

Closure of Bagshot Community Recycling Centre

Did you use the EIA Screening Tool? (Delete as applicable)

Yes (please attach upon submission)

1. Explaining the matter being assessed

This is a:

- Change to a service or function

Summarise the strategy, policy, service(s), or function(s) being assessed. Describe current status followed by any changes that stakeholders would experience.

The council provides a network of 15 CRCs across the county, which provide facilities for Surrey residents to recycle waste from their homes. This EIA considers the impact of closing Bagshot CRC and extending opening of nearby Camberly CRC by one day per week to seven days per week.

Bagshot CRC currently sees approximately 50K visits per year and receives approximately 1700 tonnes of waste per year. This equates to approximately 2% of the county's annual CRC tonnage. The closest alternative sites at Camberley, Lyne and Woking receive approximately 157k, 121k and 243k visits per year respectively.

Waste bins at Bagshot CRC are only accessible with the use of steps making access more challenging for some users.

If the closure proceeds, some users would have to travel for up to twenty minutes to the closest of three nearby alternative sites located in Camberley, Lyne and Woking. However, all of these alternative sites are more accessible, split-level sites where waste bins are situated at a lower level than the publicly accessible areas, enabling users to drop waste down into bins without the need to climb steps.

It is proposed that the closest alternative CRC to Bagshot, located in Camberley, will be opened for an additional day per week to mitigate the impact of the closure.

How does your service proposal support the outcomes in [the Community Vision for Surrey 2030](#)?

This work relates to the following 'Place' ambition:

Residents live in clean, safe and green communities, where people and organisations embrace their environmental responsibilities.

Are there any specific geographies in Surrey where this will make an impact?

Equality Impact Assessment

- Surrey Heath
- County division - Bagshot, Windlesham and Chobham

Assessment team.

- Alan Horton
 - SCC Resources and Circular Economy Team
 - Author
-
- Richard Parkinson
 - SCC Resources and Circular Economy Group Manager
 - Reviewer and contributor
-
- Steven Foster
 - SCC Interim Director for Waste
 - Sponsor and approver

2. Service Users / Residents

Who may be affected by this activity?

There are 9 protected characteristics (Equality Act 2010) to consider in your proposal. These are:

1. Age including younger and older people
2. Disability
3. Gender reassignment
4. Pregnancy and maternity
5. Race including ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality
6. Religion or belief including lack of belief
7. Sex
8. Sexual orientation
9. Marriage/civil partnerships

Though not included in the Equality Act 2010, Surrey County Council recognises that there are other vulnerable groups which significantly contribute to inequality across the county and therefore they should also be considered within EIAs. If relevant, you will need to include information on the following vulnerable groups (Please **refer to the EIA guidance** if you are unclear as to what this is).

- Members/Ex members of armed forces and relevant family members (in line with the Armed Forces Act 2021 and [Statutory Guidance on the Armed Forces Covenant Duty](#))
- Adult and young carers*
- Those experiencing digital exclusion*
- Those experiencing domestic abuse*
- Those with education/training (literacy) needs
- Those experiencing homelessness*
- Looked after children/Care leavers*
- Those living in rural/urban areas
- Those experiencing socioeconomic disadvantage*
- Out of work young people)*
- Adults with learning disabilities and/or autism*
- People with drug or alcohol use issues*
- People on probation
- People in prison
- Migrants, refugees, asylum seekers
- Sex workers
- Children with Special educational needs and disabilities*
- Adults with long term health conditions, disabilities (including SMI) and/or sensory impairment(s)*
- Older People in care homes*
- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities*
- Other (describe below)

(*as identified in the Surrey COVID Community Impact Assessment and the Surrey Health and Well-being Strategy)

Equality Impact Assessment

All protected characteristics and vulnerable groups

Describe here the considerations and concerns in relation to the programme/policy for the selected group.

The closure of the site would not impact or disadvantage any group more than any other and affects all current users of the site.

Swift lane isn't accessible on foot, so closure won't impact pedestrian visitors. Hypothetically Camberley can be accessed by pedestrians but its location renders this point moot.

Swift Lane is the closest CRC to 12,428 households.

63.47% (7894) of these households will see no increase in drive time when accessing the nearest alternative (Lyne, Woking or Camberley).

Of the remaining 4544 households, none will have a drive time of greater than 20 minutes or 7.8 miles to the closest alternative site.

9 A four-week consultation was carried out to give residents an opportunity to participate in the decision-making process on the closure. The consultation ran from 16th September 2024 until 11th October 2024. Seven % of respondents were in favour of the proposal. None of the responses highlighted any impacts on groups with protected characteristics or vulnerabilities.

