

# Impact Assessment



Assessment of: Impact of Government policy and new legislation on managing municipal waste in Devon including at the Household Waste Recycling Centres.

Service: Waste Management

Head of Service: Wendy Barratt

Version / date of sign off by Head of Service: 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Assessment carried out by (job title): Chris Chandler – Principal Waste Manager (Operations)

## 1. Description of project / service / activity / policy under review

Government changes in waste legislation and Environment Agency (site Regulator) requirements will impact on how waste will need to be managed at Devon's network of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) to achieve compliance whilst mitigating costs.

The Legislative/Regulatory changes will mean that certain waste materials will be only accepted at certain Household Waste Recycling Centres across the County.

The precise details of what waste types HWRCs will be able to accept at individual sites will be made by the Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health, Communities and Equality and Director of Finance and Public Value.

## 2. Proposal, aims and objectives, and reason for change or review.

See (1) above. This is in response to Government changes in waste legislation and Environment Agency requirements.

## 3. Risk assessment, limitations and options explored (summary)

This is in response to Government changes in waste legislation and Environment Agency requirements. Consequently, there is no option but to comply and try to mitigate as much as possible the potential operational or financial impacts.

#### 4. People affected, diversity profile and analysis of needs.

This will impact on all DCC residents that utilise the HWRC service.

#### 5. Stakeholders, their interest and potential impacts

DCC Residents – users of HWRC facilities

DCC – Service Provider

Waste Contractors - Facility operators

#### 6. Additional relevant research used to inform this assessment.

N/A

#### 7. Description of consultation process and outcomes

N/A

---

### Background information

#### 8. Equality analysis

Under the Equality Act 2010, the local authority must consider how people will be affected by a service, policy or practice. In so doing we must give due regard to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations across protected characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership (for work), sex, sexual orientation, race, and religion and belief. The Equality Act 2010 and other relevant legislation does not prevent the Council from taking difficult decisions which result in service reductions or closures for example, it does however require the Council to ensure that such decisions are: informed and properly considered with a rigorous, conscious approach and open mind, taking due regard of the effects on the protected characteristics and the general duty to eliminate discrimination, advance equality and foster good relations; proportionate (negative impacts are proportionate to the aims of the policy decision); fair, necessary, reasonable, and those affected have been adequately consulted.

- a) Is this group negatively or potentially negatively impacted, and in what way?
- b) What could be done or has been done to remove the potential for direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or disadvantage and inequalities?

- c) In what way do you consider any negative consequences to be reasonable and proportionate in order to achieve a legitimate aim?
- d) What can be done to advance equality further? This could include meeting specific needs, ensuring equality of opportunity and access, encouraging participation, empowering people, making adjustments for disabled people and action to reduce disparities and inequalities.
- e) Is there a need to foster good relations between groups (tackled prejudice and promote understanding) and help people to be safe and protected from harm? What can be done?

### **All residents by geographic area**

The HWRC waste acceptance changes in response to Government changes in waste legislation and Environment Agency requirements. It will impact on all DCC residents that utilise the HWRC service and does not disadvantage any particular protected group.

### **Age**

The HWRC waste acceptance changes in response to Government changes in waste legislation and Environment Agency requirements. It will impact on all DCC residents that utilise the HWRC service and does not disadvantage any particular protected group.

### **Disability (includes sensory, mobility, mental health, learning disability, neurodiversity, long term ill health) and carers of disabled people.**

The HWRC waste acceptance changes in response to Government changes in waste legislation and Environment Agency requirements. It will impact on all DCC residents that utilise the HWRC service and does not disadvantage any particular protected group.

### **Race and culture: nationality/national origin, ethnic origin, skin colour, religion and belief, asylum seeker and refugee status, language needs**

The HWRC waste acceptance changes in response to Government changes in waste legislation and Environment Agency requirements. It will impact on all DCC residents that utilise the HWRC service and does not disadvantage any particular protected group.

