

Report of:	Meeting	Date	Item No.
Street Scene Portfolio Holder, Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Philippa Davies, Corporate Director of Resources	Council	8 September, 2011	13

CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO PROPOSED CLOSURE OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE NEAR GARSTANG

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To agree a formal consultation response from Wyre Council to the proposed closure of the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) near Garstang by Lancashire County Council.

2. Outcomes

- 2.1 An agreed response to submit to Lancashire County Council as part of the consultation.

3. Recommendations:

- 3.1 That the Council fully supports the residents of Wyre who are in opposition to the closure of the Household Waste Recycling Centre near Garstang.
- 3.2 That the Council submits the response attached at Appendix A to the consultation on the Rationalisation of Household Waste Recycling Centres currently being undertaken by Lancashire County Council.

4. Background

- 4.1 In February 2011, as part of Lancashire County Council's budget planning process, they took the decision to further rationalise the network of Household Waste Recycling Centres provided by the authority by closing four facilities. One of the proposed closures contained within the Consultation Review issued in July 2011 is the HWRC near Garstang.
- 4.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee decided, at their meeting in July 2011, to set up a working group of Councillors whose Wards were

affected by the proposals to consider the proposals and write a response to the consultation.

- 4.3 The Scrutiny Working Group met on one occasion and received evidence on which these recommendations are based. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the response at their meeting on 22 August and any comments made by the Committee have been incorporated into the response.
- 4.4 The proposed closure of the HWRC has received a lot of press mostly in the Garstang Courier which has published numerous letters from concerned residents and undertaken a survey on the issue. A petition against the closure has also been started by Garstang Town Council.

5. Key Issues and Proposals

- 5.1 There has been a very strong reaction from residents, local town and parish councils and Ward Councillors against the proposed closure of the HWRC near Garstang.
- 5.2 The Scrutiny Working Group has identified many issues of concern including the extra waste Wyre Council will be expected to gather and the waste that it cannot gather such as wood, rubble, hard plastic and hazardous waste and the potential impacts this may have on fly tipping and increased tonnage for Wyre to collect and dispose of.
- 5.3 In many instances residents are being asked to more than double their journey to take waste to the nearest HWRC with substantial increases in both time and distance to be travelled and the financial implications of this.
- 5.4 It is unclear whether Lancashire County Council have considered any alternative proposals, however, without a detailed breakdown of costs which has been denied to Wyre Council on the grounds of commercial sensitivity, it is difficult to put forward any alternative proposals.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	None arising from this report.
Legal	None arising from this report.
Community Safety	None arising from this report.
Equality and Diversity	None arising from this report.
Sustainability	None arising from this report.
Health and Safety	None arising from this report.
Risk Management	None arising from this report.

Asset Management	None arising from this report.
Climate Change	None arising from this report.

Report Author	Telephone No.	Email	Date
Sharon Davis	01253 887607	sharon.davis@wyre.gov.uk	22.08.11

List of Background Papers:		
Name of Document	Date	Where available for inspection
Rationalisation of Household Waste Recycling Centres Consultation Review	July 2011	Lancashire County Council's website

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A – Response to the Consultation

arm/ex/cou/cr/11/0809sd2

Appendix A



Response to Lancashire County Council Consultation on the Rationalisation of Household Waste Recycling Centres

Wyre Council strongly supports its residents in opposing the proposed closure of the Household Waste Recycling Centre near Garstang.

Waste received by Garstang HWRC

Currently 763.58 tonnes of recyclable waste that could be collected by Wyre Council is taken to the HWRC, however, if householders were to present this waste at the kerbside it could have a significant impact on the cost of the authority's collection service, because:

- It may require additional resource to collect the waste – vehicles and operational staff in particular because additional recycling would affect the payloads of the vehicles and require them to tip more often. This would have a significant effect in Garstang and the surrounding areas due to the extensive travelling distance and time it takes to get to the treatment plant at Thornton.
- It may imbalance the round configurations and require re-routing or new rounds. This is of particular concern as the council is currently procuring a new contract based on existing arrangements.

Should the additional waste Wyre Council collects increase due to the closure of the centre; we would expect the costs incurred to be met by Lancashire County Council.

A major concern is the tonnage and waste types received by the site near Garstang which cannot be collected by services offered by Wyre Council. Materials such as rubble, wood, hazardous waste, hard plastic and scrap metal amongst many others received by the HWRC total 1779.36 tonnes. If the distance to be travelled by residents to the nearest centre is not practical, as we believe, what provision will be put in place to dispose of this waste?

Garstang is also one of few sites to accept materials such as hard plastic or asbestos.

Distance to closest alternative facility

It is not clear in the consultation document whether actual routes have been tested or whether the distance to alternative sites has been calculated using an 'as the crow flies' approach from a 2 mile radius of the affected site. A brief exercise was therefore undertaken to assess the actual mileage and time taken from areas in the borough

potentially most affected by the closures. (See Appendix 1 – Please note the times and distances are for one way journeys).

