

<b>CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 8
<b>18 SEPTEMBER 2024</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Charlotte Palmer Service Director Environment and Climate Change	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Angus Ellis Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport	
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**HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE OPERATIONAL UPDATES**

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>FROM:</b> Charlotte Palmer, Service Director Environment and Climate Change	<b>Deadline date:</b> N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Endorse the mechanism by which the council will introduce a resident only permit scheme for all using vehicles at Peterborough Household Recycling Centre (HRC).</li> <li>2. Endorse the updated HRC Waste Acceptance and Disposal Policy.</li> <li>3. Endorse the residual waste bag splitting proposal.</li> </ol>	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 As part of the 2024/25 budget setting process the council agreed to:

*introduce a scheme to limit access to the Household Recycling Centre (HRC) to Peterborough residents only. This will ensure that Peterborough residents are prioritised for HRC access, as well as reducing the council's waste treatment costs.* This proposal is listed on page 66 here: <https://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/documents/g4916/Public%20reports%20pack%2021st-Feb-2024%2018.00%20Council.pdf?T=10>

This report details how the council intends to implement this change to operations at the HRC alongside proposed updates to the HRC Waste Acceptance and Disposal Policy and the residual waste bag splitting proposal.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the committees' views and comments on the proposed approach to restricting access to the HRC and to endorse the process by which these restrictions will be made alongside endorsing the HRC Waste Acceptance and Disposal Policy and the residual waste bag splitting proposal.

2.2 This report is for Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference Part 3, Section 4 - Overview and Scrutiny Functions, paragraph No. 2.1 Functions determined by Council:

3. Waste Strategy & Management

### 3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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### 4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 **Resident only HRC permit scheme:** Currently there are no restrictions in place to limit access to Peterborough HRC when using a car to deposit household waste and recycling. Vans and trailers are required to apply for an electronic permit.

As part of the 2024/25 budget setting process the council agreed to introduce a scheme to limit access to the Household Recycling Centre (HRC) to Peterborough residents only. In order to achieve this the council intends to expand the permitting system currently in place for vans and trailers to all vehicles.

1. In order to apply for a 12 month permit residents will be required to complete the following steps: Visit [www.peterborough.gov.uk/hrc](http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/hrc) to apply for a permit by providing name, address, contact details and vehicle registration. Residents can also call Peterborough Direct should they not have internet access.
2. Once successfully submitted, the permit is issued immediately, and a unique permit number is allocated against the vehicle registration number and address. Residents will receive confirmation details of this within 10 minutes via email.
3. On arrival at the HRC, the vehicle registration will be taken by the site staff and using a handheld device they will retrieve the permit details. Residents should provide proof of address on the first visit to enable staff to confirm residency at this property. Site staff will confirm that proof has been provided, and as is currently the case with van/trailer permits a visit will be logged accordingly.

Resident only permitting schemes are already operating effectively in other local authorities. Rutland County Council has a similar permit system for their residents as the proposal above, and Nottinghamshire County and Nottingham City Councils both restricts site usage to prevent cross-boundary access. Due to non-residents of Herefordshire and Worcestershire using the Bromsgrove and Redditch Household Recycling Centres, proof of residency is now required to enter these sites in the Worcestershire County Council area demonstrating that Peterborough is not unique in addressing out of area use of recycling centres.

We do not anticipate an impact on fly-tipping. A van/trailer permit system has been in place for several years, and investigations indicate that smaller traders, offering clearances at a lower cost than regulated businesses, lead to waste being given to unregistered waste carriers who may dispose of it illegally. These concerns are unlikely to be related to any changes in policy at the HRC.

Recent trends have seen a 20% increase in residual waste in Q1 24/25 compared to 23/24 and whilst we can't specifically identify where this waste has originated anecdotally officers and site staff are aware that residents from neighbouring local authority areas are visiting regularly due to several factors but mainly due to the restricted opening hours at neighbouring authorities with Lincolnshire sites closed on Wednesday and Thursdays, North Northamptonshire sites are closed 2-4 days a week and Cambridgeshire County Council sites only open 9am-4pm at weekends.

It is anticipated that restricting use to Peterborough residents will result in a reduction in the number of vehicles accessing the site which is essential to ensure that the facility operates effectively maintaining capacity at peak times without causing congestion issues in the local area.

