

Full report of responses to Cheshire East
Council's

Household Waste Recycling Centre Consultation 2024



Executive Summary

Introduction

Cheshire East Council approved its medium-term financial strategy (MTFS) for 2024 to 2028 at a meeting of Full Council in February 2024. This approved MTFS included proposal 96: "Review of Household Waste Recycling Centres".

As part of this review Cheshire East Council conducted a consultation on what long-term HWRC provision in the borough should look like.

The consultation was conducted between 3 May and 16 June 2024, and was widely publicised, with responses invited from anyone who wished to respond – the consultation was not run as a referendum nor as a statistically robust sample survey.

In total the consultation received 4,124 responses, including 4,066 survey responses and 58 emails.

Alongside the consultation responses, 7 newspaper articles were published in relation to the consultation, and [1 petition against the closure of Middlewich, Poynton and Bollington HWRCs](#) was received by the council, which as of 27 June 2024 had 7,683 signatures.

Summary of survey responses

Large proportions of survey respondents were users of HWRCs in Cheshire East (91%), and/or were residents of Cheshire East (85%).

68% of survey respondents provided a postcode which matched an address inside Cheshire East. Analysis of these postcodes show more responses were received from some towns than others in proportion to their size, including Bollington, Poynton, Alsager, Middlewich and Disley.

Managing the council's current financial situation

A large proportion of survey respondents, 80%, disagreed with the approach the council is taking to managing its current financial situation.

They felt more long-term thinking is needed, and felt the council should:

- Stop wasting money and mismanaging funds, including on "pointless" projects
- Reduce Chief Executive and Director salaries
- Review budgets in other departments, particularly social care budgets
- Not cut essential services, and cut non-frontline services instead

They felt that HWRCs are an essential service, which must be provided for through Council Tax, which has been going up significantly in recent years.

The preferred option for future HWRC provision

Four options for the future of the HWRC service were presented within the consultation material:

- Option A – HWRC provision to remain as is
- Option B – Close Poynton HWRC
- Option C – Close Bollington HWRC
- Option D – Close Bollington, Middlewich and Poynton HWRCs

The most preferred option for survey respondents of these 4 options was option A, which had an average rank of 1.4 out of 4, where 1 was the most preferred option and 4 was the least preferred option.

Option D was the least preferred option of the 4 options presented, with an average rank of 3.4 out of 4. Options B and C had average ranks of 2.5 and 2.6 respectively.

Reasons for being against proposals B, C and D

Much of the feedback received during the consultation from survey respondents was opposed to any reduction in the number of HWRCs within Cheshire East.

This opposition centred around the practical concerns that a reduction in HWRCs would lead to:

- A reduction in the amount of waste that is recycled
- An increase in levels of waste deposited in black bin collections
- An increase in levels of fly-tipping
- An increase in levels of traffic congestion
- Worsening condition of the roads

Respondents questioned where they are meant to go with waste if there is no locally available HWRC, and felt they pay a lot in Council Tax, and that this was a fundamental service that should be covered by that tax.

They felt the proposals would be unfair on those towns without a HWRC, and that proposals are short sighted, and needed more thought.

They also felt the council's waste strategy is confusing and contradictory as it:

- Goes against the council's "Green" agenda, as it discourages recycling
- Goes against the council's "Green" agenda, as it will make people use their cars more, increase congestion and create more emissions

- Tells people to take green waste to a HWRC if they do not want to pay for a brown bin, but then proposes to take their local HWRC away

Ultimately, they felt the proposals would cost the council more to manage in the long term than would be saved in the short to medium term.

Sub-option for a new HWRC in Congleton

Over half of survey respondents, 56%, were opposed to the sub-option of replacing the current HWRC site at Alsager with a new HWRC in Congleton. 20% of respondents supported this proposal.

99% of Alsager respondents opposed the sub-option proposal of replacing the current HWRC site at Alsager with a new HWRC in Congleton, while 88% of Congleton respondents supported this sub-option proposal.

Reasons given for being opposed to this sub-option included that:

- The council can't afford to deliver this proposal
- It would be a high expense to serve a small proportion of the CE population
- Closing one site to open another is non-sensical
- There is not enough land in Congleton to build a new site, and there will be opposition from householders
- The timings of the proposal were unrealistic

Alternative waste service delivery ideas

Survey respondents suggested a number of "high-level" alternative delivery ideas for waste services, including:

- Devolving ownership and management of HWRCs to Town and Parish Councils
- Using volunteers to keep HWRC sites open
- Making arrangements with neighbouring Local Authorities for Cheshire East residents to use their HWRCs e.g. Stockport, Cheshire West & Chester
- Increasing Council Tax to cover the costs of waste services
- Pressuring Central Government to provide funding for HWRCs
- Levying housebuilders to cover the costs of key infrastructure
- Fund raising to cover costs, through crowd funding, sponsorship or community events
- Moving to a "circular economy"

Survey respondents also suggested a number of practical alternative delivery ideas for the HWRC service including:

- Charging users to visit HWRCs, or perhaps allowing a number of free visits per year per household, and charging for use after that
- Charging non-residents to use HWRCs
- Reducing hours across all HWRCs rather than closing some sites
- Rotating opening days of HWRCs rather than closing some sites
- Increasing the range of items that domestic bin collections take
- Improving efficiencies at sites, or reducing the number of staff on site
- Reducing the frequency of black bin collections to fund HWRCs
- Selling re-useable items on sites to generate income

20-minute drive times

Among survey respondents there was general disagreement that a 20-minute drive time to visit a HWRC is appropriate – 38% agreed that it was, while 54% disagreed.

Reasons for disagreeing that a 20-minute drive time to visit a HWRC is appropriate included:

- People won't drive that far to visit a HWRC
- 20-minute drive times are not accurate, and don't account for congestion
- This would impact the environment with people making longer trips
- This would impact the most vulnerable who cannot travel that far

62% of survey respondents indicated they would visit a HWRC less often than they do now if their nearest HWRC was a 20-minute drive away.

Views towards other aspects of HWRC service delivery

Mobile HWRCs

58% of respondents agreed that the council should provide mobile HWRCs in rural areas that are more than a 20-minute drive to a HWRC, 26% disagreed.

Within feedback some suggested there should be smaller, more accessible HWRCs around the borough rather than “super centres”, or perhaps that there should be more “skips” around towns.

Re-use of goods

A large proportion of survey respondents, 80%, agreed the council should increase provision of the re-use of goods.

Later opening during summer months

63% of survey respondents stated they would visit their local HWRC after 5pm if opening hours were extended into the evenings, rather than visiting at peak times.

Some wondered where funding to extend opening hours would come from, at a time when the council is proposing to reduce the number of HWRC sites to make savings.

HWRC booking systems

A large proportion of survey respondents, 73%, disagreed that a booking system should be introduced at Cheshire East HWRCs, while 14% agreed.

Reasons for disagreement included that:

- Costs of the system will outweigh the benefits
- There's no need for one, HWRCs are busy enough
- This would over-complicate things and create unnecessary bureaucracy
- This would be a waste of money

Pedestrian, bicycle or mobility scooter access to HWRCs

Low proportions of survey respondents stated they would visit their local HWRC as a pedestrian (15%), on a bicycle (9%) or on a mobility scooter (6%).

Summary of email responses

57 emails were received in response to the consultation, including 9 email responses received on behalf of organisations or MPs – See Appendix 1 of the main report to read these individual emails.

The main comments raised within these emails included:

- Concern about the impact of proposals on fly tipping
- Concern proposals are not environmentally friendly, and will mean people will have to travel further
- Opposition to the closure of individual HWRCs, including Alsager, Poynton, Bollington and Middlewich
- Suggestions as to how to keep HWRCs open, including charging users or reducing their opening hours
- That arrangements should be made with neighbouring Local Authorities for Cheshire East residents to use their HWRC sites
- That Central Government guidelines state that closure of HWRCs should be a last resort only

Criticisms of the consultation

Finally, a number of criticisms of the consultation were made, including that:

- This consultation replicates a council HWRC Consultation conducted in 2021

- Proposals lacked enough financial information to be able to give an informed response
- The 20-minuted drive time maps were poor quality

Conclusions

Consultation response

It is positive to see the significant response to the consultation, with 4,124 responses in total.

However, it is noted this response is significantly lower than the response achieved in 2021 when the council last conducted a similar [Household Waste Recycling Centre Consultation](#) – In 2021 a total of 10,208 consultation responses were received, even though consultation methodologies used both years were similar.

This lower response in 2024 may represent a level of “consultation fatigue” among Cheshire East stakeholders, with the council having conducted such similar consultations so close together.

Strong opposition to proposals

It is clear that respondents disagree with the council’s current approach to managing its financial situation, particularly in regard to potentially closing HWRCs. As with other recent council consultations, respondents often see cuts to front-line services as an absolute last resort and will strongly oppose them as far as they can.

It is no surprise that the most preferred option of the 4 presented in the consultation was for “Option A – HWRC provision to remain as it is”. This is a similar result to a similar question asked in 2021 and is unlikely to change substantially in future. There is little benefit in including a “remain as is” option in consultations if that is not a viable option.

It is clear that respondents across the board, including non-users of HWRCs, want HWRCs to remain open.

Waste strategy contradictions

Respondents pointed out the contradiction between the council’s aim of being “Green” and the council’s waste strategy, which potentially makes recycling more difficult, more expensive, and increases car use. These are mixed messages for residents.

The sub-option for a new HWRC in Congleton was also generally opposed – Spending significant sums on a new HWRC, while at the same time making savings by closing other sites, is a difficult proposition for respondents to make sense of.

Alternative service delivery ideas to be explored

Given respondents see cuts to front-line services as an absolute last resort, they listed a significant number of alternative service delivery ideas which should be thoroughly explored, to ensure HWRCs remain open as far as possible.

20-minute drive times may have long-term consequences

It is clear too that 20-minute drive times are seen as inappropriate by many, and that reducing the number of HWRCs in the borough may significantly reduce the number of people who recycle their waste at HWRCs.

It remains to be seen whether the long-term costs of addressing issues that arise from HWRC closures would outweigh the savings made in the medium-term.

Mobile HWRC provision and other service proposals

Mobile HWRC provision could perhaps mitigate against closures of larger HWRC sites, however, there is resistance towards their use which would need to be addressed and trialled before they would become an acceptable alternative to permanent sites. Other proposals such as reuse of goods and later opening hours during summer months were welcomed.

The implementation of a booking system however, was fairly strongly opposed, and the level of interest for visiting HWRCs as pedestrians or on bicycles or mobility scooters was limited.

In all these cases respondents pointed out that they would much prefer provision to remain as it is, rather than for the council to spend money on optional extras.

Executive Summary produced 28 June 2024 by Ben Buckley of the Research and Consultation Team, Cheshire East Council. Email RandC@cheshireeast.gov.uk for further information.

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Introduction

Purpose of the consultation

Cheshire East Council approved its medium-term financial strategy (MTFS) for 2024 to 2028 at a meeting of Full Council in February 2024. This approved MTFS included proposal 96: "Review of Household Waste Recycling Centres".

As part of this review Cheshire East Council conducted a consultation to assess what long-term Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) provision in Cheshire East should look like.

The consultation sought opinion on various options for the future of Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) provision in Cheshire East.

It also sought opinion on various aspects of the HWRC service including on:

- How the service should be funded
- Improving HWRC service efficiency
- Mobile HWRC provision
- Re-use of goods
- Pedestrian, cycle and mobility scooter access to HWRCs
- Booking systems
- Later opening hours.

The full consultation material can be found in appendix 5 of this report.

Consultation methodology

The consultation was conducted between 3 May and 16 June 2024, and was widely publicised, with responses invited from anyone who wished to respond – the consultation was not run as a referendum nor as a statistically robust sample survey. Results should therefore be interpreted within the context in which they were gathered.

The consultation was widely publicised via:

- Council press releases
- Council website promotion
- Council social media promotion
- Banners and adverts at each of the 7 HWRCs in Cheshire East
- Consultation posters and paper consultation packs distributed at all 17 libraries across the borough
- Direct emails sent to key stakeholders including:

- All Cheshire East Ward Councillors
- All Town and Parish Councils
- Members of Parliament
- All council staff
- The council's Digital Influence Panel
- A local waste newsletter
- A Waste Watchers App
- Residents' newsletters
- Volunteer groups

Number of consultation responses

In total there were 4,124 consultation responses, including:

- 4,031 online survey responses
- 35 paper survey responses
- 58 emails

Alongside the consultation responses, 7 newspaper articles were published in relation to the consultation, and [1 petition against the closure of Middlewich, Poynton and Bollington HWRCs](#) was received by the council, which as of 27 June 2024 had 7,683 signatures.

Reading this report

The main sections of this report contain an analysis of the survey responses received during the consultation.

A summary of feedback received via emails and petitions is provided in the appendices.

About survey respondents

Location of respondents

Of those completing the survey:

- 68% provided a postcode which matched an address inside Cheshire East
- 0.4% provided a postcode which matched an address outside Cheshire East
- 32% did not provide a postcode which could be matched to an address

Survey responses from within Cheshire East

Analysis of survey responses from within Cheshire East shows that more responses than expected were received from some places than others, when compared by the total number of households in each area.

The table below includes data for all Cheshire East postal towns which received 20 or more responses. It shows how many responses were received in each of these postal towns, as compared to the number of households in each area.