### **Sex and gender identity and reassignment (including men, women, non-binary and transgender people), and pregnancy and maternity (including women's right to breastfeed)**

The HWRC waste acceptance changes in response to Government changes in waste legislation and Environment Agency requirements. It will impact on all DCC residents that utilise the HWRC service and does not disadvantage any particular protected group.

### **Sexual orientation, and marriage/civil partnership if work related.**

The HWRC waste acceptance changes in response to Government changes in waste legislation and Environment Agency requirements. It will impact on all DCC residents that utilise the HWRC service and does not disadvantage any particular protected group.

## Other relevant socio-economic factors and intersectionality

This includes, where relevant: income, housing, education and skills, language and literacy skills, family background (size/single people/lone parents), sub-cultures, rural isolation, access to services and transport, access to ICT/Broadband, children in care and care experienced people, social connectivity and refugee status/no recourse to public funds. Also consider intersectionality with other characteristics.

The HWRC waste acceptance changes in response to Government changes in waste legislation and Environment Agency requirements. It will impact on all DCC residents that utilise the HWRC service and does not disadvantage any particular protected group.

## 9. Human rights considerations:

We need to ensure that human rights are protected. In particular, that people have:

- A reasonable level of choice in where and how they live their life and interact with others (this is an aspect of the human right to 'private and family life').
- An appropriate level of care which results in dignity and respect (the protection to a private and family life, protection from torture and the freedom of thought, belief and religion within the Human Rights Act and elimination of discrimination and the promotion of good relations under the Equality Act 2010).
- A right to life (ensuring that nothing we do results in unlawful or unnecessary/avoidable death).

The HWRC waste acceptance changes in response to Government changes in waste legislation and Environment Agency requirements. It will impact on all DCC residents that utilise the HWRC service and does not disadvantage any particular protected group.

## 10. Environmental analysis

An impact assessment should give due regard to the following activities in order to ensure we meet a range of environmental legal duties. The policy or practice does not require the identification of environmental impacts using this Impact Assessment process because it is subject to (please mark X in the relevant box below and proceed to the 11, otherwise complete the environmental analysis information below):

Devon County Council's Environmental Review Process	
Planning Permission	
Environmental Impact Assessment	
Strategic Environmental Assessment	

- a) Description of any actual or potential negative consequences and consider how to mitigate against these.
- b) Description of any actual or potential neutral or positive outcomes and consider how to improve as far as possible.

[If carrying out an options appraisal, explore the pros and cons of each option for each area]

**Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost.**

The HWRC waste acceptance changes in response to Government changes in waste legislation and Environment Agency requirements.

This will mean that some materials will no longer be accepted at all HWRCs, and the public may have to travel further with their waste to HWRCs that have the facilities to accept that material.

**Conserve and enhance wildlife.**

Not relevant

**Safeguard the distinctive characteristics, features and special qualities of Devon's landscape.**

Not relevant

**Conserve and enhance Devon's cultural and historic heritage.**

Not relevant

**Minimise greenhouse gas emissions.**

The HWRC waste acceptance changes in response to Government changes in waste legislation and Environment Agency requirements.

This will mean that some materials will no longer be accepted at all HWRCs, and the public may have to travel further with their waste to HWRCs that have the facilities to accept that material. This will lead to potential increases in private mileage and hence greenhouse gas emissions.

The Environment Agency requirement for certain (currently mixed) residual waste types to be segregated and separately transported to an Energy from Waste facility (only to be remixed at the Energy from Waste Facility) will have carbon footprint impact.

#### Minimise pollution (including air, land, water, light and noise)

Not relevant

#### Contribute to reducing water consumption.

Not relevant

#### Ensure resilience to the future effects of climate change (warmer, wetter winters; drier, hotter summers; more intense storms; and rising sea level)

Not relevant

#### Other (please state below)

Not relevant

## 11. Economic analysis

- a) Description of any actual or potential negative consequences and consider how to mitigate against these.
- b) Description of any actual or potential neutral or positive outcomes and consider how to improve as far as possible.

[If carrying out an options appraisal, explore the pros and cons of each option for each area]

#### Impact on knowledge and skills

Not relevant

#### Impact on employment levels

Not relevant

#### Impact on local business

Not relevant