4.2 **HRC Waste Acceptance and Disposal Policy:** The HRC Waste Acceptance and Disposal Policy has been updated to include the new recommendations based on a recent legislation update for acceptance of small-scale DIY waste generated by the householder at HRC's. Previously the restrictions on this material type were open to interpretation and the policy has been updated to make it clear how much DIY waste is defined as household waste and thus accepted free of charge. The new updated limits are:

1. The waste, in a single visit, does not exceed up to a maximum 2 x 50l bags /2 items from a single household and
2. The total visits do not exceed 4 within a 4-week period from a single household

The updated Waste Acceptance and Disposal policy is attached in Appendix 1.

[Charges for disposing of DIY waste at recycling centres scrapped - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Discretion will be given regarding quantities by site staff and will be assessed into 50l equivalent amounts.

4.3 **Residual Waste Bag splitting scheme:** A significant proportion of waste that is brought to the HRC arrives in large bags which members of the public currently place in the residual waste containers regardless of the potential recyclable nature of the contents. The primary objective of this scheme is to reduce the quantity of bagged, unsorted waste to assist in achieving the facilities recycling target of 70%. Critically, this will also reduce the costs associated with disposal of the residual and bulky waste streams. It is also anticipated that, over time, by educating residents, the number of people who come to the facility without pre-sorting their waste will reduce.

FCC Environment who manages the HRC on behalf of the council have submitted a proposal to implement this scheme in Peterborough. The proposal is attached in Appendix 2.

## 5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

5.1 Restricting the collection and treatment of waste to that arising within the Peterborough area alongside ensuring all waste taken to the HRC is sorted appropriately directly links to the Economy & Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Future City Council priorities

Carbon Impact Assessment Summary - We anticipate the carbon impacts of the residents-only permit scheme will include reduced travel, as it restricts HRC access to local residents, thereby lowering vehicle emissions from non-residents. It will also result in diminished traffic congestion around the HRC, reducing idling emissions. Regarding the updated waste acceptance and disposal policy, efficient waste management and clearer guidelines will facilitate more precise waste sorting and processing, thereby reducing energy consumption and emissions. It will also minimise potential contamination, avoiding additional emissions from improper disposal. Finally, the bag-splitting proposal will lead to increased recycling rates, reducing the amount of waste sent for incineration and conserving raw materials and energy, further decreasing the overall carbon footprint. These proposals could lead to significant reductions in carbon emissions through more efficient waste management, reduced travel emissions, and heightened recycling efforts. We plan to quantify this impact with tonnage and ANPR data over time.

## 6. CONSULTATION

6.1 The proposal to introduce a scheme to limit access to the Household Recycling Centre (HRC) was consulted on as part of the 2024/25 budget setting process.

## 7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 7.1 It is anticipated that the actions detailed within this report will increase recycling, reduce residual waste, ensure capacity for Peterborough residents is available whilst reducing traffic congestion around the HRC in Fengate.

## 8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 The recommendation contained within this report detail how the council intends to deliver against a commitment made as part of the 2024/25 budget setting process. This report also includes two further actions which will support Peterborough's commitment to increase recycling.

## 9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 Do nothing. This has been ruled out as the council has already committed to restricting access to the HRC to Peterborough residents.

## 10. IMPLICATIONS

### Financial Implications

- 10.1 **Resident only HRC permit scheme:** The introduction of the Resident only HRC permit scheme is expected to reduce the amount of waste to be treated, resulting in savings to the council after accounting for additional costs of administration. The MTFS included a budget saving estimated at £63k from 2025/26 in this respect. Actual savings will depend on the volume of waste treatment avoided.

**HRC Waste Acceptance and Disposal Policy:** This is based on national legislation and will have no additional cost to the Council.

**Residual Waste Bag splitting scheme:** The residual waste bag splitting proposal is a contractual requirement for FCC to implement so there is no additional cost to the Council.

### Legal Implications

- 10.2 Section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 requires a local authority to arrange for places to be provided for the disposal of household waste by local residents.

### Equalities Implications

- 10.3 There are no equalities implications as a result of this report.

## 11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 11.1 None

## 12. APPENDICES

- 12.1 *Appendix 1 – HRC Waste Acceptance and Disposal Policy*  
*Appendix 2 – Residual Waste Bag Splitting Proposal*