SUEZ incident logs have recorded 48 nuisance incidents (fly-tipping, break ins, vandalism, anti-social behaviour) between 2nd January 2024 and 25th August. No other SCC CRC suffers such high levels of nuisance-based disruption. This disruption impacts on site staff and users negatively, the site often having to close to allow remedial action.

SUEZ have recorded 801 instances of fly tipping across all Surrey CRC sites between January 2019 and August 2024. Of these, 531 (66%) were at Bagshot CRC. Of the other 14 sites, Lyne experienced 89 fly tipping incidents (11%) in the period. Fly tipping incidents at all of the other 12 sites combined make up the remaining 23%.

Despite the high levels of disruption, a review of complaints received from users of the site by SUEZ since January 2023 shows that 23 complaints have been recorded across the CRC estate, none of which relate to Bagshot CRC. SUEZ believe that this reflects the empathy felt by users of the site for site staff, recognising the difficulties the site presents.

The site has to close for container exchange, leading to inconvenience & a build-up of queues. There is no means of compacting the containers which means that they will go out light – creating more of a carbon impact per tonne in terms of haulage. These issues do not occur at the alternative sites.

SUEZ have confirmed that no jobs would be lost if the site was closed.

Describe here suggested mitigations to inform the actions needed to reduce inequalities.

All of the alternative sites are more accessible, split-level sites and don't require the use of steps to access waste bins.

Equality Impact Assessment

The alternative site at Woking includes a Revive Reuse shop providing opportunities for an enhanced visitor experience.

Users of the Bagshot site must cross vehicle routes through the site to access waste bins which presents a hazard. All of the proposed alternative sites are designed such that vehicles are unloaded next to waste bins, negating the need for users to come into potential conflict with vehicles.

Use of the proposed alternative sites would have a relatively small impact on journey times and distances and only a relatively small cohort of users would see increased journey times to alternative sites.

If Bagshot CRC is closed, the alternative site in Camberley will be opened for an additional day each week meaning that this site is available seven days per week. Bagshot CRC is open only four days per week (Saturday to Tuesday inclusive).

SUEZ will redeploy staff from Bagshot CRC to resource the additional opening hours at Camberley CRC and to provide additional assistance for site users at all three alternative sites.

The Resources and Circular Economy Team will work with Surrey Heath Borough Council (SHBC) to monitor fly tipping in Bagshot following closure of the CRC. However it should be noted that SHBC and/or the Environment would be responsible for clearance and enforcement action (dependant on scale) where waste is fly tipped on the highway or public land.

SUEZ will monitor compliments and complaints from site users to identify whether any service improvements could be introduced to further mitigate the impact of the closure.

Should the closure of the site proceed, residents will be informed via a press release, targeted social media posts and signage on site notifying residents of the closure and associated timeframes.

What other changes is the council planning/already in place that may affect the same groups of residents? Are there any dependencies decision makers need to be aware of?

None

Any negative impacts that cannot be mitigated?

The Swift Lane CRC site in Bagshot is too small to allow the construction of the necessary ramps to convert it to a split-level facility whilst providing sufficient space for operations such as bin movements.

3. Staff

All protected characteristics and vulnerable groups

Describe here the considerations and concerns in relation to the programme/policy for the selected group.

The closure of the site would not impact or disadvantage any group more than any other and affects all current site staff. The staff concerned are employed by SUEZ and SCC do not hold any data on them.

Site staff will be retained by SUEZ and relocated to work at other sites close by.

Waste bins at the alternative, split-level sites are more easily accessed by all.

9 Describe here suggested mitigations to inform the actions needed to reduce inequalities.

Site staff will be retained by SUEZ and relocated to work at other sites close by.

Site staff site must cross vehicle routes through the site to access waste bins which presents a hazard. All of the proposed alternative sites are designed such that vehicles are unloaded next to waste bins, negating the need for users and staff to come into potential conflict with vehicles.

What other changes is the council planning/already in place that may affect the same groups of residents? Are there any dependencies decision makers need to be aware of?

None.

Any negative impacts that cannot be mitigated?

The Swift Lane CRC site in Bagshot is too small to allow the construction of the necessary ramps to convert it to a split-level facility whilst providing sufficient space for operations such as bin movements.

4. Recommendation

Based your assessment, please indicate which course of action you are recommending to decision makers. You should explain your recommendation below.

