

DATE: 30 MARCH 2021



REPORT OF MRS NATALIE BRAMHALL, CABINET MEMBER FOR
CABINET MEMBER: ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LEAD OFFICER: KATIE STEWART EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENT,
TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

SUBJECT: INTRODUCTION OF ADDITIONAL WASTE MATERIALS AT
BAGSHOT, WARLINGHAM, DORKING AND CRANLEIGH
COMMUNITY RECYCLING CENTRES (URGENT ITEM)

ORGANISATION STRATEGY GROWING A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY SO EVERYONE CAN
PRIORITY AREA: BENEFIT/ ENABLING A GREENER FUTURE

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Purpose of the Report:

In order to reduce the risk of COVID transmission, it has been necessary to introduce social distancing controls at our community recycling centres. This has resulted in a reduction in capacity and throughput of the sites which in turn has given rise to problems with queueing at a number of community recycling centres.

A potential solution to mitigate the queuing at our larger sites would be to reintroduce containers for non-recyclable waste at the four sites which currently only accept recyclable materials. These sites are under-utilised and increasing the range of materials would help to reduce the demand at the other community recycling centres.

Cabinet is therefore being asked to decide whether to re-introduce containers for non-recyclable waste at Bagshot, Warlingham, Dorking and Cranleigh community recycling centres for a twelve-month period with immediate effect. Restrictions on materials will be re-introduced at a later date following the removal of COVID controls as necessary.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Agree to the reintroduction of services for non-recyclable wastes at Bagshot, Warlingham, Cranleigh and Dorking community recycling centres for a twelve month period and delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change in consultation with the Leader to decide on when to reintroduce the exclusion of non-recyclable materials at these sites following the removal of COVID controls.

Reason for Recommendations:

To mitigate issues of queueing on the highway as a result of reduced throughput at our community recycling centres caused by the introduction of controls to make the sites COVID secure. The reason for urgency is to enable changes to be put in place as soon as possible

over the busy Easter period. The changes should reduce overall queuing times and provide a more convenient service for residents

Executive Summary:

Background

1. On 29 January 2019 Cabinet resolved to retain the CRCs at Bagshot, Cranleigh, Dorking and Warlingham until 30 September 2019, but restrict their use to accepting recycling material only. During this period the council would assess whether different models for operating and funding these four sites could achieve the same saving as closing them.
2. The removal of non-recyclable waste containers at the four sites took place on 7 May 2019, following a period of pre publicity.
3. On 29 October 2019 Cabinet considered the report of a special scrutiny task group and resolved that the Community Recycling Centres (CRCs) at Bagshot, Cranleigh, Dorking and Warlingham be kept open on their current operational days and that they revert to accepting wood in addition to the current types of recyclables.
4. The Cabinet report of 29 October 2019, included an analysis of the data on visitor numbers and waste volumes during the 'recycling only site' trial period from the beginning of May 2019 and officers concluded that whilst there had been a general reduction in overall waste tonnages during this period it was difficult to establish whether the changes in tonnages and visitor numbers had occurred as a consequence of the recycling-only trial or as a result of other ongoing initiatives.

Proposal

5. It is proposed to reintroduce containers for non-recyclable black bag and bulky wastes at the sites as soon as possible with the aim to have these in place for the Easter Bank Holiday on 2 April 2021.
6. It is not proposed to reintroduce containers for rubble, soil, plasterboard or tyres, which are now only accepted at community recycling centres where we have facilities to accept these chargeable wastes.
7. Information will be updated on the council's website and officers will undertake to advertise the changes in an appropriate way.
8. A decision on when to reverse these changes at an appropriate time in the future will be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate change in consultation with the Leader or on the expiry of the twelve- month period.

Consultation:

9. Due to urgency, consultation has been limited to the Chairman of the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee and the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change who are both supportive of the proposal.

Risk Management and Implications:

10. There is a risk that the tonnage of residual waste could increase as a result of the reintroduction of residual waste facilities at the four sites, however during the initial trial, officers were not able to demonstrate with any certainty that there was a link between the change to recycling only sites and a reduction in overall waste tonnages.
11. There is also a risk that the four sites could get busier to the extent that queuing issues start to arise on these sites as well. Officers will monitor the situation with queuing and take mitigating action as necessary

Financial and Value for Money Implications:

12. There is not expected to be an additional cost to reintroduce non- recyclable materials at these sites. Additional cost would only occur if the change resulted in additional non-recyclable material to dispose of however, as stated in the previous section, officers have not been able to establish a definitive causal link between the change to recycling only sites and reduction in waste volumes.

Section 151 Officer Commentary:

13. Although significant progress has been made over the last twelve months to improve the Council's financial position, the medium- term financial outlook beyond 2021/22 remains uncertain. The public health crisis has resulted in increased costs which may not be fully funded. With uncertainty about the ongoing impact of this and no clarity on the extent to which both central and local funding sources might be affected in the medium term, our working assumption is that financial resources will continue to be constrained, as they have been for the majority of the past decade. This places an onus on the Council to continue to consider issues of financial sustainability as a priority in order to ensure stable provision of services in the medium term.
14. Reintroduction of non-recyclable materials at selected community recycling centres is not expected to lead to an additional cost unless the change results in an overall increase in waste volumes. Officers will continue to monitor the situation closely. As such, the Section 151 Officer supports the recommendations

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer:

15. The twelve month adjustment to existing waste recycling arrangements through the re-introduction of containers for non-recyclable waste at Bagshot, Warlingham, Dorking and Cranleigh community recycling is a necessary response to the impact of COVID restrictions to alleviate pressure on sites elsewhere as summarised in the report. The adjustments are made for a twelve- month period which will be kept under review by officers and the Cabinet member.

Equalities and Diversity:

16. An Equality Impact Assessment was included in the Cabinet report of 29 January 2019 and reviewed as part of the Cabinet paper of 29 October 2019. The re-introduction of non-recyclable materials to the four community recycling centres will have no material impact on the findings of the earlier Equality Impact Assessments.

Other Implications:

17. The potential implications for the following council priorities and policy areas have been considered. Where the impact is potentially significant a summary of the issues is set out in detail below.

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	None.
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	None.
Environmental sustainability	None. Residents will continue to be encouraged to recycle as much waste as possible through provision of comprehensive recycling facilities at all community recycling centres and non- recyclable waste will continue to be treated in the most sustainable way, avoiding the use of landfill where possible.
Public Health	None.

What Happens Next:

- a. Non-recyclable waste containers will be reintroduced at Bagshot, Warlingham, Cranleigh and Dorking community recycling centres as soon as practicable.
- b. Surrey County Council's website information will be updated and officers will publicise the new arrangements.

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Consulted:

Cllr Natalie Bramhall, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change

Cllr John O' Reilly, Chairman of the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee

Paul Evans, Director of Law & Governance, Surrey County Council.

Annexes:

None

Sources/background papers:

SCC Cabinet Report and Minutes 29 January 2019

SCC Cabinet Report and Minutes 29 October 2019