The postal towns which received more responses than expected when compared to the number of households in each town included:

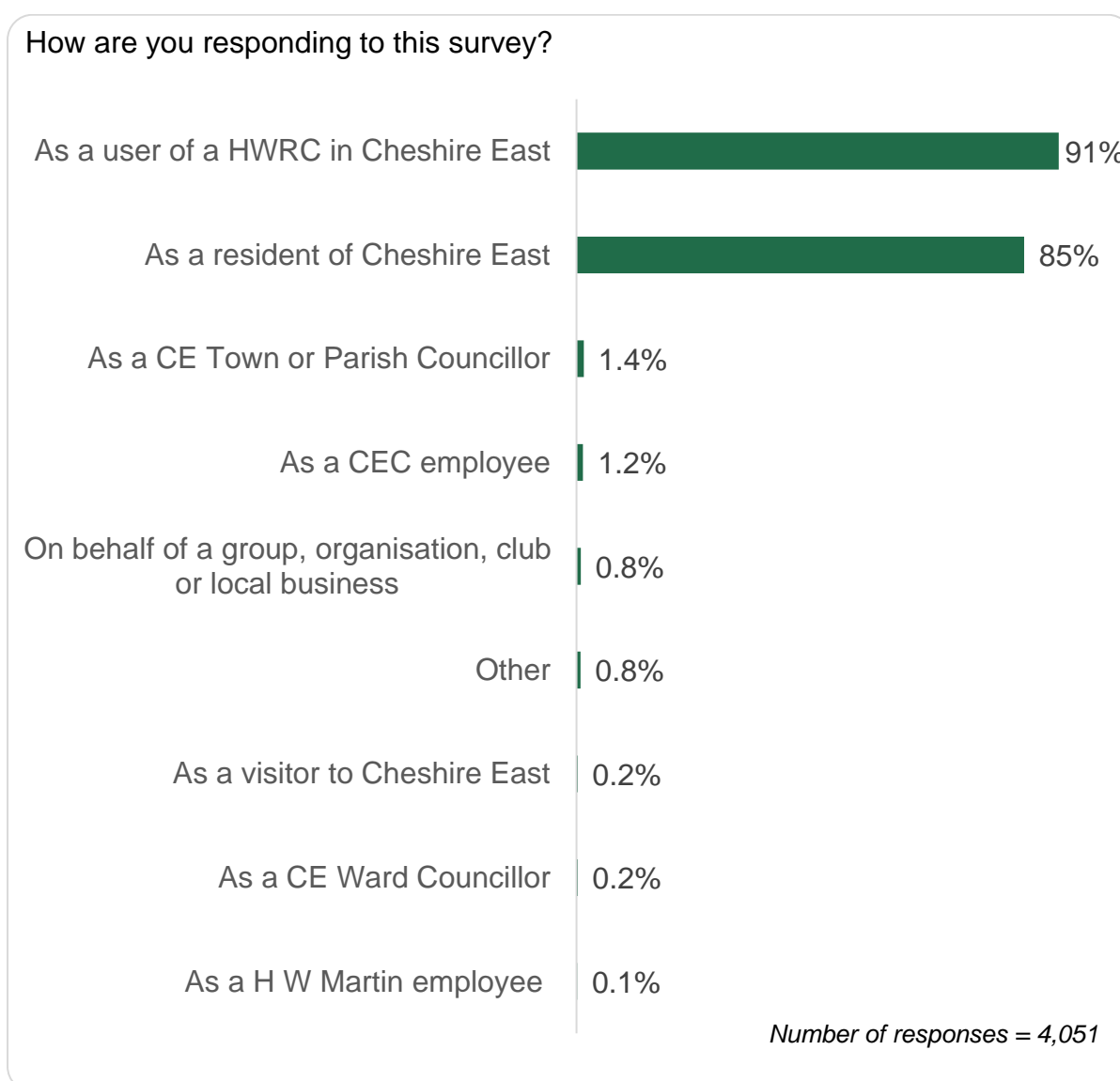
- Bollington & Kerridge (received 5.5 times more responses than expected)
- Poynton (received 3.9 times more responses than expected)
- Alsager (received 2.9 times more responses than expected)
- Middlewich (received 2.9 times more responses than expected)
- Disley (received 2.4 times more responses than expected)

Area name	No. CE addresses	No. survey responses	Survey response over / under representation
Bollington & Kerridge	3,810	306	5.5
Poynton	6,604	374	3.9
Alsager	6,987	298	2.9
Middlewich	6,578	277	2.9
Disley	2,280	78	2.4
Holmes Chapel & Cranage	3,823	110	2.0
Prestbury	1,536	36	1.6
Church Lawton, Rode Heath & Scholar Green	3,082	60	1.3
Haslington	2,425	43	1.2
Congleton	14,963	218	1.0
Sandbach	10,564	116	0.8
Other (rural)	30,021	297	0.7

Macclesfield	25,872	232	0.6
Knutsford	6,284	56	0.6
Shavington, Willaston, Wistaston	9,782	58	0.4
Wilmslow	12,206	49	0.3
Nantwich	7,493	26	0.2
Crewe	28,733	85	0.2
Valid total	189,248	2,745	

Survey respondent type

Very large proportions of those responding to the survey were users of a HWRC in Cheshire East (91%), and/or were residents of Cheshire East (85%).

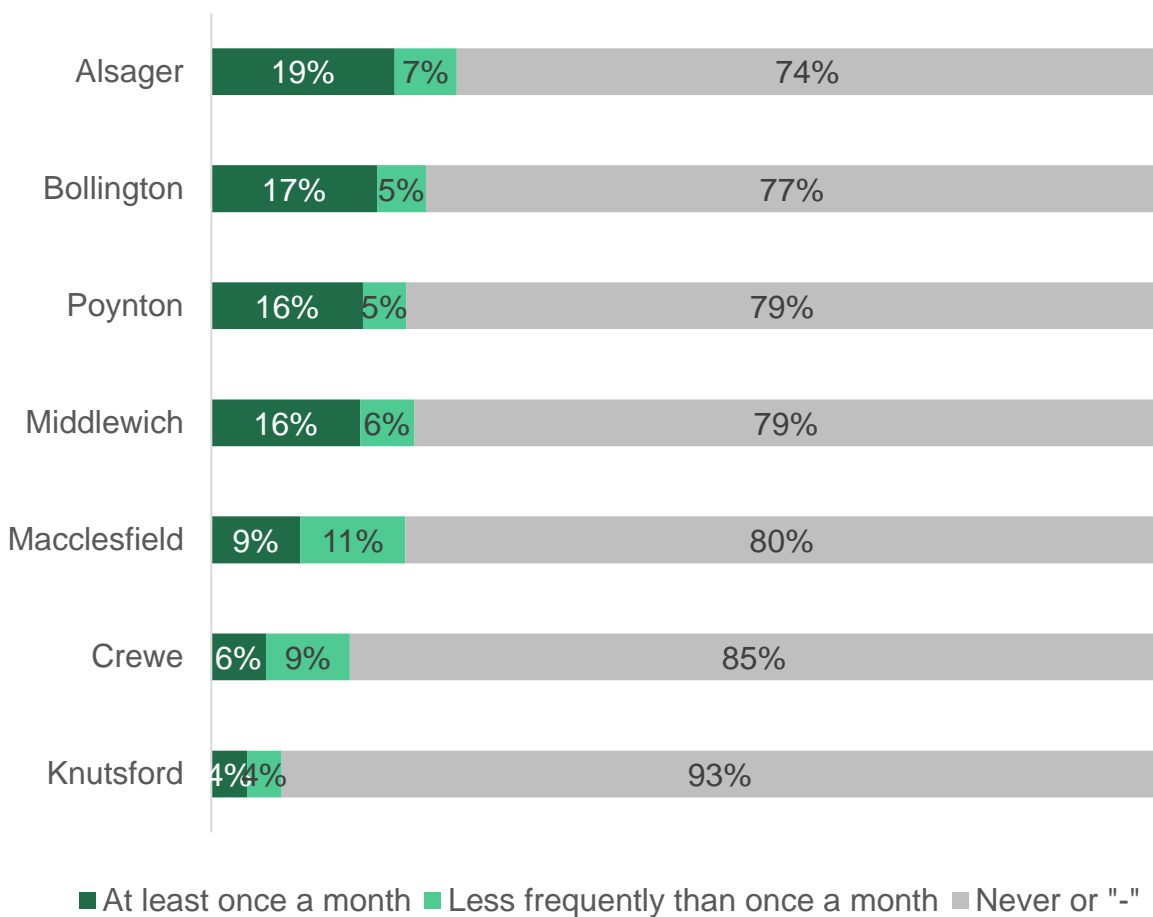


Usage of HWRCs

The HWRC sites that respondents used most frequently are listed below. Note these figures reflect that some areas received more responses than others, rather than being an accurate reflection of overall site usage:

- Alsager (19% of respondents use once a month)
- Bollington (17% of respondents use once a month)
- Poynton (16% of respondents use once a month)
- Middlewich (16% of respondents use once a month)

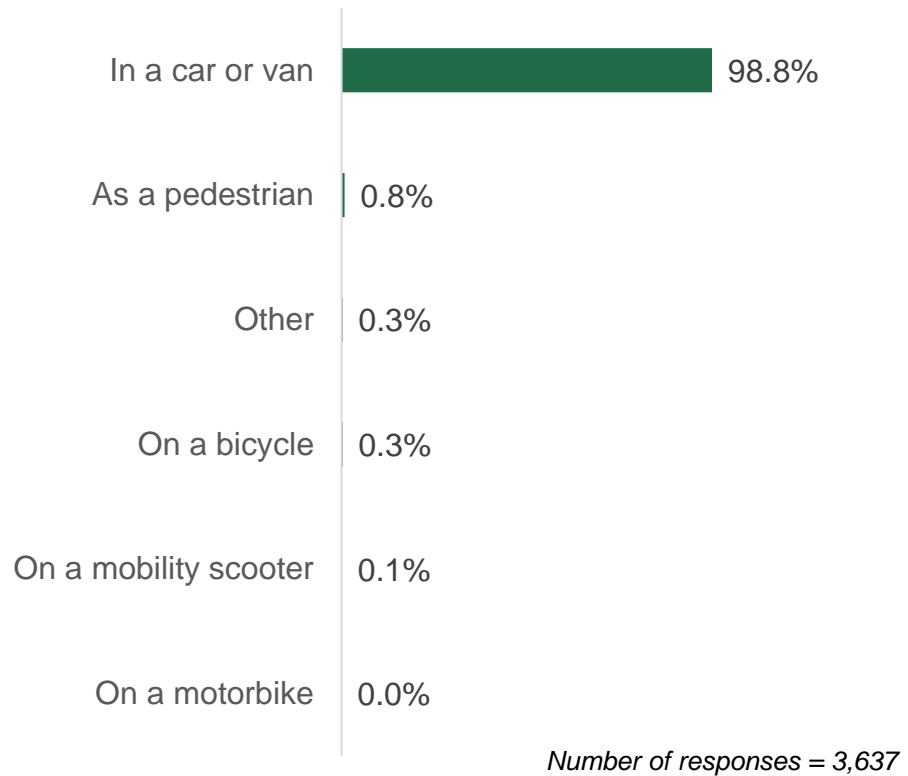
Generally speaking, how often do you use each of the following Household Waste Recycling Centres in Cheshire East?



Number of responses = 3,694

On their most recent visit to their local HWRC, the vast majority of respondents, 98.7%, travelled in a car or van.

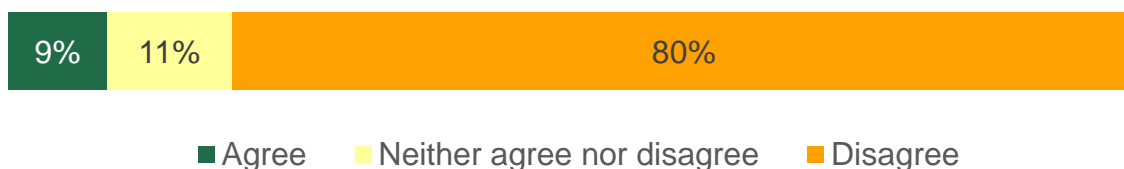
On your last visit to your local Household Waste Recycling Centre in Cheshire East, how did you travel there?



Managing council finances

A large proportion of respondents, 80%, disagreed with the approach the council is taking to managing its current financial situation.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the approach the council is taking to manage its current financial situation?



No. responses = 3,853

Comments about managing council finances

Survey respondents were asked if they had any comments to make about “how the council is managing its current financial situation”.

In total, 3,283 comments made in response to this question have been analysed, and these comments have been grouped into categories and summarised below.

Not managing budgets, wasting money, not spending in right areas	1207
Stop wasting money, stop mismanaging funds, control spending	382
Cuts are in the wrong places, do not cut essential services	286
Stop wasting money on non-essential projects e.g. Poynton Pool, transit traveller site, flowers etc.	187
Already increased Council Tax and introduced garden waste charges	126
Money is wasted on poor repair of potholes	96
We pay for these services in our Council Tax	68
Have better selection and management of contractors, consultants and external suppliers	62
Too much of the council budget is allocated on SEND and social care	21
Cut red tape, bureaucracy, have more transparency	20
The waste collection service is inadequate as it is	19

Suggestions on where to save or generate money	491
Reduce Chief Executive and Director salaries and Councillor expenses	154
Use the (increase) in Council Tax, where is the money going?	76
Cut non-essential roles and benefits	69
Improve staff productivity and performance	48
Adjust opening hours and days across sites and keep all open	41

Look at revenue generation not cost cutting	36
Increase efforts for more Central Government funding	28
Charge to use HWRCs	21
Increase Council Tax, if necessary	13
Share funding with Town and Parish Councils, and adjacent Local Authorities	3
Collect fees from developers	2

Impacts of proposals to close sites	929
This will increase fly tipping, and the costs to clear that up	453
This will impact the environment, create more emissions, and goes against the "Green" agenda	176
Some residents won't be able to travel to HWRCs further away, this is inconvenient	94
There'll be less recycling, more will go in the black bin, the council should be encouraging recycling	86
This will increase congestion	52
This will increase expense for residents e.g. in fuel costs to travel further	35
This will impact other HWRCs, they'll be too busy and unable to cope	25
Macclesfield is too far to travel to	8

Comments related to sites	325
Is unfair to some areas, unfair across the county	78
More HWRCs are needed not fewer, especially with all the housebuilding going on	56
Do not close Poynton HWRC	46
Do not close Middlewich HWRC, it's essential	44
Do not close Alsager HWRC, well used and well run	44
Do not close Bollington HWRC, heavily used	31
Shouldn't have closed Congleton HWRC, Congleton needs a tip	24
Close Bollington HWRC	2

Other suggestions	14
Allow free tipping of garden waste, now there is a green bin charge	3
Do not charge for car parking	2
Do not charge for rubble	2
Wait for the General Election, a new government might help	2
Macclesfield should be separate council	2
Segregate grey bin waste	1
Recycling, packaging issue is a national not council concern	1
Use volunteers	1

Other comments relating to consultation	317
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Shortsighted, need to adopt more long term and innovative thinking	180
Impossible to answer without knowing the full details, full cost analysis needed	94
You don't listen anyway, pointless survey, try listening	33
Agree with proposals, understand the challenges	10

Future HWRC provision in Cheshire East

The following 4 options for the future of the HWRC service were presented within the consultation material:

- Option A – HWRC provision to remain as is
- Option B – Close Poynton HWRC
- Option C – Close Bollington HWRC
- Option D – Close Bollington, Middlewich and Poynton HWRCs

20-minute drivetime maps for each option as well as the pros and cons for each option were provided within the consultation material – A copy of the full consultation material can be found in appendix 5 of this report.

