

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Officer decision to change opening hours at Household Recycling Centres
Date of decision:	17 January 2020
Decision maker:	Director for Economy and Place
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>Authority to take this decision is given by the chief executive, item 48 of chief executive's scheme of delegation authorises the Director of Economy and Place to take decisions in relation to Environment and Waste.</p> <p>Operational decision under directorate scheme of delegation as outlined in Section 7 of the constitution. Para 3.7.5.</p> <p>An operational decision involves the day to day management of the council. They are usually incidental to a function being exercised by the council. Such decisions are taken by the chief executive, in accordance with the scheme of delegation and any financial or contracting requirements specified in the finance or contracts procedure rules and will be classed as operational so long as it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is within an approved budget; • Is not in conflict with the council's policies, strategies or relevant service plans; • Does not amend existing or raise new policy issues.
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	Public consultation was carried out in July 2019. A majority of those responding 57.8% disagreed with reducing hours in winter. However traffic surveys indicated use of the Household Recycling Centres before 10am and after 4pm
Decision made:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Subject to a successful contract variation, winter opening hours of Household Recycling Centre's will be reduced between the 1 October and 31 March each year to 0800 to 1600 (from current hours of 0800 to 1800). 2. Subject to a successful variation to planning permission, Sunday opening at Ledbury Household Recycling Centre will be extended to 0800 to 1800 (Summer) and 0800 to 1600 (winter), current hours are 0930 to 1300.
Reasons for decision:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The change will deliver savings of approx. £15,000 per annum • There is no conflict with any council policy, strategy or service plan. • This decision does not amend existing policies nor raise new policy issues. • Use of Household Recycling Centres reduces significantly from 1 October to 31 March each year. This is mainly due to reductions in garden waste received outside of spring and summer months. • Use after 4pm is low and there is a lack of daylight for operations. • The change balances the need for improved cost effectiveness and demand for the service • Extending Ledbury opening hours will bring opening hours into line with all other Household Recycling Centre's.
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	There is risk of public dissatisfaction due to this being a reduction of a popular council service. This is balanced by evidence which supports use of Household Recycling Centres is reduced in the winter.
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	Not reducing winter hours. This option is not recommended as it would not allow the council to redistribute provision and increase opening hours when demand for the service is high. For example at Ross on Wye and Ledbury Household Recycling Centre.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	No declarations of interest.

Signed:

Date: 17 January 2020