

Household Waste Recycling Centres Van Permit System

Report of the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Cabinet (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.

It is recommended that:

- a) the details of the Household Waste Recycling Centre Van Permit system as set out in this report be approved;
- b) any further minor amendments required be delegated to the Chief Officer for Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure Development and Waste.

1. Summary

The County Council's Household Waste Recycling Centre Improvement Strategy was approved by Cabinet on 11th November 2020 (Report HIW/20/38 <https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/s33438/Household%20Waste%20Recycling%20Centres%20Improvement%20Strategy.pdf> and Minute *578 <https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/g3835/Printed%20minutes%2011th-Nov-2020%2011.15%20Cabinet.pdf?T=1> refer).

Part of this Strategy document discussed the development and implementation of a Household Waste Recycling Centre Van Permit system to help reduce the potential of trade waste abuse at sites. The proposed scheme was endorsed in principle with the requirement that the approval of the details of the scheme were brought back to a future Cabinet meeting.

This report provides the details of the scheme.

2. Background and introduction

Devon County Council is the Waste Disposal Authority and as such has a statutory duty to provide a network of Household Waste Recycling Centres (Civic Amenity Sites) for Devon residents to deposit their bulky household waste free of charge. These sites are for household waste only and not for the deposit of waste from businesses; companies; traders; organisations etc.

The County Council manages 19 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) across the Devon area.

Currently, users of vans can access HWRCs to dispose/recycle their waste (subject to certain vehicle and vehicle size restrictions). However, despite current limits and checks, there is concern that abuse of this system by commercial firms and businesses to dispose of their waste at public expense remains an issue. A recent 'snapshot' survey at a Devon HWRC showed that 9.6% of vehicles accessing the site were panel vans, although it is not known how many of these were being used by traders.

3. Proposal

It is proposed that a 'Van Permit' system be introduced. Permits will only be issued to vans registered to individual residents and not to vehicles registered to companies/businesses. This will help to ensure that only Devon residents deposit their own household waste at the sites.

The HWRC Van Permit system will require Devon residents who have a privately registered [registered to an individual] panel van (both large and small van size) that they wish to use to access a HWRC to register with the County Council.

Registration will be via an online system although a postal version will be available for those without access to the internet. The registration process will require users to provide copies of their Vehicle V5 Registration document and Driving Licence. Only privately owned vehicles by residents in the Devon County Council administrative area would be eligible to be registered.

Once registered 12 permits for a rolling calendar year will be issued. Each permit will allow 1 visit to a HWRC and can be used as needed across a 12-month period. The system will be based on 'QR' codes or similar with permits being scanned on access to each HWRC (either paper copies or via smart phones). The IT system will then automatically deduct one of the 12 permits from the users annual account. There will be no charge for issuing the permits.

For clarity:

Users of the following vehicles will be required to apply for a permit:

- Privately registered panel vans used by residents.

Users of the following vehicles will not need to apply for a permit:

- Cars (+ cycles/motorcycles)
- Pickups
- Fully fitted Campervans
- Fully fitted Minibuses
- Van-based people carriers/family type vans (with factory or professionally fitted seats and windows in the rear for carrying passengers)
- vans hired to a householder from a legitimate hire company for a hire period of less than 3 days and appropriate documentation can be produced
- Motability type vans designed to carry people in wheelchairs

- Vans accessing HWRCs as part of the pre-paid trade ticket system (DCC provides small scale, pre-paid access to traders with garden waste and cardboard only).

The vehicles listed below are not eligible for a permit and these vehicles will be excluded from accessing the HWRCs:

- Vans registered to businesses/companies/organisations etc.
- Vehicles registered to addresses outside of the Devon County Council administrative area
- Vehicles already restricted by existing DCC policy regarding type/size.

The Van Permit system will replace the temporary van booking system that is currently in force at the Exeter and Newton Abbot sites (which was introduced as a temporary measure to cope with high demand at HWRCs resulting from the COVID-19 lockdown/restrictions).

The Van Permit system will be piloted at a site prior to rolling out across all of the HWRC network such that any tweaks can be made if necessary.

4. Options/Alternatives

The HWRC Van Permit system seeks to further limit the amount of commercial waste deposited at the County Council HWRC facilities by commercial firms, businesses and traders. If the status quo was maintained, then such use would continue at existing levels at public expense.

An alternative option would be to prohibit all access by any panel type vans (regardless if they are registered to a private individual or a company) to the HWRCs. As such, no permit system would be required. However, this would cause issues to genuine residents who only have a private van as their form of transport.

5. Consultations/Representations/Technical Data

The Van Permit scheme has already been endorsed in principle with the requirement that the approval of the details of the scheme be brought back to a future Cabinet meeting. This report fulfils that requirement. Implementation of the scheme if approved would be widely publicised.

6. Financial Considerations

There are no specific financial considerations for this scheme. Any costs surrounding the implementation of the scheme will be met by existing revenue budgets and will be covered by the savings that the scheme should bring.

7. Legal Considerations

There are no specific legal considerations.

8. Environmental Impact Considerations (Including Climate Change)

This scheme seeks to further limit the amount of commercial waste delivered to DCC HWRC facilities by commercial firms, businesses and traders. There are a number of private/commercial waste management facilities available in the area that can provide legitimate waste and recycling services to such commercial firms, businesses and traders. As such, there should be no significant Environmental or Climate change impacts.

This scheme further supports the Environment Agency's 'right waste, right place' campaign which seeks to ensure that waste types are correctly identified/classified and dealt with at appropriately licenced/permited facilities.

9. Equality Considerations

Where relevant to the decision, the Equality Act 2010 Public Sector Equality Duty requires decision makers to give due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

Taking account of age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), gender and gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women/new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage/civil partnership status in coming to a decision, a decision maker may also consider other relevant factors such as caring responsibilities, rural isolation or socio-economic disadvantage.

This may be achieved, for example, through completing a full Equality Impact Needs Assessment/Impact Assessment or other form of options/project management appraisal that achieves the same objective.

In progressing this particular scheme/proposal, an Impact Assessment has been prepared which has been circulated separately to Cabinet Members and also is available on the Council's website at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/impact/recycling-van-permit/>, which Members will need to consider for the purposes of this item.

The Van Permit system will apply to all residents of the Devon County Council administrative area who wish to use their privately registered panel van to access a HWRC.

10. Risk Management Considerations

This policy/proposal has been assessed and all necessary safeguards or actions have been taken/included to safeguard the Council's position. No risks have been identified.

11. Public Health Impact

There are no specific Public Health implications.

12. Summary, Conclusions, Reasons for Recommendations

This report provides further detail on the HWRC Van Permit system that was endorsed in principle by Cabinet on 11th November 2020.

The HWRC Van Permit system seeks to further limit the amount of commercial waste delivered to DCC HWRC facilities by commercial firms, businesses and Traders. The sites are provided free of charge for household waste deposited by residents only and commercial waste should be deposited at commercial waste sites with the appropriate charges paid for that commercial waste.

Implementing the scheme will provide a system whereby Devon residents with privately registered vans can still access HWRCs albeit in a controlled manner. In addition, by further limiting the amount of vans at HWRC sites, facilities will be less congested and will be better placed and have more capacity to serve as many residents as possible.

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Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for Infrastructure Development and Waste: Councillor Andrea Davis

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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Background Paper	Date	File Reference
Nil		

Household Waste Recycling Centres Van Permit System - Final