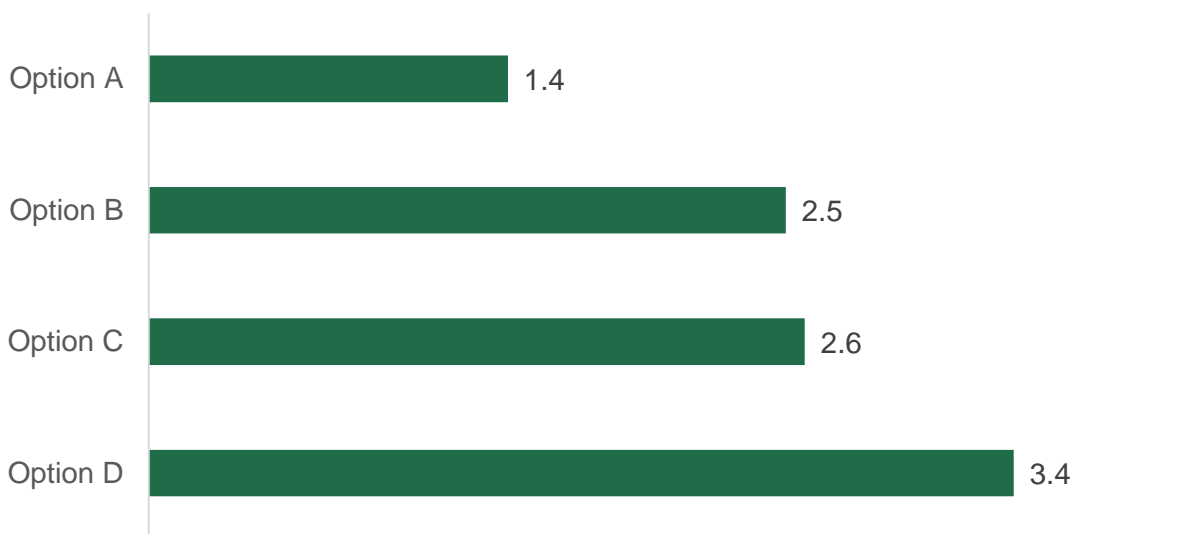
Preferred option for the future of HWRC provision

The most preferred option of all survey respondents of the four options presented was option A, which had an average rank of 1.4 out of 4, where 1 was the most preferred option and 4 was the least preferred option.

Option D was the least preferred option of the 4 options presented, with an average rank of 3.4 out of 4.

Options B and C had average ranks of 2.5 and 2.6 respectively.

All respondents: Average ranks for each of the 4 options for the future of HWRC provision in Cheshire East – 1 being the most preferred option, 4 the least preferred option:



Number of responses between 2,387 and 3,382

Preferred option by different respondent types

Non-users of HWRCs were slightly less likely to prefer Option A as compared to users of HWRCs, with an average rank for option A of 1.7 compared to 1.4.

Crewe HWRC regularly users were also slightly less likely to prefer option A as compared to all respondents, with an average rank for option A of 1.8 compared to 1.4 for all respondents.

Average rank for each option, by different respondent types	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	No. responses
All respondents	1.4	2.5	2.6	3.4	2,387 to 3,382

Users of HWRCs	1.4	2.5	2.6	3.4	2,171 to 3,069
Non-users of HWRCs	1.7	2.5	2.4	3.2	216 to 313

Bollington HWRC regular users	1.1	2.1	3.3	3.6	420 to 566
Poynton HWRC regular users	1.1	3.4	2.1	3.6	372 to 527
Middlewich HWRC regular users	1.3	2.2	2.5	3.8	307 to 500
Alsager HWRC regular users	1.4	2.4	2.6	3.2	374 to 562
Knutsford HWRC regular users	1.5	2.5	2.4	3.4	75 to 122
Macclesfield HWRC regular users	1.5	2.3	2.7	3.4	193 to 271
Crewe HWRC regular users	1.8	2.4	2.5	3.1	125 to 163

Live in a place with an at risk HWRC	1.2	2.7	2.6	3.7	657 to 895
Live in a place with a not at risk HWRC	1.6	2.4	2.7	3.1	444 to 589
Live in a place without a HWRC	1.5	2.5	2.5	3.3	714 to 991

Comments about the options for future HWRC provision

Survey respondents were asked if they had any comments to make about “the options for the future of HWRC provision in Cheshire East”.

In total, 3,162 comments made in response to this question have been analysed, and these comments have been grouped into categories and summarised below.

Against proposals	455
No HWRC should be closed	175
Proposals are shortsighted, needs more thought	124
We pay enough Council Tax, this service should be included	91
You tell us to take green waste to HWRC if we can't afford the green waste charge, now you're taking the HWRC option away	33

It's already a hassle, this is more inconvenience, where are we supposed to go?	25
Makes no sense to close one and open another	7

Cost impacts of closures	76
Closing sites will cost more in fuel	46
What are the costs to close, more cost analysis needed	14
Income from recycling will be lost	9
Costs to incinerate will increase as more waste goes into black bins	7

Environmental impacts of closures	1212
Fly tipping will increase which would be bad for the environment, and will cost more to clear up	553
Environmental impacts: more emissions from longer journeys, this goes against green policy	225
More congestion on roads: more cars at fewer sites will increase congestion around sites	201
There'll be less recycling: more waste will be put into black bins	123
Should be encouraging recycling, sustainability and saving the planet, not taking away option to recycle	73
More congestion at weekends: most people visit the HWRC at the weekends	29
How does this fit with your environmental plans?	8

Journey time comments	262
20 minutes journey time is not accurate: does not take into account traffic, weekends	123
Residents will not travel these distances	105
Currently 5 minutes to HWRC versus an hour: at least 20 minutes each way plus unloading time	16
Middlewich residents will not travel to Macclesfield	13
It's 20 minutes, but we often make multiple visits in one day	5

Site specific comments	315
Bring back Congleton tip, shouldn't have closed, more houses are being built	67
Close Bollington or Poynton but not both	50
Keep Alsager open	34
Keep Poynton open	30
Keep Bollington open	25
Keep Middlewich open	24
No option to just close Middlewich?	23
Middlewich is being left behind	17
What about Disley	14

Move Middlewich to Middlewich ANSA	9
Re-site on Adlington industrial park	8
Close Poynton and Bollington - can go to Macclesfield	5
Unfair on some areas, should be available to all	4
Open new site on Poynton Bypass	2
Close Bollington	2
Close Crewe or Alsager	1

Other impact considerations of closures	107
The sites left open will not be able to cope with the increase in demand	89
Impacts on the disabled and elderly who will struggle or be unable to go further afield	17
Consider the staff impacts of closure	1

Suggestions for current and future provision	223
Rotate opening times of HWRCs, close on days so that all remain open: one open one day, the other not, same staff across both sites	120
Have fewer sites but operated more efficiently e.g. categories of waste	40
Have a mobile service, or dumpsters in supermarket car parks	26
Come to an agreement with Stockport to allow use of Marple, have an agreement with neighbouring councils	19
Sites remaining open would need to open longer if closing some	10
Improve current waste provision, household collections	5
Enforce non-use for non-residents, commercial users	3

Cost saving, funding, charging comments	245
Save money elsewhere, stop wasting money	147
Charge per visit, put a small amount on Council Tax	42
Look at ways to raise funds; recycling, groups etc	39
Stop charging for green bin	13
Put the money saved into libraries	2
Levy house builders	1
Use volunteers	1

Other comments, concerns, and suggestions	159
More and more housing being built which will increase demand further	83
Proposals makes sense, agree to close lowest usage sites if travel to alternative sites is not too far	68
Outsource operations	3
Look at recycling initiatives with schools, charity groups, businesses	3
Wait until the next General Election has finished	1
Do not introduce a booking system	1

Comments related to consultation, and data	108
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Comments related to pre-coded questions: forced to select, skewed results etc	55
Data is out of date, not reflective, comments re tonnage	41
Waste of time consulting, won't listen anyway	6
Not relevant to me	6

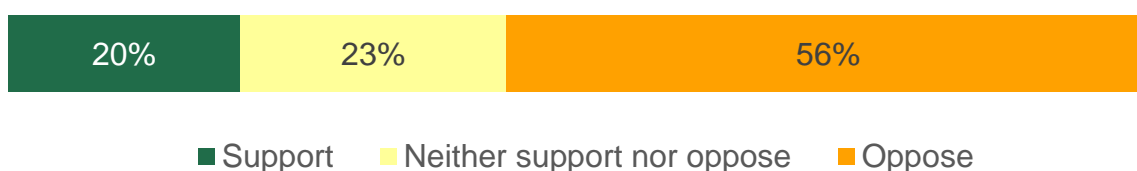
Sub-option for a new HWRC in Congleton

As a potential variation to each of the four options A to D, the council was also considering the viability of a sub-option to replace the current HWRC site at Alsager with a new HWRC site in Congleton.

General views towards the sub-option

Over half of respondents, 56%, were opposed to the sub-option of replacing the current HWRC site at Alsager with a new HWRC in Congleton. 20% of respondents supported this proposal.

Do you support or oppose the sub-option of replacing the current HWRC site at Alsager with a new HWRC in Congleton?



No. responses = 3,206

Views towards the sub-option by different types of respondent

99% of Alsager respondents opposed the sub-option proposal of replacing the current HWRC site at Alsager with a new HWRC in Congleton, while 88% of Congleton respondents supported this sub-option proposal.

Do you support or oppose the sub-option of replacing the current HWRC site at Alsager with a new HWRC in Congleton?	% support	% neither support nor oppose	% oppose	No. responses
All respondents	20%	23%	56%	3,206
Alsager	0%	1%	99%	297
Congleton	88%	4%	8%	214

Comments about the sub-option

Survey respondents were asked if they had any comments to make about “the sub-option of replacing the current HWRC site at Alsager with a new HWRC in Congleton”.

In total, 1,888 comments made in response to this question have been analysed, and these comments have been grouped into categories and summarised below.

Comments on expenditure and wasting money	765
This will cost too much, the council hasn't got the money to do this, this will increase debt	386
Why? This is non-sensical; closing one site to build another	257
Focus on current provision instead	78
Spend money on more important things	20
Save money elsewhere	14
Why would this need extra funding, what about the income you have from Council Tax and bin charges?	10
Comments on specific sites	490
Alsager is a busy site, the town has 14,000 people. The HWRC at Alsager is convenient for its residents, do not close Alsager HWRC	168
Reopen Congleton HWRC, Congleton needs a HWRC, the population of the town is increasing	103
Why did you close Congleton HWRC?	50
Keep all sites open	43
Congleton again? Other areas should not lose out, all areas should be treated equally	36
This sub-option does not help Poynton	25
Congleton residents can use Macclesfield HWRC	16
This sub-option does not help Bollington	14
This sub-option does not help Disley	8
Keep Middlewich HWRC open	8
Alsager residents can use Crewe HWRC	8
Keep Poynton HWRC open	4
This sub-option does not help North Macclesfield	2
This sub-option does not help Wilmslow	2
This sub-option does not help Tytherington	1
This sub-option does not help Alderley Edge	1
This sub-option does not help Middlewich	1
Concerns about proposals	150
Closing sites will increase fly-tipping	98
Any new HWRC in Congleton would need be on the right site	15
It will add pressure to other sites if Congleton HWRC is not open in time	13
There isn't enough land in Congleton for a HWRC, no suitable site	10
There'll be opposition to this from house owners	7
This impacts those on low income, having to travel further	5
Don't believe this will happen – the council will Alsager HWRC and won't open a new Congleton HWRC	2
Environmental, travel, and traffic comments	254

Travel distance too far away, people will not travel these distances	108
More and further journeys will impact the environment, pollution etc	56
This would increase traffic congestion, the roads are busy enough	39
Road access to Congleton is already busy	34
Timings are optimistic	12
Building a new site adds to the carbon footprint	4
Consider the impact on pedestrians and cyclists	1

Suggestions and considerations	56
Should have sites at both Congleton and Alsager	29
Make Alsager HWRC bigger	4
Have recycle sections, charge a fee for taking items	4
Make Macclesfield HWRC bigger	3
Levy house builders to fund proposals	3
Reduce opening hours rather than close sites	2
Provide a mobile service for those affected by closures, or make more provision in towns	2
Look at options for 'waste to energy', or more sustainable waste management	2
Educate residents on the importance of recycling	2
Consider additional revenue streams from waste	1
Consider a site combining Crewe, Alsager and other closer HWRCs	1
Come to agreement with neighbouring councils to use their sites	1
Poynton and Bollington HWRCs could be closed if Congleton HWRC is opened	1
Do not build on new land, only brownfield	1

Comments on data and information provided	61
The full costs and impacts should be known before decisions made, not enough information has been provided in the consultation, no cost benefit analysis. Careful consideration of this information is needed to be able to make a decision.	52
Are the cost estimates accurate?	9

Other comments	112
Doesn't impact me	86
In support of the sub-option	18
Comments on question design, biased	5
A new HWRC at Congleton would reduce traffic at Macclesfield	1
Dislike large scale HWRCs	1
What happened to the waste recycling project?	1

Other ways of funding the HWRC Service

Survey respondents were asked if they had “any suggestions for how Household Waste Recycling Centres in Cheshire East could be funded, to retain the current or a different level of service provision to that proposed within the options set out”.

In total, 2,144 comments made in response to this question have been analysed, and these comments have been grouped into categories and summarised below.