- **Outcome One: No major change to the policy/service/function required.** This EIA has not identified any potential for discrimination or negative impact, and all opportunities to promote equality have been undertaken
- ~~**Outcome Two: Adjust the policy/service/function** to remove barriers identified by the EIA or better advance equality. Are you satisfied that the proposed adjustments will remove the barriers you identified?~~
- ~~**Outcome Three: Continue the policy/service/function** despite potential for negative impact or missed opportunities to advance equality identified. You will need to make sure the EIA clearly sets out the justifications for continuing with it. You need to consider whether there are:~~
 - ~~Sufficient plans to stop or minimise the negative impact~~
 - ~~Mitigating actions for any remaining negative impacts plans to monitor the actual impact.~~
- ~~**Outcome Four: Stop and rethink the policy** when the EIA shows actual or potential unlawful discrimination. (For guidance on what is unlawful discrimination, refer to the [Equality and Human Rights Commission's guidance and Codes of Practice on the Equality Act](#) concerning employment, goods and services and equal pay).~~

Recommended outcome:

The Resources and Circular Economy Team are recommending Outcome One to allow the closure of Swift Lane CRC in Bagshot and extend the opening of Camberly CRC seven days per week.

Explanation:

Following a recent review of the operation, the Resources and Circular Economy team are recommending the closure of Bagshot Community Recycling Centre (CRC) due to:

- **Condition** - the site is difficult to access, unmodernised and too small to be upgraded to a modern split-level site, so it cannot be made fit for future, in line with the Council's mid-term Waste Strategy.
- **Low usage** – it is one of the county's smallest sites for public recycling, handling just 2% (c.1,700 tonnes) of the county's CRC waste each year.
- **Safety concerns** - the site has suffered from repeated incidences of antisocial behaviour including, overnight vandalism and fly tipping. Users must also cross vehicle circulation areas to access the waste bins.

Equality Impact Assessment

The closure of the site would not impact or disadvantage any group more than any other and affects all current users of the site.

Alternative sites located close by are more accessible and analysis has shown that the longest journey from a household in the Bagshot CRC area to an alternative site will not exceed twenty minutes. Most current users will not see significantly increased journey times to alternative sites.

Equality Impact Assessment

5. Action plan and monitoring arrangements

Insert your action plan here, based on the mitigations recommended.

Involve you Assessment Team in monitoring progress against the actions above.

Item	Initiation Date	Action/Item	Person Actioning	Target Completion Date	Update/Notes	Open/ Closed
1	On Closure	SUEZ will monitor compliments and complaints from site users to identify whether any service improvements could be introduced to further mitigate the impact of the closure	SUEZ	12 Months from closure		
2	Following Cabinet decision	SCC will inform residents via a press release, targeted social media posts and signage on site notifying residents of the closure and associated timeframes.	SCC Comms	1 week from Cabinet decision to close		
3						

6a. Version control

Version Number	Purpose/Change	Author	Date
0.0	Draft	Alan Horton	08/10/2024
1.0	Final	Alan Horton	18/10/2024

The above provides historical data about each update made to the Equality Impact Assessment.

Please include the name of the author, date and notes about changes made – so that you can refer to what changes have been made throughout this iterative process.

For further information, please see the EIA Guidance document on version control.

Equality Impact Assessment

6b. Approval

Secure approval from the appropriate level of management based on nature of issue and scale of change being assessed.

The level of EIA sign off will depend on who the change affects. Generally speaking, for strictly internal changes, Head of Service/ Exec Director sign off should suffice. For changes affecting residents, the Cabinet Member is required to approve completed EIAs.

Approved by	Date approved
Head of Service	08/10/2024
Executive Director	
Cabinet Member	
Directorate Equality Group/ EDI Group (If Applicable) (arrangements will differ depending on your Directorate. Please enquire with your Head of Service or the CSP Team if unsure)	

9

Publish:

It is recommended that all EIAs are published on Surrey County Council's website.

Please send approved EIAs to: equalityimpactassessments@surreycc.gov.uk

EIA author:

6c. EIA Team

Name	Job Title	Organisation	Team Role
Alan Horton	RACE Programme Manager	SCC Resources and Circular Economy team	Author
Richard Parkinson	Resources and Circular Economy Group Manager	SCC Resources and Circular Economy team	Reviewer
Steven Foster	Interim Director of Waste	SCC Resources and Circular Economy team	Approver

Equality Impact Assessment

If you would like this information in large print, Braille, on CD or in another language please contact us on:

Tel: 03456 009 009

Textphone (via Text Relay): 18001 03456 009 009

SMS: 07860 053 465

Email: contactcentre@surreycc.gov.uk