

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Introduction of booking system for Hereford and Leominster Household Recycling Centres
Date of decision:	9 September 2020
Decision maker:	Director for Economy and Place
Authority for delegated decision:	Chief Executive Scheme of Delegation – Updated 24 August 2020 Director Economy and Place SA48 Environment and waste
Ward:	County wide
Consultation:	Solicitor to the Council, Section 151 Officer, Cabinet Member - Commissioning, Procurement and Assets, Cabinet Member for Finance & Corporate Services, Assistant Director for Regulatory, Environment and Waste and Head of Environment, Climate Emergency & Waste
Decision made:	To introduce a booking system, from week commencing Monday 14 September 2020 (subject to all requirements being in place) to Hereford and Leominster Household Recycling Centres (HRCs)
Reasons for decision:	<p>The decision has been taken to introduce a booking system for the Hereford and Leominster HRCs to reduce traffic congestion and prevent the need to use the Halo car park in Leominster, while still continuing to protect the public from the threat of Covid-19.</p> <p>The introduction of a booking system to these sites will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ease traffic congestion to the sites through providing time slots for residents to visit, reducing the number of vehicles queuing throughout the day; Reduce the impact of queuing traffic on surrounding businesses, specifically the Rotherwas site in Hereford where we have received reports of negative impacts that queuing traffic is having; Prevent the need for the use of the Halo car park in Leominster which is important as the centre begins to open to more users; Ensure queuing traffic does not then impact access at the Leominster site where the access road cannot accommodate 2 vehicles along the whole stretch; Provide residents with more certainty over their access into the site so they can plan their journey; Help to reduce the incident of fly-tipping close to the sites which is possibly a consequence of people not wanting to wait to dispose of their waste; and Continue to ensure social distancing and improved hygiene control measures can be maintained on both sites; <p>The introduction of a booking system across the other 4 sites has worked well and has been received positively by residents with feedback that <i>'it is speedy and efficient'</i> and <i>'brilliant with the booking system in place.'</i></p>

<p>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</p>	<p>The booking system will provide a better control for limited access to each recycling centre to manage the number of people turning up and on site at any time and limit the spread of Covid-19, protecting both staff and the public;</p> <p>The booking system will help to mitigate traffic congestion which is having an unacceptable impact to surrounding businesses and causing some vehicle movements which increase risk to other road users;</p> <p>This introduction will restrict the use of both sites to 4 visits per fortnight, per household but this has been agreed as being a reasonable expected maximum use;</p> <p>The booking system may slightly reduce the maximum number of vehicles through the sites each day but this will be reviewed regularly to ensure maximum capacity is being achieved;</p> <p>It should be cost neutral although the booking system may reduce the need for additional staff at the gate controlling access and managing traffic, so it could reduce costs – this will be kept under review; and</p> <p>There are established systems in place to assist anyone who may struggle with using an online booking system, which will overcome any equality issues.</p>
<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>Maintaining the current arrangements has been considered.</p> <p>This is not recommended due to the traffic congestion levels, increased risk to road users, the negative impacts to surrounding businesses and to minimise the impact to the Halo Bridge Street Sports Centre.</p>
<p>Details of any declarations of interest made:</p>	<p>None</p>

Signed

Date: 9 September 2020

Name: Richard Ball
Director for Economy and Place