
General Waste	526	424	362	342	324
Hardcore	15	50	57	46	26
Plasterboard	0	0	0	3	2
Mattresses	27	17	16	27	23

- 5.18 Based on April/May tonnages and day to day activity at our Chalvey HWRC, there has been no significant financial or operational effect on SBC to date as a consequence of BCC reducing the operating hours at Burnham HRC and introducing charges for non-household waste at Burnham and at Langley. Waste tonnages are down rather than up but caution needs to be taken as waste inputs vary widely on a day to day month to month basis.

### Fly Tipping

- 5.19 Fly-tipping is usually large volumes of non-household waste and is usually done by rogue traders and/or rogue landlords. Large volumes of non-household waste are already excluded from Chalvey HWRC and BCC HRCs so there is no change to these fly-tippers as a result of BCC charging for small quantities of non-household waste at Burnham and Langley.
- 5.20 It is unknown whether charging will see ordinary householders fly-tip small quantities of non-household waste rather than pay. There has been increased fly-tipping in the lane leading to Burnham HRC but this is mostly general household waste and is probably, in the main, one offs due to residents turning up on a Wednesday/Thursday when the site is closed.

5.21 In the event that SBC introduce charges in the future then we have CCTV at our Chavley HWRC and at strategic places around the borough and we will work with our enforcement team to deal with offenders.

5.22 Should SBC wish to introduce charges for non-household waste then the BCC pricing list, with effect from 1 April 2019 as set out below, provides a useful reference point:-

5.23 Bucks CC pricing schedule for construction and demolition waste

Item	Price
<b>Hardcore &amp; Soil per bag*</b>	
Concrete, bricks, rubble, stones & any other building materials	£2.50
Soil	£2.50
Ceramic tiles	£2.50
<b>Bathroom Suites</b>	
Bath	£5.00
Toilet pan or cistern	£10.00
Wash basin or kitchen sink	£2.50
Shower door or shower tray	£10.00
<b>Kitchens</b>	
Kitchen work top	£7.50/m
Kitchen unit (with door) (wall or floor)	£5.00
Door or window (including panes of glass)	£10.00
<b>Wood</b>	
Wood from construction/demolition - 2m x 1m	£10.00
External door	£10.00
Internal door	£2.50
Fence/shed panel	£2.50
<b>Roofing Materials</b>	
3m length of guttering or drain pipe	£2.50
Roof felt tiles or sections of roof felt – smaller than 1.5m x1.5m	£2.50
Roll of roof felt up to 3mx5m	£2.50
<b>Other</b>	
Asbestos	
Asbestos sheet per 1m x 1m	£3.50m <sup>2</sup>
Plaster/plasterboard per bag	£6.00
Plasterboard sheet up to 2m x 1m	£7
Car or motorcycle tyre	£4

- A bag is 25 litres with a weight of 10kg or equivalent volume of loose material.
- Part bags will be charged as per whole.
- Other construction & demolition items may be liable to be charged at a similar rate as stated in the table, in line with current legislation.
- Prices will form part of implementation proposals and officer delegations.
- Prices will also be reviewed annually and in line with legislation changes.
- The prices will be published on BCC website and available across the HRC sites.
- Please note that this is not an exhaustive list.

5.24 Our Acceptance Criteria at the Chalvey HWRC is as follows:-

### **Acceptance guidance – Chalvey Household Waste Recycling Centre**

Residents from Slough and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead can bring most household items of waste free of charge for reuse, recycling or safe disposal. Please check the acceptance criteria for your waste before taking it to the Chalvey Household Waste Recycling Centre. You may be asked for proof of

address and photo ID (driver's license or passport) to confirm that you are eligible to use the site and may be refused entry if unable to supply this.

Please ensure your vehicle (no vans) can access the site through the 1.7m (5' 9") height barrier. **Residents of Royal Borough unable to do so will need to apply for a permit for Stafferton Way HWRC in Maidenhead.**

### **Items we don't accept**

- Items that do not meet the acceptance criteria.
- Business, commercial or trade waste (take to the transfer station).
- Clinical waste.
- Medicines (take back to your local chemist or doctor's surgery).
- Invasive plants i.e. Japanese knotweed.
- Explosives e.g. flares.
- Flammable liquids e.g. petrol (use it up or contact your local garage).

### **Items we do accept Household items only.**

**Asbestos** Chalvey HWRC can only accept up to 5 small (which can be carried in a car) sheets of bonded asbestos, i.e. asbestos cement products. Quantities above this amount will need to be taken to the Chalvey Waste Transfer Station where there will be a charge. This service is by appointment only. Call 01753 475111 option 4 to make an appointment.

You must also meet the following conditions:

- be a resident of Slough
- bring proof of address with you such as a recent utility bill and photo ID (drivers licence or passport)
- the cement bonded asbestos must be arising from a domestic property e.g. a shed roof, drainpipes, water tank
- the asbestos must be damped down and then double bagged or wrapped tightly in plastic as this prevents release of dust
- either bring help with you or bring manageable sized pieces, as staff are not able to assist you.

**Please note:** You must inform a member of staff on site that you are planning to dispose of asbestos.

### **Automotive**

- Car batteries
- Used engine oil
- Tyres (2 tyres max.) Only one visit per month (no return visit within 28 days) is permitted. Tyres above this quantity will not be accepted.

### **Building, DIY and demolition materials**

DIY, building or demolition waste is considered, by law, to be commercial waste and as such you may be charged for disposal. Chalvey HWRC can only accept a small amount of DIY, demolition and building waste from residents carrying out their own small-scale home improvements. This includes, but is not limited to, items such as:

- bathroom suites, baths, sinks and toilets
- bricks
- doors and window frames (maximum 2 doors)
- hardcore and rubble
- kitchen cupboards

- large pieces of timber, old sheds, fence panels
- old tiles and plaster
- paving
- soil
- plasterboard (2 boards max.) Only one visit per month (no return visit within 28 days) is permitted. Disposed of at the Waste Transfer Station, Open Monday to Friday 7am – 4pm, Saturday 7.30am – 12pm, last entry 15 minutes prior to closing. Closed Sunday and Bank Holidays

This is limited to one car boot load (6 small sacks) of this type of waste per visit. Only one visit per month (no return visit within 28 days) is permitted. Quantities above this allowance will need to be disposed of at the Waste Transfer Station where a charge is calculated at £155 per tonne, with a minimum charge of £27.96.

**Contact a site attendant to dispose of any DIY or demolition waste.**

#### **Hazardous waste**

Please contact site attendant to dispose of any hazardous waste. **All chemicals must be in its original container or clearly marked.**

**Please note:** Maximum quantity for household and garden chemicals is 5 litres (one visit per month, no return visit within 28 days).

#### **Other**

Mattresses (maximum 2 mattresses) - only one visit per month (no return visit within 28 days) is permitted. Amounts over this limit are charged at £12 per mattress.

#### 6. **Comments of Other Committees**

None

#### 7. **Conclusion**

Based on April/May tonnages and day to day activity at our Chalvey HWRC, there has been no significant financial or operational effect on SBC to date as a consequence of BCC reducing the operating hours at Burnham HRC and introducing charges for non-household waste at Burnham and at Langley. It is of course only 2 months into the BCC changes and it may be a period of time before residents understand the options available to them and for behaviours to settle into a pattern. We will continue to monitor and report back in due course.

#### 8. **Background Papers**

None