

# NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## Streetscene & Engineering Scrutiny Committee

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017

### Report of the Head of Streetcare

M. Roberts

#### Matter for Monitoring

**Wards Affected:** All Wards

#### Household Waste Recycling Centre Opening Hours

#### Purpose of Report

- 1 To review the impact of previous changes to the opening hours of the Council's Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs).

#### Executive Summary

- 2 The Environment and Highways Cabinet Board meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015 approved changes to the HWRC opening hours. The revised hours were introduced in January 2016, although as the sites were on 'winter hours' at that time the immediate changes were minimal with the major changes being the cessation of longer opening hours in the summer which would have normally started in April. At the time of the meeting it was agreed a review of the impact of the changes should be presented at a later date.

#### Background

- 3 The Council provides three HWRCs throughout the County Borough, which are managed under contract on behalf of the Council by FCC Environment. The locations of the three sites are attached as Appendix 1.
- 4 Further to the agreed changes, current opening hours are as follows:-
  - Briton Ferry  
8.30am to 5.00pm 7 days a week for 12 months of the year

- Pwllfawatkin  
9.00am to 5.00pm 7 days a week for 12 months of the year
- Cymmer  
11.00am to 5.00pm 7 days a week for 12 months of the year.

All sites are closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

5 Previous opening hours were:

- Briton Ferry and Cymmer  
1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> October – 8.00am to 8.00pm  
1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> Mach – 8.00am to 5.30pm  
Open 7 days a week, with the exception of Christmas day
- Pwllfawatkin  
1<sup>st</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> September – 9.00am to 7.00pm  
1<sup>st</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> April – 9.00am to 5.00pm  
Open 7 days a week, with the exception of Christmas day.

## **Experience Since implementing the changes**

### Incidents of fly tipping reports

6 The Council records the total number of all fly-tipping incidents that members of the public report to the Council and the figures for Neath Port Talbot are given below:

	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>
Total no. fly-tipping incidents reported	1,271	993

7 Whilst it is clear from the above figures that there has been no increase overall in the number of fly-tipping incidents reported to the Council, there has been anecdotal evidence to suggest increased levels of fly-tipping outside the entrance gates of the HWRCs. This however has reduced over time as the opening hours have become more widely known.

- 8 Fly-tipping is a criminal offence and if evidence can be found then individuals are prosecuted or issued with a fixed penalty notice.

#### Waste received and Recycling rates

- 9 The tonnages received at each of the sites has been summarised in Table 1 below and it can be seen that there has been no discernible difference in the tonnages received at the sites since the hours were amended. Also, the high recycling rates that are achieved has also been retained (which is in excess of 70% for the three sites combined).

**Table 1 – Comparison of Waste Received at the HWRCs**

Site	2015/16			2016/17		
	Refuse (ts)	Recycling (ts)	Total (ts)	Refuse (ts)	Recycling (ts)	Total (ts)
Briton Ferry	2,641	8,915	11,556	2,975	8,707	11,682
Pwllfawatkin	1,289	2,180	3,469	1,262	2,161	3,423
Cymmer	187	586	773	199	451	650
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,117</b>	<b>11,681</b>	<b>15,798</b>	<b>4,436</b>	<b>11,319</b>	<b>15,755</b>

#### Comments/Complaints received

- 10 Since the amended opening times have been introduced, only a minimal number of complaints and comments have been received by the Council from residents mainly relating to convenience of use and fears of increased fly-tipping. However, these comments have decreased as residents have become more familiar with the new opening hours and with more use being made of weekend opening.

#### Controls to prevent improper use

- 11 The HWRCs are provided free of charge for residents of Neath Port Talbot to deposit their household waste and recycling. Local traders and businesses cannot use the sites free of charge and there are weighbridge and payment facilities available in the Briton Ferry HWRC for local businesses to use if required, as opposed to taking waste directly to a landfill or private sector waste transfer site.
- 12 In order to control improper use of the HWRCs, residents who use the facilities with either a van or double axle trailer are required to arrange a permit before accessing the sites. This can be arranged

either by telephoning the Council or by visiting our webpage and arranging the permit on-line. The on-line service has proved to be very popular with residents and latest figures indicate 87% of van permits are now booked on-line.

- 13 The Council has the ability to stop permits being issued to vehicles that are suspected of disposing of waste inappropriately. Currently, 47 vehicles have been identified as operating for commercial benefit and have been stopped accessing the HWRCs.
- 14 The Managers of FCC Environment also pass on evidence of any waste arising from outside of the Borough or commercial waste entering the sites to our Waste Enforcement Team for further investigation.

### **Financial Impact**

- 15 The change in hours realised savings an annual saving of £41,000. This does not account for any further savings associated with avoidance of waste being 'attracted' to the facility when it is open and facilities in neighbouring authority areas are closed. If consideration were to be given to reverting back to the previous opening hours then an associated budget requirement would need to be addressed.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

- 16 Not applicable. Communications received have not indicated any equalities issues arising from the previous changes as the Equalities Impact Assessment undertaken at the time indicated would be the case.

### **Workforce Impact**

- 17 There are no workforce impacts associated with this report

### **Legal Impact**

- 18 There are no legal impacts associated with this report

## **Risk Management**

19 There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

## **Consultation**

20 There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item

## **Appendices**

21 Appendix 1 – Locations of HWRCs in the County Borough

## **List of Background Papers**

22 Environment and Highways Cabinet Report, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015, Civic Amenity Site Opening Hours.

## **Officer Contact**

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