Comments on expenditure	638
Stop wasting money, spend money (Council Tax) more carefully	217
Reduce Chief Executive and Director salaries, Councillor expenses, needless roles	185
Stop wasting money on pointless projects (e.g. Poynton Pool, transport festival)	125
Review budgets in other departments, make savings more evenly and more fairly spread (e.g. review social services budgets)	53
Stop using sub-par contractors, expensive and poor quality work, less expensive out-sourcing	36
Spread funds equally across towns	22

Suggestions for revenue generation	683
Charge per visit to HWRCs. Set a number of free visits per household, then charge for those who visit more	244
Have a HWRC shop, sell re-usable items	142
Increase Council Tax to fund HWRCs	82
Pressure central government for funding, demand a refund for HS2	42
Charge for commercial waste	33
Use green waste charge to fund HWRCs	33
Wood, green waste - convert to biomass, compost and sell on	31
Sponsorship, community events to raise money, crowd funding	23
Charge to dispose of certain items, bulkier items	23
Apply a levy to builders, new home developers, increase business taxes	16
Use fine money, implement fines for speeding, illegal parking, fly tipping, charge for parking	14

Existing waste provision comments	320
Rotate opening days, reduce hours across HWRCs and keep all open	215
Increase range of items domestic bins take, more to be taken from home	38
Ensure only residents use sites, we're not paying for non-residents to use, charge non-residents	19
Stop charging for green waste	18
Improve efficiencies at current HWRCs, including staff working more efficiently, not standing around	16
Stop staff selling items for their own pocket	8

Reduce frequency of black bin collections, every 2 to 3 weeks	4
Ensure only paid for green bins are collected	2

Specific waste centre comments	43
Congleton needs a site	10
Place Middlewich at ANSA site, share labour costs	10
Keep Poynton open	6
Middlewich needs access improvement	4
Close Alsager	2
Keep Middlewich open	2
Close Poynton, keep Bollington open	2
Open at Adlington	1
Keep Crewe open	1
Close Bollington and Middlewich	1
Keep Alsager open	1
Close Crewe	1
New site between Poynton and Bollington	1
Do not spend money on a new site at Congleton	1

Councils, Town, and Parish comments	37
Have an agreement to use neighbouring Local Authority sites	20
Devolve ownership of the site to Bollington Town Council	9
Reinstate Cheshire County Council, get rid of East and West Councils	4
Hand ownership over to Town and Parish Councils	2
Move Poynton to Stockport Council	1
Do not give ownership over to Town and Parish Councils	1

Other suggestions	188
Recycle, upcycle, repurpose items instead of sending to landfill	69
Have smaller more accessible HWRCs, not super centres, make it easier and more efficient for residents to dispose of rubbish, have skips around towns	43
Encourage lose or use, educate on importance of recycling	24
Look at how other countries do it e.g. France, Germany	16
Get third party tenders for the ownership and running of HWRC sites	16
Learn best practice from other (successful councils)	9
Use volunteers	7
Look at circular economy models	4

Concerns about HWRC closures	119
Closing sites will result in fly-tipping, keep HWRCs open to prevent fly-tipping	90
Closing sites will increase traffic and traffic pollution	19

Closing sites will discourage recycling, people will not travel	10
Other comments	116
Full cost analysis needed, cannot make decisions without knowing full implications	57
That's your job to work it out	25
More long-term thinking needed, this is too shortsighted	15
Change of national government	11
Manufacturers and supermarkets need to make packaging changes	5
Ask the residents closer the centres	3

20-minute drive times

The Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) provides national guidelines for Local Authority management of HWRCs, and these guidelines suggest that the maximum driving times to a HWRC for the great majority of residents should be 20 minutes in urban areas, and 30 minutes in rural areas.

Respondents were asked a number of questions about 20-minute drive times.

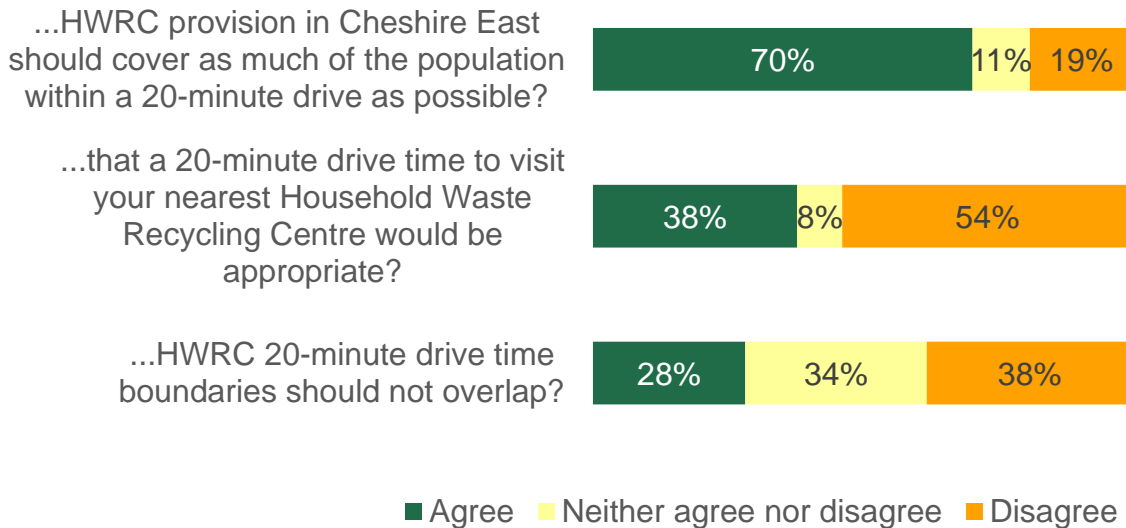
Overall views on 20-minute drive times

A large proportion of respondents, 70%, agreed that HWRC provision in Cheshire East should cover as much of the population within a 20-minute drive time as possible.

There was general disagreement that a 20-minute drive time to visit a HWRC is appropriate – 38% agreed that it was, while 54% disagreed.

Opinion was more split on whether HWRC 20-minute drive time boundaries should overlap or not – 28% felt they should not overlap, 38% felt they should overlap, while 34% were unsure.

How strongly do you agree or disagree...



No. responses between 3,144 and 3,498

20-minute drives times by different types of respondent

The level of agreement on whether a 20-minute drive time to a HWRC would be appropriate changed depending on the type of respondent e.g.:

- 53% of those living in a place without a HWRC agreed a 20-minute drive time is appropriate (38% disagreed)
- 22% of those living in a place with an at risk HWRC agreed a 20-minute drive time is appropriate (71% disagreed)

How strongly do you agree or disagree that a 20-minute drive time to visit your nearest Household Waste Recycling Centre would be appropriate?	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Valid responses
All respondents	38%	8%	54%	3,498

Live in a place with an AT RISK HWRC	22%	7%	71%	924
Live in a place with a not at risk HWRC	38%	9%	53%	659
Live in a place without a HWRC	53%	9%	38%	1,094

Impact of 20-minute drive times on visitor numbers

62% of respondents would visit a HWRC less often that they do now if their nearest one was a 20-minute drive away.

If your nearest Household Waste Recycling Centre was a 20-minute drive away, would you visit it...



- ...more often that you do now
- ...as often you do now
- ...less often than you do now

No. responses = 3,332

Comments about 20-minute drive times

Survey respondents were asked if they had any comments to make about “20-minute drive times to Household Waste Recycling Centres”.

In total, 2,847 comments made in response to this question have been analysed, and these comments have been grouped into categories and summarised below.

Objections to the 20-minute drive time	1,034
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I wouldn't drive 20 minutes, 20 minutes is too long to drive, this would deter me from visiting	287
The 20-minute drive times are inaccurate, it takes longer than that in traffic	238
20 minutes is only one way, it would be 40 minutes there and back, plus time spent at the tip	216
20 minutes does not account for traffic conditions	196
Currently it only takes me 5 minutes, I can walk to my local tip	51
I often make multiple trips, 20 minutes for multiple trips is too long	33
20 minutes is too long with a car / trailer load of garden or household waste	13

Environmental consequences of 20-minute drive time	1,133
This would impact the environment with more emissions and pollution, I thought you were trying to be green	373
There'll be more fly-tipping	332
This would cost people more money in fuel	147
People will simply dump waste in black bins, into domestic waste	129
This would increase congestion on the roads	126
Increased traffic would worsen road conditions, potholes and damage to car	26

Impact on other centres	147
Access to alternative sites would worsen, there would be queues and congestion if some were closed	109
Macclesfield waste centre would be severely congested, it is already bad	27
The junction at Macclesfield waste centre is already dangerous	11

Impact on specific users	145
What about those without a car	85
What about the elderly and disabled who can't drive those distances	30
Some people just don't have the means to travel this far	30

Use of existing centres	13
Come to an arrangement with Stockport, Cheshire West, neighbouring sites to use their sites	7
Middlewich has closer HWRCs in neighbouring Local Authorities but aren't allowed to use them	6

Suggestions for existing and future provision	106
Each town needs a HWRC, distribution needs to be fair, there are large populations in some towns and all need one	69
Improve current provision: take more waste types in household service, provide kerbside collection service, or provide more recycling points around town	13

The sites must be efficient to use (if you're travelling over 20 minutes to get there): ease of use, ability to separate waste, clear directions on-site, state of the art, accept all types of waste	12
Charge people to use the HWRC instead, and keep all tips, charge for specific waste	6
Ensure non-CEC residents do not use	3
Stop charging for green bins	2
Keep all open and rotate days, reduce opening hours	1

Neutral and in-favour comments	113
Ok with 20-minute drive times	51
It definitely shouldn't be more than 20 minutes	34
Already have one up to 20 minutes away	22
The benefits must outweigh the negatives	5
Not relevant to me	1

Other disagreement comments	100
General disagree	34
This is shortsighted	24
We pay for this service	21
Save money elsewhere, cut non-frontline services instead	12
The distance is irrelevant, it doesn't change how much rubbish I have	7
Centres are (or could be) a source of revenue, they shouldn't close	2

Other Comments	17
Unique statements about personal circumstances	6
We'll have no choice but to make the journey	5
What about Wilmslow	2
What about Poynton	2
Move Audlem to Shropshire	1
Not relevant to me	1

Comments about consultation and questions	39
Comments re question design; incomplete question, misses the point, poorly structured, biased, leading	33
Overlap shouldn't be given too much weight	4
The council won't listen and will do what you anyway	2

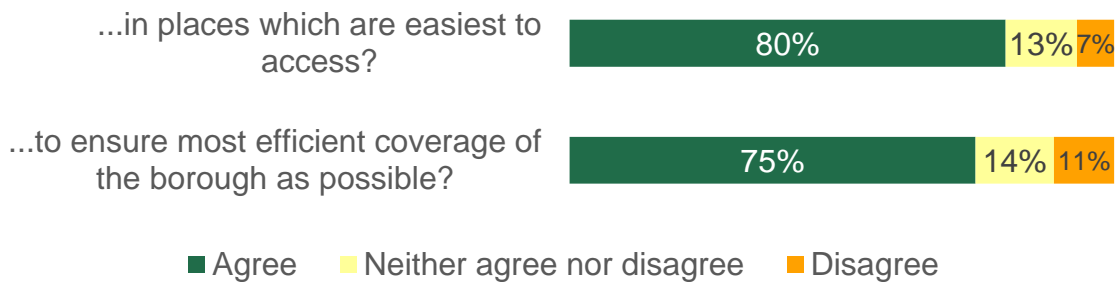
Efficient HWRC provision

Location of HWRCs

Large proportions of respondents agreed that HWRCs should be located:

- In places which are easiest to access (80% agree)
- To ensure the most efficient coverage of the borough as possible (75% agree)

How strongly do you agree or disagree that HWRCs should be located...



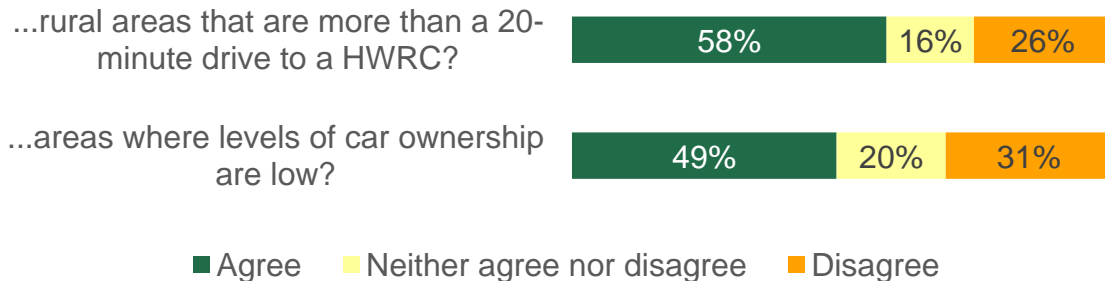
No. responses between 3,286 and 3,307

Mobile HWRCs

There was general agreement that the council should provide mobile HWRCs in rural areas that are more than a 20-minute drive to a HWRC (58% agree, 26% disagree).

However, opinion was more split on whether the council should provide mobile HWRCs in areas where levels of car ownership are low (49% agree, 31% disagree).

How strongly do you agree or disagree Cheshire East Council should provide mobile HWRCs in...



No. responses between 3,262 and 3,275

Comments about efficient HWRC provision

Survey respondents were asked if they had any comments to make about “efficient HWRC provision in Cheshire East”.

In total, 1,381 comments made in response to this question have been analysed, and these comments have been grouped into categories and summarised below.