This table clearly demonstrates that the claims made within the consultation document that all residents will be within 10 miles of the nearest HWRC to be clearly false. The mileage to be travelled by residents is a concern on many levels including carbon emissions, the cost to residents and also the time it will take to travel to the nearest HWRC and return. In many instances residents are being asked to more than double their distance and time to be travelled in order to recycle this waste with some journeys taking over an hour for a round trip. We believe this is an unacceptable request.

In a recent survey undertaken by the local newspaper, the Garstang Courier, more than half of the 275 people who took part said that rather than travel the extra distances to another tip, they would reduce the amount of waste they recycle and put more into their grey bins, which are collected by Wyre Council.

Fly tipping

The Council has also attempted to assess the potential impact the closure will have on fly tipping and contacted three authorities within Lancashire who experienced a HWRC closure in March 2011. The responses from two authorities suggested they had seen little impact on fly tipping, however, Ribble Valley and, in particular, the Petre Arms catchment area is more comparable to the Garstang area than the other two sites and has seen an increase in fly tipping of 50% in May 2011. Further investigations by Ribble Valley revealed that the number of fly tipping incidents in the catchment area originally covered by the Petre Arms HWRC have increased by 131% since February 2011.

Of particular concern are the waste streams taken to Garstang HWRC that Wyre Council is unable to collect. There is potential for these streams to be fly tipped as residents may not be willing to travel further. In addition, a concern would be that residents may choose to use unlicensed waste carriers that flytip the waste.

Conclusion

It is clear that the issues of primary concern are the impact on local residents whether it be the expectation that they travel further and the financial implications this may have or the potential fly tipping which may occur due to the closure.

Other issues that must be raised include a lack of impact assessments undertaken by Lancashire County Council. Impact assessments have not been carried out on equality, traffic, impact on highways congestion and maintenance, carbon footprint and the cost for the householder especially in light of increasing fuel costs. A whole cost analysis has not been undertaken. There may be savings for Lancashire County Council identified, however, the whole picture including financial impacts on district councils and residents have not been considered.

The Council would also like to draw Lancashire County Council's attention to their Lancashire Waste Management Strategy (Rubbish to Resources). These proposals

do not tie in with the national strategy (Waste Hierarchy) or the LWMS. The network of sites is crucial and they play a vital part in the overall waste management efforts to meet the targets identified in this strategy.

Alternative proposals

It is unclear whether Lancashire County Council have considered any alternative proposals such as reducing opening hours of the affected centre which may be a preferred option for residents, however, without a detailed breakdown of costs and savings to be made which has been denied to the Council on the grounds of commercial sensitivity, it is difficult for this Council to put forward alternative proposals of its own.

arm/ex/cou/cr/11/0809sd2

One Way Distances to alternative HWRC's from affected areas in Wyre by the proposed closure of Claughton HWRC.

	Ingol HWRC	Salt Ayre HWRC	Jameson Rd HWRC	Longridge HWRC	Average (based on 4 alternative sites)	Claughton HWRC (Current)	Additional journey for residents. Difference between current and alternative sites – <u>one way journey</u>
Pilling Broadfleet Close PR3 6BT	22.9 miles 38 mins	14.1 miles 30 mins	12.9 miles 26 mins	27.2 miles 51 mins	19.28 miles 36.25 mins	12.4 miles 29 mins	6.88 miles 7.25 mins
Winmarleigh Throstle Nest Lane PR3 0LA	13 miles 29 mins	12.8 miles 29 mins	17.9 miles 35 mins	15.7 miles 38 mins	14.85 miles 35.75 mins	5 miles 13 mins	9.85 miles 22.75 mins
Nateby Hoole Lane PR3 0LN	12.4 miles 29 mins	15.5 miles 35 mins	13.6 miles 34 mins	15.1 miles 38 mins	14.15 miles 34 mins	4.5 miles 13 mins	9.65 miles 21 mins
Dolphinholme Tinkers Lane / Trough Road PR3 1BP	19.6 miles 33 mins	10.8 miles 28 mins	22.1 miles 47 mins	23.7 miles 45 mins	19.05 miles 38.25 mins	9.2 miles 25 mins	9.85 miles 13.25 mins
Scorton Springfield Gardens PR3 1AX	13.2 miles 29 mins	11.8 miles 26 mins	18.2 miles 35 mins	16 miles 38 mins	14.8 miles 32 mins	5.3 miles 13 mins	9.5 miles 19 mins
Calder Vale Burnside Avenue PR3 1SE	11.1 miles 30 mins	16.5 miles 42 mins	18.1 miles 40 mins	13.9 miles 39 mins	14.9 miles 37.75 mins	3.8 miles 14 mins	11.1 miles 23.75 mins

Source: AA route planner utilised. Please note routes may change marginally as the AA route planner takes into account roadworks/diversions.

arm/ex/cou/cr/11/0809sd2