

Consultation on possible changes to Dorset's household recycling centres

Summary document

Why do we need to make changes?

Formed in 2011, the Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP) is reducing costs for its seven partner councils by sharing resources, working across boundaries and introducing a new collection service that has increased recycling and reduced landfill waste.

However, with on-going reductions in funding, the DWP and its partners are under increasing pressure to provide services for less money. We are looking at all areas of the services we provide to find the savings we need.

One of these is our network of 11 household recycling centres (HRCs), where residents can take a range of household materials. These are in:

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

Some Dorset residents can also use HRCs outside our boundary, at Nuffield (Poole), Millhams (Bournemouth) and Somerley (Hampshire).

Our HRCs are operated under a contract, which is due to go out to tender next autumn. It is important we know what service we need under any new contract as well as any possible savings to be made before then.

Dorset's HRCs cost around £3.3m a year – about 11% of the DWP's annual budget. We are looking at a range of options to provide a more efficient service that remains convenient and accessible for local people. The savings needed are significant and some difficult decisions will need to be made.

We need your help in deciding the future of the HRC service across Dorset. This is your opportunity to have your say on the options and how they might affect you before any decisions are made.

In a recent survey of more than 12,000 Dorset residents, waste and recycling were ranked as the third most important out of 20 key council services. Providing a cost-effective and fit-for-purpose HRC service is a priority for the DWP, so your views are important to us.

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

The options

The possible changes being considered are to:

- A. Close one or more of the 11 Dorset HRCs on a permanent basis. (Specific HRCs have not yet been identified and would be subject to further consultation.)
Potential savings: Up to £100,000 a year per site
- B. Charge for entry at one or more HRCs instead of closing them.
Potential savings: £65,000 a year per site
- C. Close all HRCs for up to three weekdays.
Potential savings: up to £300,000 a year
- D. Charge residents to dispose of non-household materials, such as DIY waste and tyres.
Potential savings: £250,000 a year
- E. Remove the subsidy the DWP pays neighbouring councils for Dorset residents to use their HRCs and ask residents to pay instead (e.g. £5 per visit). **Potential savings: £70,000 a year**

More than one of these changes may be needed. Please note the potential savings figures are a general guide only.

How to have your say

All responses must be received by the end of Friday 13 February 2015.

The best way is to complete the online questionnaire at www.dorsetforyou.com/hrc

If you cannot go online at home, you can:

- Complete the online questionnaire using the free internet access at a local library
- Collect and return a paper copy from – and return it to – all Dorset HRCs, district, borough and county council offices and Dorset libraries
- Call 01305 221040 to request a paper copy and return it to HRC Consultation, Dorset Waste Partnership, Grove House, Millers Close, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1SS

If you need this document in another format, such as Braille, audio CD, large print or a different language, please contact us:

Email: enquiries@dorsetwastepartnership.gov.uk

Phone: 01305 221040

What happens next?

All responses will be presented to a future meeting of the DWP Joint Committee, made up of two elected members from each partner council. The committee will consider the consultation feedback before making any decisions on changes to HRCs.