Against mobile provision	321
Keep tips open, save money elsewhere, we pay for this service, everyone is entitled to proper HWRC provision	146
Disagree with this proposal, it's ridiculous, efficient for who?	109
Waste of money	50
No need for mobile units if existing HWRCs were retained	9
There should be more HWRCs, not fewer	7

Impact of and concerns about mobile provision	553
Mobile HWRCs would cost more money, be expensive to run, and incur contractor costs	104
Mobile HWRCs would become full too quickly, messy, full of bulky waste, like a fly-tip	97
Mobile HWRCs would have to be at times convenient to people, those that work, people are unable to store waste until next collection	96
Mobile HWRCs wouldn't work, they are inefficient	75
There are too many things to consider re. mobile HWRC proposals, this needs a lot more thought	47
Mobile HWRCs – What type of waste will they collect? They must allow all types of waste	37
Mobile HWRCs – There are no suitable sites e.g. the car park at Poynton is too small	26
There could or would be environmental impacts of mobile HWRC provision – Cars visiting, queuing, and the trucks carbon emissions	24
Mobile HWRCs – The trucks would fill up too quickly then leave rest of waste at sites	20
Mobile HWRCs will not encourage recycling	13
Seems like a step towards charging for the service or eventually cutting the scheme	10
Introducing car parking charges, will cost people to park	4

Suggestions for mobile HWRC provision	82
Mobile HWRCs should be in addition to, not instead of	48
Mobile HWRCs would need to be doorstep / street collections, and bookable	15
Mobile HWRCs should be for all areas, not just rural or no car	10
Mobile HWRCs would need to be well publicised	4
Contract this service out to professionals	3
Mobile HWRC provision should be a paid for service	2

Comments about existing waste provision	127
Improve existing HWRC provision: bigger, more efficient, collect more waste types	25
Keep Poynton open	18
Improve current bin services, types of waste collected, frequency	16
Congleton needs a tip, better provision, or drive around service	12
Keep Bollington open	11
Middlewich is the poor relation in Cheshire East	8
Come to agreement with neighbouring councils	7
Closing tips will result in more fly-tipping	7
Keep Alsager open	6
Revert back to free garden waste	5
Prefer reduction in opening hours over mobile units	4
Congleton / Danes Moss / Wilmslow already closed	3
Open site at Arlington Business Park	2
Have a HWRC shop, re-use, recycle, repair facility	2
Close Bollington HWRC	1

Other comments and questions about mobile provision	106
If people have no car how can waste be taken to mobile HWRCs anyway?	68
20-minute drive times are inaccurate, traffic will increase the time, some are more than 20 minutes away	17
Mobile HWRC provision needs to consider the disabled, elderly and immobile	10
Dispute low ownership of cars: incorrect, low impact	9
Mobile service is just refuse collection as is / was	2

Other comments	112
People choose where they live, they know they have to drive further for amenities	32
Question loaded, biased, will skew the results, already decided what you will do, pointless question	28
Not enough information, need more information about this	22
Recycling should be encouraged, promoted	18
Happy with the service / provision	5
Closing HWRCs will result in more fly-tipping	3
Increase Council Tax to retain existing HWRC provision	1
Promote private hire skip firms	1
Enter into Public - Private Partnerships to share costs and benefits of waste provision and recycling	1
Monitor and measure usage and feedback of use	1

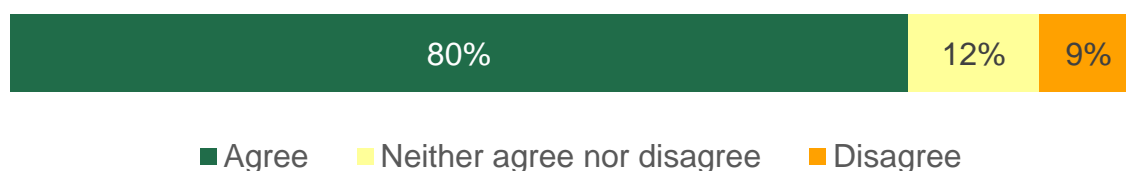
Comments in favour of mobile HWRC provision	80
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Good idea	55
This will help reduce fly tipping	16
Good for those in rural areas	5
Good, as long as it's free	3
Would be good for environment, take extra cars off the road	1

Re-use of goods

A large proportion of respondents, 80%, agreed the council should increase provision of the re-use of goods.

How strongly do you agree or disagree the council should increase provision to encourage waste prevention and re-use of goods?



No. responses = 3,397

Comments about increasing provision of re-use of goods

Survey respondents were asked if they had any comments to make about “the council increasing provision to encourage waste prevention and of the re-use of goods”.

In total, 1,285 comments made in response to this question have been analysed, and these comments have been grouped into categories and summarised below.

Suggestions for recycling, re-use and repair	240
Improve existing facilities to recycle, including through kerbside collections	80
Have a HWRC shop, re-use and recycle section for people to buy items, so the council can make a profit	53
Have a better / dedicated re-use and recycle section at HWRCs	53
Provide a repair facility, support repair cafes, Men in Sheds	36
Exchange waste for coupons and coupons for compost	5
Fund / work with refill shops	5
Reduce household bin sizes	3
Keep it simple	2
Reinstate paid for provision of kitchen and green waste bins	1
Use plastic waste in road tarmac	1
Charge for HWRC use	1
Promoting the scheme, work with others	171
Promote this more, educate, be a bigger voice, didn't know this existed	108
Promote Facebook pages, promote recycle sites more	17
Encourage schools to re-use, recycle and compost	14

Provide incentives, deposit schemes, get supermarkets involved, have package retrieval schemes	12
Work with charities	11
Encourage businesses to re-use and recycle	9

Concerns about the proposals	564
This will be a waste of money, use the money on services we pay for, use the money on waste services	155
Charging for garden waste is counter to this, discourages this behaviour, stop charging for green waste	86
Cutting back on waste provision does not encourage recycling, more goes into the black bin	74
How does this save money? How does this help?	67
How does this reduce the use of HWRCs? Rubbish is rubbish, rubbish is not re-useable / recyclable	48
People aren't interested, easier to replace than repair, we live in a disposable society	45
This is an excuse to cut service / close HWRCs; do not close HWRCs, this shouldn't come at the expense of HWRC provision	35
Cutting back on waste / HWRC services will increase fly tipping	26
We don't want to or are unable to compost, that is not suitable for everyone	16
This should not be an extra charge	10
Closing sites means further travel, more pollution	2

References to existing recycling efforts	131
We do this anyway (regardless of CEC), there are active re-use and recycle sites in use	105
Bollington is a good example, both the tip and Bollington Borrowers	15
St Martins do it, St Martin's is a great example	4
Follow best practice, look at other (successful) councils, countries	4
We have a scrap collection service	2
Already in place at our HWRC	1

Other comments and suggestions	173
This needs to be global, from the top down, government backed - manufacturers need to cut down on waste	87
Of course we agree this, absolutely	73
Are you doing this within the council and schools, practising what you preach?	11
Charge for HWRC use	1
Have more punitive fines for fly tippers	1

Comments related to the questions	6
Not sure what is being asked, the question is vague	5
Comments about questions in survey, a decision has already been made	1

Visiting HWRCs

Low proportions of respondents stated they would visit their local HWRC:

- As a pedestrian (15%)
- On a bicycle (9%)
- On a mobility scooter (6%)

Generally speaking, if pedestrian, cycle and mobility scooter access to your local HWRC was allowed, do you think you would visit it...



No. responses between 2,858 and 2,961

Comments about alternative access to HWRCs

Survey respondents were asked if they had any comments to make about “pedestrian, cycle and mobility scooter access to HWRCs”.

In total, 1,467 comments made in response to this question have been analysed, and these comments have been grouped into categories and summarised below.

Reasons for objection to proposal	1,148
Carrying bulky waste, large items and large volumes of waste is impossible by any of these methods	521
Silly question, ridiculous, impractical	213
Unsafe on site and while travelling to the HWRC sites, dangerous	165
If it's small enough to carry it would just go in the black bin	126
Couldn't travel the distance to my nearest HWRC by any of those methods	118
I have no choice but to use my car	5
In favour comments	148
Good idea, for those that need it, access for all	113

Could or should have a special area for those users, away from the main bins, to ensure safety	15
This would be useful in urban areas	8
This would encourage people to walk or cycle	8
This would be good for the boating community	4

Alternative suggestions	37
Those items could be collected via a mobile service	20
Need small skips in towns for these sorts of situations and items	11
Encourage neighbourly help for limited mobility and elderly residents	4
Trial it	1
Charge per visit to recoup costs	1

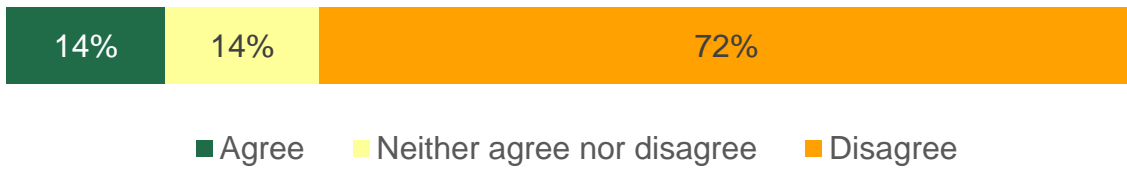
Other comments	134
Waste of money	90
Would depend on what was being disposed if	17
Some sites already allow this, have this facility	9
Seems hypocritical – Reduce carbon emissions but have people travel further	7
Didn't know you couldn't	6
Do not close tips	4
Shouldn't increase costs	1

HWRC booking systems

General sentiment towards a HWRC booking system

A large proportion of respondents, 73%, disagreed that a booking system should be introduced at Cheshire East HWRCs. 14% of respondents agreed one should be introduced.

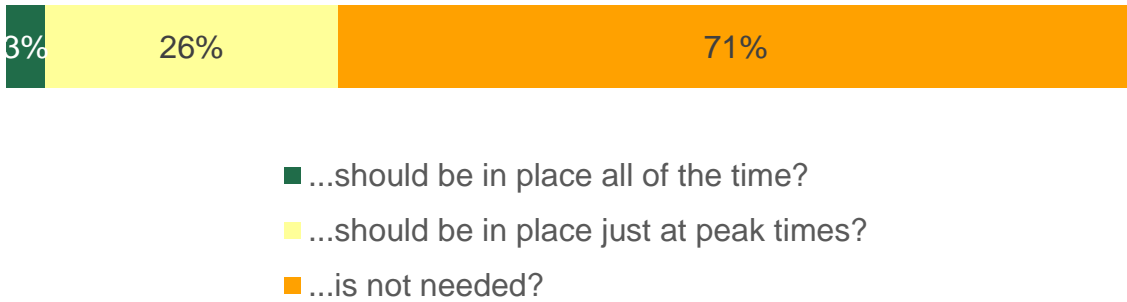
How strongly do you agree or disagree a booking system should be introduced at Cheshire East HWRCs?



No. responses = 3,369

71% of respondents felt a booking system is not needed, 26% felt a booking system should be in place just at peak times, while just 3% of respondents felt a booking system should be in place all of the time.

Do you think any booking system...



No. responses = 3,375

Comments about HWRC booking systems

Survey respondents were asked if they had any comments to make about “HWRC booking systems”.

In total, 1,643 comments made in response to this question have been analysed, and these comments have been grouped into categories and summarised below.

Reasons for objection to booking system	1,034
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The costs will outweigh the benefits, there'll be admin costs to run, setting up the system and the manpower to run it	215
There's no need for one, it's not busy enough	207
Stop complicating things, creating extra bureaucracy and barriers to services	155
Waste of money, ridiculous	154
Prefer to go without planning and have spontaneous trips. I don't plan when I go to the HWRC	143
Prefer not, prefer as is, don't mind queuing	65
We know when it's busy and when it's quiet, we go accordingly	59
If there's a need to book then make the sites bigger, if there's that much demand	30
This wasn't successful during covid, nor is it successful elsewhere	6

Concerns about impacts of booking system	390
This could lead to fly tipping if people can't get a suitable slot	105
Not everyone has access to technology or knows how to use	68
People wouldn't be able to stick to a specific time if there are traffic issues	53
This would discourage recycling, with more waste being put into black bins if people can't get a slot	30
This could lead to HWRC closure if it deters use	24
What happens to those who don't know or forgot to book?	24
Wasted slots if people don't turn up	21
How would it be enforced? It would be difficult to police	20
There might not be a slot when I need it, enough slots available	16
Could be traffic issues turning those away who haven't booked	10
Would increase traffic congestion in other areas	8
What happens when the system goes down	7
Seems like a way to introduce charges	4

Suggestions if booking system implemented	71
Would need to be user-friendly	13
Would need to be enforced, proof of residential address	10
Have a live online system so we can check how busy it is before setting off	10
This would be ok for commercial waste and specific types of waste	8
As long as can still go spur of moment when needed	7
Could charge at same time as booking	6
As long as you can book at short notice, not weeks in advance	5
Would need telephone booking system too	4
Use automatic number plate recognition (ANPR)	4
Ensure it is well publicised, with full details explained	4

In favour comments	122
Good idea at peak times	36
Good idea, could work	35

If sites are closing then it would be needed at those that remain	29
This works well in other parts of country	12
Good idea if it keeps HWRCs open	10

Other comments	26
Depends on cost Vs benefit	8
Need more info, wait times, data etc.	8
Trial it	7
Not if it's on top of proposed closures	3

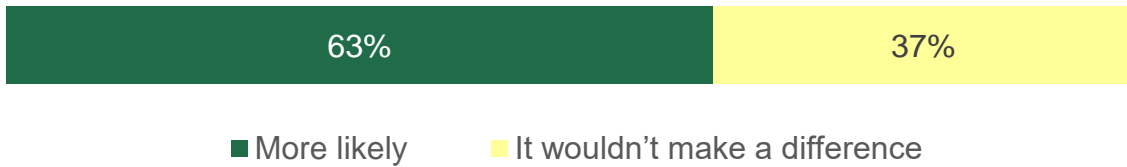
Later opening during summer months

General sentiment towards later opening hours

If opening hours at HWRC's were extended during the week, 63% of respondents stated that this would make them more likely to visit after 5pm, rather than visiting at peak times.

37% of respondents said extending the opening hours during the week would not make any difference to when they visited.

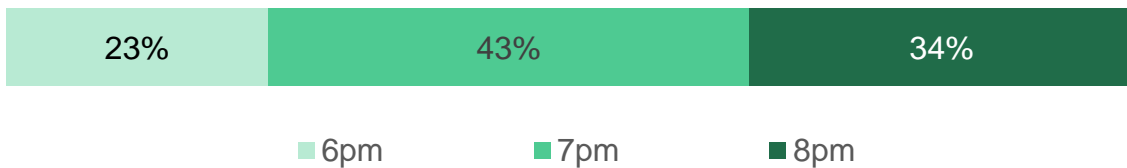
If opening hours at HWRCs were extended during the week, how much more likely would you be to visit after 5pm, than at peak times?



No. responses = 3,202

If opening hours of HWRC's were extended until after 5pm, 23% of respondents felt opening until 6pm would be reasonable, 43% felt opening until 7pm would be reasonable, while 34% felt opening until 8pm would be reasonable.

If your local HWRC opening hours were extended until after 5pm, what do you think would be a reasonable time to extend it to?



No. responses = 2,924

Comments about HWRC opening hours

Survey respondents were asked if they had any comments to make about “HWRC opening hours”.

In total, 926 comments made in response to this question have been analysed, and these comments have been grouped into categories and summarised below.

