

Consultation on possible changes to Dorset's household recycling centres

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Who is in the Dorset Waste Partnership?

The Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP) was formed in April 2011 and provides waste and recycling services for its seven partner councils: Christchurch Borough Council; Dorset County Council; East Dorset District Council; North Dorset District Council; Purbeck District Council; West Dorset District Council; and Weymouth and Portland Borough Council. It is owned by its partners and overseen by a Joint Committee of two councillors from each partner council.

Where are the 11 household recycling centres (HRCs) in Dorset?

The 11 HRCs managed by the DWP are in:

- Blandford
- Bridport
- Christchurch
- Dorchester
- Portland
- Shaftesbury
- Sherborne
- Swanage
- Wareham
- Weymouth
- Wimborne

Dorset residents can also use HRCs at Nuffield (Poole), Millhams (Bournemouth) and Somerley (Hampshire) under agreements between the DWP and neighbouring councils.



For more information about Dorset's household recycling centres, go to www.dorsetforyou.com/recycling-centres/household

Who are you consulting with?

This public consultation is open to all Dorset residents and groups or organisations with an interest in the possible changes being considered.

Have any decisions already been made and what difference will my views make?

No decisions on the options included in this consultation have yet been made. At its meeting on 25 September 2014, the DWP Joint Committee agreed to consult the public on a range of options to reduce the cost of the DWP's household recycling centres. The committee also agreed that a decision on changes to daytime HRC opening hours could be made by the DWP management. All responses to the consultation will be analysed and presented for consideration at a future meeting of the Joint Committee, where a decision on which options to proceed with will be made.

What will happen then?

Decisions made by the Joint Committee will be communicated to residents in advance of any changes being made. Any changes will form part of the new contract for the operation of Dorset's HRCs, which will go out to tender in autumn 2015 and come into place in 2016. However, some changes may be put in place before then.

Why doesn't the consultation say which specific HRCs may be affected?

We have not limited the options to specific HRCs as we want to make sure all possibilities are considered. The options could affect any of the HRCs used by Dorset residents.

Why would you charge for DIY waste and tyres?

HRCs are provided for local people to take household rubbish and recycling that cannot be put in their bins. Building and DIY waste, such as rubble and plasterboard, is not considered day-to-day household rubbish because it is the result of home improvements. There are various ways to deal with this type of waste, such as skip hire. Dealing with this waste should be part of the cost of making home improvements and not paid for by taxpayers. Similarly, tyres are not considered household waste.

Would the changes reduce recycling and increase landfill?

We do not expect that the options being considered would lead to a significant drop in the level of recycling at HRCs and an increase in landfill. We will continue to encourage residents to recycle using HRCs and the improved kerbside collection service.

Would the changes increase fly-tipping?

In identifying the options we have considered the potential risks, including the possibility of an increase in fly-tipping. We are closely monitoring the situation in other areas that have made or are due to make changes to their HRC service, such as Hertfordshire, Suffolk, Norfolk, Lincolnshire and Poole. At present there is little available evidence of related increases in fly-tipping.

Have you considered future house-building in Dorset?

Yes. The options are linked to the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Dorset, adopted in 2009, and the Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole Waste Plan, which is currently being developed subject to a separate public consultation. These plans take into account the anticipated population and housing growth in Dorset over a 25-year period. These documents can be found at www.dorsetforyou.com/futureofwaste and www.dorsetforyou.com/waste-plan

Have you considered the impact of the new collection service?

Yes. The new, comprehensive 'recycle for Dorset' kerbside collection service, which will be

in place across Dorset by summer 2015, enables residents to recycle more than ever and has helped double recycling rates in some areas. This has reduced the amount of waste going to landfill and the need for residents to visit HRCs. This is also helping reduce costs by sharing resources and working across council boundaries.

Do you know how many people use each HRC?

Historically we have used the amount of waste taken to HRCs to compare the use of different sites. From this year, all HRCs have vehicle counters to record the number of vehicles every hour, seven days a week. This data is being analysed alongside the amount of waste to measure the use of our HRCs.

How much does it cost to run a HRC?

The operating costs of our HRCs range from £100,000 to £300,000 each. These costs include staff, equipment, waste permits and all utility bills. They do not include the cost of recycling, reprocessing, transporting and disposing of waste.

Would I need to travel further to visit a HRC if changes are made?

Currently 86% of Dorset residents live within five miles of a HRC. Any increases in travelling distance as a result of possible changes to HRCs will be taken into consideration before any decisions are made.

Will HRCs still be open on Bank Holidays?

There are currently no plans to close HRCs on Bank Holidays and at Easter. Our HRCs are currently closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Why are you building a new HRC in Bridport if you are trying to save money?

A new HRC is being built in Bridport to replace the current, temporary HRC, which is small and subject to restrictions. The new centre will also include a transfer station, which will improve the efficiency and costs of the collection service.