

CABINET RESPONSE TO ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SELECT COMMITTEE

**Consultation on Proposed Changes to Surrey's Community Recycling Centres (Cost Reductions) [item 7]
(Considered by the Environment and Infrastructure Select Committee on 7 September 2017)**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Environment and Infrastructure Select Committee recommended:

- a) That Cabinet reconsider the removal of the free daily allowance.
- b) That a network of CRC sites across the county are open 7 days a week.
- c) That a more robust method for recording fly tipping is agreed and implemented in partnership with district and boroughs which includes fly tipping on private land.
- d) For more work to be done around further reuse and black bag sorting, so more advantage can be taken of commercial opportunities.

RESPONSE:

I would like to thank the Select Committee for considering this very important matter. As I have said before, I very much regret having to put forward proposals for changes to our community recycling centre (CRC) service but given the financial position of the council, we have no choice but to reduce our spend across all services.

Residents were very clear that they did not want to see permanent closure of their local community recycling centre. We have listened to our residents and as a consequence I will not be recommending the permanent closure of any CRC. However in order to make savings we will need to reduce the opening days of our CRCs as well as make other changes to the service. I have listened carefully to what the Select Committee have said and confirm that whilst we will have to reduce the number of days we open our CRCs, we will maintain a network of strategic sites which will be open 7 days per week. We will also ensure that all sites are open at the weekend, where planning consent allows.

I recognise that both residents and the Select Committee had strong feelings against removal of the free daily allowance for chargeable waste, however the savings that will be achieved through implementation of this proposal are an absolute necessity given that we are no longer going to achieve savings through the permanent closure of four CRCs. It has to be recognised that even with the removal of the free daily allowance for chargeable waste, there will still be a significant shortfall in the level of savings that are required.

I would concur with the Select Committee that we need to do more work in relation to reuse and black bag sorting and this forms part of our proposals for further cost savings. Just this week our contractor, Suez, has commenced a trial selling electrical goods that have been safety tested and we hope that this will form part of our expansion of reuse activities.

I would agree that we need to work with district and borough colleagues to improve the way that fly tipping incidents are recorded and ensure greater consistency between district and boroughs. The Surrey Waste Partnership have employed a Partnership and Intelligence Officer to work with districts and boroughs to ensure intelligence is shared and this includes a greater consistency in the way data on fly-tipping is collected and recorded.#

Mr Mike Goodman
Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport
26 September 2017