In favour comments	311
This would be good for those who work during the week	168

Good idea / this is needed	84
Good idea, this will reduce congestion and spread the load of visitors	39
This will be essential if closing some sites	18
Good idea now the council is charging for green bins	2

Suggestions on opening times	189
Shift hours – Have the same but open later in the morning and close later in the evening	45
Open longer in summer when it's light	38
A good idea for 1 or 2 late nights per week, but not every night	32
Keep sites and reduce hours	27
Condense days e.g. close on Mondays	24
Reduce the number of days sites are open, but open for longer when they are open	11
Open earlier too	4
Open longer at peak times e.g. weekends	4
Needed in winter too, have floodlights	4

Other suggestions	66
As is, but a rota for each site	11
Review usage regularly and adjust hours in response	8
Do this in combination with a booking system	3
Needs to be well publicised	3
Keep HWRCs and extend opening hours	1
Charge for use of HWRCs	1
Should only be available for domestic users	1

Against proposal comments	220
No need, the hours are fine as they are	82
It costs more money to open longer?	65
Do not close any HWRCs	36
This is contradictory – Close sites to save money, then open longer which costs money. Which is it?	18
This will impact after work traffic, cause more congestion and disturb nearby residents	15
This seems to lean towards reduction in recycling provision overall	4

Other comments	140
Of no benefit to me, no impact on me	67
Will not use after work, demand is at weekends, people clear out at weekends	29
Should look at usage data, footfall, across all sites	18
It's the distance that's the issue	12
You already cut the hours before	6

Comments about survey – Quality of the questions and the point of them	4
Just make sites more efficient to use, no need to extend hours	2
If HWRCs close people will just put waste in black bins	1
This is ok, as long as staff are not impacted negatively	1

Conclusions

Consultation response

It is positive to see the significant response to the consultation, with 4,124 responses in total.

However, it is noted this response is significantly lower than the response achieved in 2021 when the council last conducted a similar [Household Waste Recycling Centre Consultation](#) – In 2021 a total of 10,208 consultation responses were received, even though consultation methodologies used both years were similar.

This lower response in 2024 may represent a level of “consultation fatigue” among Cheshire East stakeholders, with the council having conducted such similar consultations so close together.

Strong opposition to proposals

It is clear that respondents disagree with the council’s current approach to managing its financial situation, particularly in regard to potentially closing HWRCs. As with other recent council consultations, respondents often see cuts to front-line services as an absolute last resort and will strongly oppose them as far as they can.

It is no surprise that the most preferred option of the 4 presented in the consultation was for “Option A – HWRC provision to remain as it is”. This is a similar result to a similar question asked in 2021 and is unlikely to change substantially in future. There is little benefit in including a “remain as is” option in consultations if that is not a viable option.

It is clear that respondents across the board, including non-users of HWRCs, want HWRCs to remain open.

Waste strategy contradictions

Respondents pointed out the contradiction between the council’s aim of being “Green” and the council’s waste strategy, which potentially makes recycling more difficult, more expensive, and increases car use. These are mixed messages for residents.

The sub-option for a new HWRC in Congleton was also generally opposed – Spending significant sums on a new HWRC, while at the same time making savings by closing other sites, is a difficult proposition for respondents to make sense of.

Alternative service delivery ideas to be explored

Given respondents see cuts to front-line services as an absolute last resort, they listed a significant number of alternative service delivery ideas which should be thoroughly explored, to ensure HWRCs remain open as far as possible.

20-minute drive times may have long-term consequences

It is clear too that 20-minute drive times are seen as inappropriate by many, and that reducing the number of HWRCs in the borough may significantly reduce the number of people who recycle their waste at HWRCs.

It remains to be seen whether the long-term costs of addressing issues that arise from HWRC closures would outweigh the savings made in the medium-term.

Mobile HWRC provision and other service proposals

Mobile HWRC provision could perhaps mitigate against closures of larger HWRC sites, however, there is resistance towards their use which would need to be addressed and trialled before they would become an acceptable alternative to permanent sites. Other proposals such as reuse of goods and later opening hours during summer months were welcomed.

The implementation of a booking system however, was fairly strongly opposed, and the level of interest for visiting HWRCs as pedestrians or on bicycles or mobility scooters was limited.

In all these cases respondents pointed out that they would much prefer provision to remain as it is, rather than for the council to spend money on optional extras.

Appendix 1 – Email responses

In total 58 emails were received in response to the consultation, including 9 email responses received on behalf of organisations or MPs which have been published below.

The comments made in these emails are summarised in the table below.

Summary of content	No. of comments
Concern about the impact of proposals on the levels of fly tipping in the borough. Instead of spending £270,000 to dispose of fly tipping, spend that to keep HWRCs open instead. Increased fly-tipping could burden communities with additional clean-up requirements.	34
Concern proposals are not environmentally friendly. People will have to travel further. Thousands of extra car journeys will be added to local travel, wearing tyres and roads out, and increasing fuel and running costs. There will be increased congestion around remaining sites. There will also be an increase in the amount of waste deposited in household bins, which will go against the council's recycling policy, and which will increase CO2 emissions and air pollution. If Cheshire East Council holds any values around green issues, how does it reconcile with the fact that Options B, C and D are contrary to Cheshire East's "Green" policy priority. An increase in congestion around remaining sites.	22
Opposition to the closure of Alsager HWRC and replacement with a HWRC in Congleton. Includes a lengthy response from Alsager Town Council.	17
Opposition to the closure of Poynton HWRC. This will result in a loss of service to users of the Poynton site, including residents of Disley, Adlington and the eastern part of Wilmslow and Handforth. The closure of Poynton HWRC is estimated to impact around 25,000 residents. Includes a lengthy response from Poynton Town Council.	11
General opposition to any HWRC closures. Opposition based on environmental, employment, service quality and financial implications.	7
Opposition to the closure of Bollington HWRC.	7
Opposition to the closure of Middlewich HWRC.	5
Suggestions to charge users to access sites or to reduce opening hours rather than closing HWRCs. Cheshire East Council should consider the part time operation of sites (specifically Bollington and Poynton), for example on a 3 day/4 day pattern with a rotating Saturday or possibly midweek day split across both sites, to provide 7 day coverage for residents in the most affected areas. This would continue to provide some service to our residents albeit at a lower level than currently.	5
Criticisms of the consultation – 2022 data has been used instead of 2023 data; the survey questions asking people how they travelled to	4

<p>their HWRC is irrelevant as people cannot travel on foot or by bike to Cheshire East HWRCs; The drive time maps are too poor quality to be useful, and no additional information has been provided about how these maps were created. Financial data is missing from the consultation material. Request that Cheshire East Council is transparent and open, and that further financial information and data which has been requested by Town and Parish Councils is provided. There is a lack of transparency regarding the financial aspects of the proposed changes. Detailed costings and a thorough explanation of the budget implications are imperative for respondents to give informed responses. There was also criticism that the consultation replicated a similar council HWRC Consultation conducted in 2021.</p>	
<p>Supports the building of a new HWRC in Congleton. Believes that the £6-£8 million figure quoted in the consultation material for the development of a new site at Congleton is misleading. Includes a lengthy response from Congleton Town Council.</p>	3
<p>This proposal will not save the council money, it will cost more to fix the problems it creates. Savings proposals are a false economy – Money will need to be spent elsewhere to cover the impact of HWRC closures e.g. to pay for increased fly tipping, environmental costs, costs of disposing of extra waste at other sites.</p>	3
<p>Opposes the proposal around mobile HWRCs.</p>	3
<p>Black bin / Green bin collection comment.</p>	2
<p>Suggests in the event of the closure of the local HWRC an arrangement is made with neighbouring councils for residents to use their HWRCs. E.g. Disley residents to use Marple HWRC, and Middlewich residents to use Winsford HWRC.</p>	2
<p>Supports the proposal around re-use of goods. Encourage people to make better use of what they have to hand. Recycle on a micro level.</p>	2
<p>Central government guidelines state that closure of recycling sites in order to save money should only be done as a 'last resort'.</p>	1
<p>Council Tax does not represent good value for money – The tax is going up, while services are being reduced.</p>	1
<p>Finds pedestrian, cycle and mobility scooter access to HWRCs absurd.</p>	1
<p>Suggests protesting national government more vigorously for a response on funding.</p>	1
<p>Supports the proposal around mobile HWRCs.</p>	1
<p>Urges Cheshire East Council to reconsider these proposals of a new HWRC at Congleton, and to ensure that Sandbach Town has adequate recycling facilities. Welcome the opportunity to discuss what potential solutions could be reached in partnership with the Town Council and partners. Includes a lengthy response from Sandbach Town Council.</p>	1

Parliamentary Candidate Jack Price-Harbach – Email response

Jack PRICE-HARBACH

Liberal Democrats Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Mid Cheshire

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Research & Consultation Team
Cheshire East Council
Delamere House
Crewe
CW1 2LL

Sunday 12th May 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) Consultation 2024

As a potential future representative of the people of Middlewich, I am writing to express my opposition to *Option D* from your suggested proposals for the future of Cheshire East Council's HWRC provision, primarily due to increased costs being passed on to my constituents.

Mobile waste collections are less flexible than intended and building a new HWRC with greater capacity in Congleton still presents an increased cost to local residents. Furthermore, as the Middlewich Bypass business case is currently being reconsidered, travel between Middlewich and Crewe would become more congested as demand for Crewe's HWRC increases.

Another factor to consider, albeit unpredictable, is that reduced provision of HWRCs will inevitably lead to an increase in fly tipping and the costs associated with it.

As a solution, I wish to propose that Cheshire East Council liaise with their Cheshire West & Chester Council colleagues to explore the option of allowing Middlewich residents to use the HWRC in Winsford. Its large capacity and close proximity to Middlewich could be a cost effective solution and would be a fantastic example of cooperation between local authorities that are financially struggling.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my feedback.

Yours Sincerely,

Jack Price-Harbach

Published by K. Price on behalf of: Price-Harbach (Liberal Democrats) at 4113 Bindings Lane, Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 1ND

Liberal
Democrats

Alsager Town Council – Email response

Alsager Town Council is extremely alarmed and disappointed that the Cheshire East Council Environment and Communities Committee has recommended several options for consultation and consideration regarding the future Household Waste Recycling Centre provision, particularly the inclusion of a sub-option to close and replace Alsager's Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) with a new facility in Congleton.

The sub-option to replace Alsager with a new site in Congleton, is not only wrong but unjustifiable. It is also not cost-effective.

Alsager Town Council objects to the sub-option and believes that Alsager's HWRC should remain open as one of Cheshire East's core sites for the reasons given below:

1. Alsager is a core site for Waste and Recycling in Cheshire East.

Alsager's HWRC is a well-established facility which together with HWRC sites in Crewe, Knutsford and Macclesfield, offer the largest scope of recycling and disposal of different waste streams, are the largest in plan area across the borough making them the most adaptable for futureproofing and currently take circa 76% of waste deposited across all sites, based on 2022-23 figures.

2. Replacing Alsager's HWRC with a new site in Congleton does not make financial sense and it is unaffordable for Cheshire East Council.

Cheshire East Council is facing unprecedented financial challenges with the council's Medium Term-Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2024-28 forecasting a £100 million funding gap over the four-year period. Based upon last year's estimates, a new site in Congleton would cost anywhere between £6-8 million, placing average annual capital borrowing repayments at between £409,000 and £545,000 per annum (over a 25-year period). The funding for the sub-option is not costed within the Council's MTFS and would require further services changes from within the remit of the Environment & Communities Committee budget.

3. A new site in Congleton is extremely risky for Cheshire East Council and is not likely to be operationally effective for some considerable time.

It is highly unlikely that a new site in Congleton would be operational in time for the start of a new contract, whereas the core site of Alsager would still be operational. There would also be significant risks to Cheshire East Council in its ability to acquire a site for a new HWRC at a reasonable cost, and then to gain the necessary permissions to open and operate the new facility.

4. The Alsager HWRC is operationally effective, one of the top 4 sites and should remain as a core HWRC site.

Overall, 16.2% of users in August 2022 use Alsager and our HWRC has 15.3% of annual tonnage throughput for 2022/23. This places Alsager's site in the top 4 core sites across Cheshire East, servicing not only Alsager but the neighbouring towns and villages of Sandbach, Congleton, Haslington, Oakhanger, Church Lawton, Scholar Green and everywhere in-between.

Alsager Town Council objects strongly to the sub-option and believes that the Alsager HWRC should remain open.

Congleton Town Council – Email response

Reference; Cheshire East Council Household Waste Recycling Consultation 2024

Congleton Town Council is pleased to be able to respond to this consultation. When the Congleton HWRC was closed in 2021, Congleton Town Council said was a closure of convenience because the lease had come to an end. The Town Council on behalf of the people of Congleton wanted to see Cheshire East Council make long-term strategic plan to provide improved recycling capabilities for the benefit of our environment for many generations to come. We are pleased that you are now conducting a review and that the possibility of a new HWRC for Congleton is included as a the potential solution.

We believe a new state of the art site should be built in Congleton on the following grounds.

- The growth in the Congleton area households is going to be over 40% during the local plan period which will make it the third largest area in Cheshire East.
- A Congleton HWRC will reduce traffic generation to proposed locations
- It is centrally located within the borough with good access in and around the town.
- It will dramatically reduce the sudden increase in fly tipping following the closure of the previous HWRC site

We have previously highlighted concerns about the possible cost of a replacement HWRC or Congleton and challenged the CEC figures of £6-£8 million pounds that are still being reported.. Evidence was provided to the CEC Environment and Communities meeting in September 2023 about the costs of two new HWRC each costing circa £2 million. At the meeting the committee agreed to review the costing estimate for a new site however we have not received any information about the outcome of the review, maybe this has not happened?

We believe that the £6-£8 million figure is misleading and will most likely influence responses, as an example £6-8 million is quoted within Alsager Town Councils response.

I will be very happy to discuss any matters relating to this response

Yours sincerely

Cranage Parish Council – Email response

Cranage Parish Council (CPC) considered this consultation at their meeting on 21 May 2024 and wish to make the following comments in response the request for feedback.

CPC oppose the closure of more tips in our area. If Middlewich was to close, then this leaves Cranage residents with a significant round trip journey to either Knutsford (17 miles – 35 minutes) or Alsager (20 miles – 45 minutes). The Council feel that this length of journey is unacceptable, and that it will result in even more fly-tipping across the parish than at present. We are already suffering from an increase in fly tipping and are concerned of the effect of this on the open countryside.

Disley Parish Council – Email response

Dear Sir or Madam

On the 13th of June, at our full council meeting, Disley Parish Council discussed the ongoing household waste recycling consultation. We feel it is essential to communicate our collective concerns on this matter.

Firstly, there is significant apprehension about the potential rise in fly-tipping should the proposed changes be implemented. The increased inconvenience could lead to irresponsible disposal of waste, thereby degrading our local environment and burdening the community with additional clean-up efforts.

Furthermore, the proposed 28-mile round trip to the nearest recycling centre (Macclesfield, should both Poynton and Bollington close) is impractical for many residents. Such a distance not only poses an inconvenience but also increases travel costs and carbon emissions, counteracting the environmental benefits of recycling.

The suggestion of an alternative provision, such as a mobile unit, was also scrutinised. The lack of suitable space within Disley for such a facility adds to our concerns, as does the absence of clear information on the cost implications of this alternative.

Lastly, we are troubled by the lack of transparency regarding the financial aspects of the proposed changes. Detailed costings and a thorough explanation of the budget

implications are imperative for us to make informed decisions and to ensure the community is not unduly burdened.

Disley Parish Council strongly urges the consultation organisers to consider these concerns seriously and to provide more comprehensive information. We believe a more viable solution is necessary, one that prioritises convenience, environmental responsibility, and financial transparency.

Yours sincerely,

Gawsworth Parish Council – Email response

Gawsworth Parish Council is concerned by proposals to close Household Waste Recycling Centres in the borough. It is reasonable to expect:

- a) An increase in fly tipping
- b) An increase in congestion around remaining sites
- c) Reduced recycling levels with more residents using black bins

The second point is of particular concern. At peak periods, there can already be queues on the A536 by the Macclesfield HWRC. Since the temporary closure of other sites has commenced, we have seen an increase in queuing. This creates a significant safety risk on this main road and councillors have witnessed traffic stuck behind queues overtaking the queue (which involves crossing to the other side of the road).

The Parish Council therefore considers that the closure of sites would deliver more negatives than benefits.

Poynton Town Council – Email response

Dear Consultation Team

I am writing on behalf of Poynton Town Council to respond to the Household Waste and Recycling Centre (HWRC) consultation.

The Town Council is opposed to any closures of the HWRC in Cheshire East but in particular the closure of Poynton which will cause inconvenience to residents, increase in fly tipping, increased travel times to either Bollington or the far side of Macclesfield, increased congestion on the roads and increased CO2 emissions and air pollution. In addition, we believe that the likely savings are unsubstantiated as the tender process for the HWRC centres is not complete and no information is available in relation to what savings could be achieved. The Town Council also believes that other savings may have been overestimated as it is unlikely that the overall amount of waste will be reduced, it will merely be collected at a different site so will still have

costs associated with it. There will inevitably be hidden costs from the closure including the cost of dealing with increased fly tipping and these calculations have either not been carried out or have not been made transparent to residents.

The consultation

We have concerns relating to a number of aspects of the consultation

1. Although a usage survey was conducted in September 2023 this data has not been used in the consultation, instead older data from 2022 was used. No explanation has been given why more recent data collected was not used. The consultation should not be conducted with old data.
2. One of the questions in the consultation is on your last visit to a HWRC, how did you travel to there? However, we had understood that access to sites was only by car or van. We have contacted CEC customer services who have confirmed that HWRC will only accept cars or vans on site, no pedestrian, cycling or mobility scooter access is allowed. This suggests that the consultation is being run by people who are unaware of how the HWRC are operated.
3. The Town Council is extremely concerned that the drive time maps used as part of the consultation cannot be zoomed in. This makes it impossible in Poynton to see which areas fall inside or outside the 20 minute drive time. We have concerns that the drivetime maps may be inaccurate but it is impossible to verify this due to the poor quality of the maps. In addition, no information has been provided in relation to how the 20 minute drive times have been calculated (i.e. what day and what times of day were used) and what is the source of the data. Despite raising this issue early in May when the consultation was first launched, no changes to the maps or the consultation have been made and we have been told that more detailed maps are unavailable.

Response to the consultation

The Town Council is strongly opposed to any HWRC closures and option A is the favoured option. The closure of the site at Poynton (option B and D) is our least preferred option as it will result in a loss of service to users of the Poynton site, including residents of Disley, Adlington and the eastern part of Wilmslow and Handforth. We anticipate that the closure of Poynton would impact around 25,000 residents.

No regard appears to have been given to new developments in our communities, including new developments in Poynton itself, where a further 450 new homes are currently being built, with a further 200 proposed, or the Handforth Growth Village where 1,500 new homes will be built. It appears that the impact the closures at Poynton and Bollington would have on the Handforth Growth Village, which we

believe falls outside the 20 minute drive time for Macclesfield and Knutsford, have been ignored.

The Town Council believes that the closure of the HWRC will result in:

- Decreased recycling and increased use of black wheelie bins.
- Increases in illegal fly-tipping and resulting pollution and expense removing illegally dumped waste. The government have stated that closing household waste and recycling centres should be a last resort and councils should balance any savings made against the costs of a probable increase in fly tipping.
- More traffic on roads as residents will have to make longer trips increasing air pollution and traffic congestion.

Options B, C and D are contrary to Cheshire East's "Green" policy priority. These closures will result in thousands of longer car journeys. For example looking at proposal B - the usage figures from August 2022 show that Poynton had approximately fourteen hundred visits. If the centre closes, Poynton residents will need to undertake a round trip of approximately 17 miles, this will equate to a staggering additional 295,000 miles over the course of the year.

Whilst the Town Council believes that all the sites should remain open with the same level of service, we have repeatedly stated that if this isn't possible Cheshire East Council should consider the part time operation of both Bollington and Poynton (for example a 3 day/ 4 day pattern with a rotating Saturday or possibly midweek day split across both sites) to provide 7 day coverage for residents in the most affected areas. This would continue to provide some service to our residents albeit at a lower level than currently.

The Town Council would also suggest that the opening hours of all sites are reviewed, depending on usage it may be possible to reduce hours.

The Town Council understands that Cheshire East Council currently contracts to ANSA who then contract to Martins, in all likelihood increasing the management costs paid by Cheshire East for these sites. Has the council considered if savings could be made if double contracts were eliminated?

The Town Council would urge Cheshire East Council to maintain household waste and recycling provision as is. We would ask that East Council are transparent and open and that further financial information and data which has been requested by towns and parish councils is provided.

Kind regards.

Sandbach Town Council – Email response

Despite the high level of our representation on CE our town has; there is a perception that Sandbach is being further excluded from more fully funded service provision and investment which appears to be in favour of Crewe, Macclesfield and now Congleton.

The inherent dangers of not only taking a new bit of Cheshire in Congleton (at a site that's likely to be greenfield) to be a HWRC further away from a significant part of its customer base could lead to more fly tipping, more vehicle travel and less overall recycling as more waste bin use will happen, which undermines Cheshire East's recycling initiatives and our joint and Borough wide objective of reducing waste. Developing the opportunity for local residents to re-use/repair/gift before items enter the waste stream could also be compromised by over centralisation and further restricting access to sites.

We urge Cheshire East to reconsider these proposals and to ensure that Sandbach town has adequate recycling facilities. We welcome the opportunity to discuss what potential solutions could be reached in partnership with the Town Council, and other key partners, in the interest of our shared objectives to encourage recycling and reduce waste.

Kind regards,

Planning, Environments and Consultations Committee on behalf of Sandbach Town Council

Novi Digital – Email response

Dear Members of the Environment and Communities Committee,

I am writing to express significant concerns regarding the proposed emergency reduction of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) outlined in Proposal 72 of the MTFS for 2024-2028. While the intent to balance the council's budget is understood, it is imperative that the full scope of economic and social impacts be thoroughly assessed before final decisions are made.

1. Revenue Loss from Recycling:

The reduction in HWRCs threatens to decrease the volume of recyclable materials collected, which in turn could lead to a substantial drop in revenue generated from recycling operations. These funds are crucial in offsetting the operational costs of waste management and contribute positively to our council's finances.

2. Employment Implications:

Closing several centres would inevitably lead to job losses for employees working both directly and indirectly with HWRCs. The resulting unemployment would not only impact these workers and their families but would also have ripple effects throughout our local economy.

3. Service Quality and Efficiency:

Consolidating waste management services to fewer centres may lead to overcrowded facilities, longer wait times, and decreased service quality. This could discourage residents from participating in recycling efforts, thereby undermining our long-term sustainability goals.

4. Increased Travel Costs and Environmental Impact:

The proposal increases the travel distance for many residents, which not only raises individual and business expenses but also contradicts our environmental objectives by increasing carbon emissions.

5. Long-Term Financial Costs:

While immediate savings might seem achievable, the long-term costs associated with managing increased fly-tipping and littering could negate these savings. The expense of cleaning up illegal dumping and enforcing penalties could become substantial.

Given these considerations, I strongly advise that the council conducts a more comprehensive review of the true costs and impacts associated with the proposed reduction of HWRCs. It is crucial to ensure that any cost-saving measures do not inadvertently lead to greater financial burdens or reduce the quality of life for our residents.

We hope that these points will be thoughtfully considered in your deliberations, aiming for solutions that sustain both our community's economic health and environmental integrity.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Managing Director, novi.digital.

Appendix 2 – Petitions

One petition was organised throughout the duration of the consultation and submitted to the council – details are given below.

Started by	No. signatures	Platform	Petition link
Trevor Priestman	7,683	Change.org	Against the possible closure of Middlewich, Poynton, and Bollington waste recycling sites

Appendix 3 – Newspaper Articles

7 newspaper articles were published throughout the duration of the consultation – these are listed below.

Date	Source	Article link
03/05/2024	cheshireeast.gov.uk	Consultation launched on household waste recycling centre services
07/05/2024	Nantwich News	CEC consults on changes to household recycling centre service
08/05/2024	Cheshire Live	Have your say on Cheshire East tip closure plans and new online booking system
09/05/2024	Northwich Guardian	Cheshire East councillor slams tips consultation as 'a joke'
10/05/2024	Cheshire Live	Cheshire East Council consultation over future of its tips branded 'a joke'
14/05/2024	Knutsford Guardian	Esther McVey: 'Make it clear we want the recycling centres kept open'
22/05/2024	Macclesfield Nub News	Bollington Town Council will not proceed with Cheshire East's offer to keep tip open until April 2025

Appendix 4 – Respondent demographics

Gender

47% of survey respondents were female, 46% male.

What is your gender identity?	Count	Percent
Female	1,560	47%
Male	1,507	46%
Prefer not to say	177	5%
Prefer to self-describe	57	2%
Valid responses	3,301	100%

Those that answered “prefer to self-describe” gave the following answers:

- 100% male
- Aardvark
- And this relevant... why?
- Annoyed
- Couple
- Don't have one, only have a sex.
- Don't see why this is relevant?
- Female with a beard
- Gender identity is irrelevant to competing this survey
- Gender is irrelevant I am a biological female and this is my sex. Stop misusing language
- GOD!
- How does this matter?
- Human
- I am a woman and my sex is female I don't have a gender identity.
- I do not have a gender identity
- Identity isn't needed in this question
- I'm a Male, always have been
- Irrelevant to the consultation: you shouldn't be asking it and if you are say 'sex' instead of 'gender woo woo'
- Irrelevant to this survey
- Jedi
- MAN
- Mind your own business
- No wonder you can't manage your budget!
- Non-Binary
- Potato

- Sex, not gender
- There are only two sexes, male or female!!
- These are not gender identities.
- This is the sort of nonsense you can do away with
- Why does my gender matter?

Age group

Survey respondent numbers by age group were as follows:

Age Group	Count	Percent
16-24	14	0%
25-34	178	5%
35-44	453	14%
45-54	640	19%
55-64	814	25%
65-74	686	21%
75-84	321	10%
85 and over	22	1%
Prefer not to say	175	5%
Total valid responses	3,303	100%

Health or disability status

Survey respondent numbers by health or disability status were as follows:

Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months? This includes problems related to old age.	Count	Percent
Yes	440	13%
No	2,578	78%
Prefer not to say	289	9%
Total valid responses	3,307	100%

Appendix 5 – The consultation material

Household Waste Recycling Centre Consultation 2024 – Questionnaire

Purpose of this consultation

Cheshire East Council approved its medium-term financial strategy (MTFS) for 2024 to 2028 at a meeting of Full Council in February 2024.

The MTFS for 2024 to 2028 put forward proposals showing how the council could balance its budget for the next 4 years - something which all councils must do. The MTFS approved in February 2024 was an extremely challenging one, given the impact of the cost of living crisis and inflation on council finances.

The MTFS for 2024 to 2028 included proposal 96: "Review of Household Waste Recycling Centres". The council is now conducting this consultation as part of this review – This review is solely concerned with what long-term Household Waste Recycling Centre provision in Cheshire East should look like.

The MTFS for 2024 to 2028 also included proposal 72: "Emergency reduction of Household Waste Recycling Centres to four core sites at Alsager, Crewe, Knutsford and Macclesfield". This emergency reduction in sites is a temporary measure to provide savings that ensured the MTFS for 2024 to 2028 was balanced, and is being conducted completely separately to the review of Household Waste Recycling Centres, which this consultation relates to.

Final decisions on the outcome of this review will be made by the Environment and Communities Committee later this year, in light of feedback received as part of this consultation.

Listening to consultation feedback

No final decisions have yet been made on the future of the service, and final proposals for the service may evolve based on consultation feedback. This has often the case with council consultations, including for example:

The Library Service Consultation 2023 - Initial proposals to close libraries on Saturdays, close libraries during evenings, and remove the mobile library service were reversed based on consultation feedback. Furthermore 31 hours of proposed mid-week closures were also reversed based on consultation feedback.

The Maintenance of Green Spaces Consultation 2023 – Initial proposals for the maintenance schedule of green spaces were revised based on consultation feedback. In general, there was a shift towards sites being maintained to a higher standard either through a revised typology classification and/or a higher amenity level due to the feedback received.

The Strategic Leisure Review 2024 - Initial proposals to close 4 leisure centres in Cheshire East were reversed, with alternative service delivery models put in place and service savings found elsewhere, the development of which was based heavily on consultation feedback.

Giving your feedback

[Consultation closed – Do not respond].

Contact us

If you have any questions about this survey, or if you want this questionnaire in a different format or to submit your response in a different way email CEConsultation@cheshireeast.gov.uk or call Customer Services on 0300 123 55 00, who will send us your query on your behalf.

Keeping your data safe

Any personal information you give us will remain private, be stored securely, and be used in line with the Data Protection Act 2018. To read more about how we use your data read our Privacy Notice, a copy of which is included in the consultation pack.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the approach the council is taking to manage its current financial situation? *Tick one box only*

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not sure / Don't know

Do you have any comments to make about how the council is managing its current financial situation? *Write in below*

About you

How are you responding to this survey? *Tick all that apply*

- As someone who uses a Household Waste and Recycling Centre in Cheshire East
- As a resident of Cheshire East
- As a Cheshire East Council Ward Councillor
- As a Cheshire East Town or Parish Councillor
- On behalf of a group, organisation, club or local business
- As a H W Martin employee
- As a Cheshire East Council employee
- As a visitor to Cheshire East
- Other (write in):

If you are responding on behalf of a group, organisation, club or local business, write its name in the box below: *Write in below*

If you are responding on behalf of a group, organisation, club or local business, provide a brief description of its purpose: *Write in below*

Your use of Household Waste and Recycling Centres across Cheshire East

Generally speaking, how often do you use each of the following Household Waste Recycling Centres in Cheshire East? *Tick one box only in each row*

	At least once a week	At least once a month	At least once every 6 months	Less frequently than once every 6 months	Never
Alsager	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bollington	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crewe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Knutsford	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Macclesfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Middlewich	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poynton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

On your last visit to your local Household Waste Recycling Centre in Cheshire East, how did you travel there? *Tick one box only*

- In a car or van
- On a motorbike
- On a bicycle
- On a mobility scooter
- As a pedestrian
- Other (write in):

Options for future HWRC provision in Cheshire East

On 28 September 2023, Environment & Communities Committee agreed the council should consult on options for future HWRC service delivery as set out within the HWRC Review Committee report.

The total costs of operation and waste disposal associated with HWRCs are £4 million per year. User numbers and tonnage throughput statistics for each HWRC in Cheshire East are provided in the table below. Figures are derived from the council's annual waste data returns to national government. This is the latest published data as part of the current options appraisal.

HWRC	User No's August 2022 (% total)	Tonnage throughput 2022/23 tonnes (% total)
Alsager	2,613 (16.2%)	4,238 (15.3%)
Bollington	1,461 (9.1%)	2,442 (8.8%)
Crewe	3,251 (20.2%)	7,413 (26.7%)
Knutsford	2,582 (16.0%)	3,953 (14.3%)
Macclesfield	3,381 (21.0%)	5,448 (19.7%)
Middlewich	1,359 (8.4%)	2,067 (7.5%)
Poynton	1,450 (9.0%)	2,156 (7.8%)
TOTALS	16,097	27,717

To inform this consultation, Cheshire East Council commissioned industry experts to assess the management and operation of HWRCs in Cheshire East. As part of this review these experts assessed 4 options for the future of the service, details of which are given below.

Where closures of HWRCs have been suggested, estimates have been calculated to show where the visitors and tonnage from each site are likely to travel to within each option instead.

Option A - HWRC provision to remain as is

% of households within a 20-minute drive time = 99%. View the Option A drivetime map included in the consultation pack.

- Pros:
- HWRC provision remains as is with no site closures
 - High level of borough coverage within 20 minutes (>95%)
- Cons:
- The costs for this option are likely to be above existing budget so funding would need to be found from elsewhere within the Committee's budget
 - Significant overlap of HWRC 20-minute drive time areas – several HWRCs serve the same areas

Option B - Close Poynton HWRC

% of households within a 20-minute drive time = 97%. View the Option B drivetime map included in the consultation pack.

- Pros:
- Service savings made as compared to Option A
 - High level of borough coverage within 20 minutes (>95%)
- Cons:
- Poynton would lose local HWRC provision
 - The costs for this option are likely to be above existing budget so funding would still need to be found from elsewhere within the Committee's budget
 - Most traffic from Poynton is forecast to go to Bollington HWRC (Bollington estimated to see an 80% increase in traffic)

Option C - Close Bollington HWRC

% of households within a 20-minute drive time = 99%. View the Option C drivetime map included in the consultation pack.

- Pros:
- Service savings made as compared to Option A
 - High level of borough coverage within 20 minutes (>95%)
- Cons:
- Bollington would lose local HWRC provision
 - The costs for this option are likely to be above existing budget so funding would still need to be found from elsewhere within the Committee's budget
 - Most traffic from Bollington is forecast to go to Poynton (estimated to see a 38% increase in traffic) and Macclesfield (estimated to see a 26% increase in traffic)

Option D - Close Bollington, Middlewich & Poynton HWRCs

% of households within a 20-minute drive time = 97%. View the Option D drivetime map included in the consultation pack.

- Pros:
- Significant service savings made as compared to Option A
 - The costs for this option are likely to be within existing budget, and so no extra funding would need to be found from elsewhere
 - High level of borough coverage within 20 minutes (>95%)
- Cons:
- Bollington, Middlewich and Poynton would lose local HWRC provision
 - Most traffic from Bollington, Middlewich & Poynton is forecast to go to Macclesfield (estimated to see a 68% increase in traffic), Crewe (estimated to see a 21% increase in traffic) and Knutsford (estimated to see a 21% increase in traffic)

For each of the 4 options for the future of HWRC provision in Cheshire East listed below, rank each one from 1 to 4, where 1 is your most preferred option, and 4 is your least preferred option.

Note that you should only use each number once, e.g. only one option should be given a 1, only one option should be given a 2 etc. You do not have to rank every option if you do not wish to.

Select ranks 1 (most preferred) to 4 (least preferred) below.

	1	2	3	4
Option A - HWRC provision to remain as is	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Option B - Close Poynton HWRC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Option C - Close Bollington HWRC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Option D - Close Bollington, Middlewich & Poynton HWRCs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you have any comments to make about the options for the future of HWRC provision in Cheshire East? These could include other suggested options that you have *Write in below*

Sub-option for a new HWRC in Congleton

As a potential variation to each of the above four options A - D, the council is also considering the viability of a sub-option which is to replace the current HWRC site at Alsager with a new HWRC site in Congleton.

Based on a high-level estimate, a new HWRC at Congleton could cost somewhere between £6-8million. This could place average annual capital borrowing repayments in the order of between £400k and £550k per annum, assuming a 25-year repayment period.

Funding for this proposal is not included in the council’s Medium Term Financial Strategy, and so if progressed as part of the final recommended option would need to be funded from making changes to services within the remit of the Environment & Communities Committee budget.

The pros and cons of this sub-option are listed below.

- Pros:
- High level of borough coverage within 20 minutes (>95%)
 - No significant traffic impact implications forecast for other HWRCs
 - Congleton would gain local a modern HWRC provision

- Cons:
- Funding for this suggestion would need to be found from further service changes in addition to those already included in the Council's MTFs and from within the remit of the Environment & Communities Committee budget
 - Alsager would lose local HWRC provision, to be replaced by Congleton
 - Highly unlikely the new site at Congleton would be operational in time for the start of the new contract
 - Significant risks relating to ability to acquire a site on which to construct a new HWRC at a reasonable cost, and then gain the necessary permissions to open and operate

Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the sub-option of replacing the current HWRC site at Alsager with a new HWRC in Congleton? *Tick one box only*

- Strongly support
- Tend to support
- Neither support nor oppose
- Tend to oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Not sure / Don't know

Do you have any comments to make about the sub-option of replacing the current HWRC site at Alsager with a new HWRC in Congleton? *Write in below*

Other ways of funding the HWRC service

Do you have any other suggestions for how Household Waste Recycling Centres in Cheshire East could be funded, to retain the current or a different level of service provision to that proposed within the options set out?

If your suggestion relates to a specific HWRC, please clearly state which site you are referring to

Write in below

20-minute drive times

The Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) provides national guidelines for Local Authority management of Household Waste Recycling Centres.

WRAP guidelines suggest that the maximum driving times to a Household Waste Recycling Centre for the great majority of residents should be 20 minutes in urban areas and 30 minutes in rural areas.

How strongly do you agree or disagree that... *Tick one box only in each row*

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure / Don't know
...a 20-minute drive time to visit your nearest Household Waste Recycling Centre would be appropriate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...HWRC provision in Cheshire East should cover as much of the population within a 20-minute drive as possible?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...HWRC 20-minute drive time boundaries should not overlap?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If your nearest Household Waste Recycling Centre was a 20-minute drive away, would you visit it... *Tick one box only*

- ...much more often than you do now
- ...a little more often than you do now
- ...as often you do now
- ...a little less often than you do now
- ...much less often than you do now
- Not sure / Don't know / Not applicable

Do you have any comments to make about 20-minute drive times to Household Waste Recycling Centres? *Write in below*

Efficient HWRC provision

There are 14 towns or large villages in Cheshire East, and Cheshire East Council currently operates 7 Household Waste Recycling Centres which vary in scale and scope of waste disposal services offered. These 7 HWRCs are located in Alsager, Bollington, Crewe, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Middlewich and Poynton.

Household Waste Recycling Centres are not currently provided in Congleton, Disley, Handforth, Holmes Chapel, Nantwich, Sandbach and Wilmslow.

It is not possible for Cheshire East Council to provide individual HWRCs in all 14 of these locations - the cost would be too prohibitive.

How strongly do you agree or disagree that HWRCs should be located... *Tick one box only in each row*

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure / Don't know
...to ensure most efficient coverage of the borough as possible?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...in places which are easiest to access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Mobile HWRCs

Mobile HWRCs are offered by some local authorities as a way of supplementing the coverage provided by their permanent HWRCs. Mobile HWRC provisions vary but usually consist of one to three staffed collection vehicles that visit public spaces once a month, such as local car parks, on a rotating schedule, which residents can visit to drop off their household waste items.

Cheshire East is considering using mobile HWRCs to make the service more accessible for non-car users and for people that live in rural areas more than a 20-minute drive from a HWRC. These would be funded through service savings if HWRC sites are closed as part of this review.

How strongly do you agree or disagree Cheshire East Council should provide mobile HWRCs... *Tick one box only in each row*

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure / Don't know
...in areas where levels of car ownership are low?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...in rural areas that are more than a 20-minute drive to a HWRC?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you have any comments to make about efficient HWRC provision in Cheshire East? Write in below

Increase provision of re-use of goods

A key aspect of the Councils Waste Strategy is to promote waste reduction or reuse before promoting recycling, recovery, or disposal of waste – the diagram below sets out this principle which is called the “Waste Hierarchy”.



The Council runs a Waste Prevention Volunteer and has provided information for communities on reducing food waste, plastic and encouraging home composting. Details can be found on our website: Reducing household waste (cheshireeast.gov.uk) and Recycling in schools (cheshireeast.gov.uk).

How strongly do you agree or disagree the council should increase provision to encourage waste prevention and re-use of goods? Tick one box only

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree

- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not sure / Don't know

Do you have any comments about the council increasing provision to encourage waste prevention and of the re-use of goods? *Write in below*

Pedestrian, cycle and mobility scooter access to HWRCs

Some Local Authorities in the UK now allow HWRC access to pedestrians, cyclists and/or mobility scooters. Opening HWRC access beyond vehicles makes them more accessible to more of the population, and enables lower-carbon travel to sites.

However, allowing this type of HWRC access requires careful forethought to ensure the safety of all visitors - Adjustment to entrances and pathways up to the skips are required, along with clear signage and maps throughout the site.

Generally speaking, if pedestrian, cycle and mobility scooter access to your local HWRC was allowed, do you think you would visit it... *Tick one box only in each row*

	Yes I would visit like this	No I would not visit like this	Not sure / Don't know
...as a pedestrian?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...on a bicycle?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...on a mobility scooter?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you have any comments to make about pedestrian, cycle and mobility scooter access to HWRCs? *Write in below*

HWRC booking systems

Some Local Authorities also have booking systems for HWRCs, whereby HWRC users can pre-book the time of their visit to their local HWRC.

The benefits of having booking systems in place at HWRCs include:

- Better traffic management at sites and a reduction in congestion

- Users not having to queue when visiting
- Improvements to site safety
- Ability to ensure use by only Cheshire East residents

A HWRC booking system would also help to manage the flow of traffic and visitors to sites in the event the number of HWRCs in Cheshire East are reduced.

Generally speaking, how strongly do you agree or disagree a booking system should be introduced at Cheshire East HWRCs? *Tick one box only*

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know / Not sure

Do you think any booking system... *Tick one box only*

- ...should be in place all of the time?
- ...should be in place just at peak times e.g. weekends and bank holidays?
- ...is not needed?

Do you have any comments to make about HWRC booking systems? *Write in below*

Later opening during summer months

The current opening hours of HWRCs in Cheshire East are 8.30am to 5pm during April to September.

As a mitigation for potentially having fewer HWRCs covering the borough, the council could extend the opening hours of the HWRCs that remain.

If your local HWRC opening hours were extended until after 5pm, what do you think would be a reasonable time to extend it to? *Tick one box only*

- 6pm

- 7pm
- 8pm
- Other (write in):

If opening hours at HWRCs were extended during the week, how much more likely would you be to visit after 5pm, than at peak times (weekends or bank holidays)? *Tick one box only*

- Much more likely
- A little more likely
- It wouldn't make a difference
- Not sure / Don't know / Not applicable

Do you have any comments to make about HWRC opening hours? *Write in below*

Final comments

Do you have any final comments to make about this consultation? *Write in below*

About you

It would help us if you could answer the questions below - the information will be used to see if there are any differences in views for different groups of people. You do not need to answer any of the following questions if you do not wish to.

What is your home postcode? We ask this so we can be sure we have obtained a range of views from across the borough *Write in below*

What is your gender identity? *Tick one box only*

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say

Prefer to self-describe (write in):

What age group do you belong to? *Tick one box only*

16-24

65-74

25-34

75-84

35-44

85 and over

45-54

Prefer not to say

55-64

Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months? This includes problems related to old age. *Tick one box only*

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

You have now reached the end of the survey, thank you.

