

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

TITLE: Household waste recycling centre new contract service provision

VERSION CONTROL

Date	Version	Author	Description of Changes
	1.0	Andrew Dunstone	
	2.0	Andrew Dunstone	Addition of no change option in consultation
	3.0	Andrew Dunstone	Additional detail
	4.0	Andrew Dunstone	Addressing specific closures
	5.0	Andrew Dunstone	Minor clarifications to age and disability sections

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL - EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Stage 1 Description: Fact finding (about your policy / service /

Department	<i>Environment and Neighbourhood Services</i>		Lead officer responsible for assessment		<i>Andrew Dunstone Waste Contracts Manager</i>	
Service	<i>Environmental Services</i>		Other members of team undertaking assessment		<i>State the full title(s) of all person(s) supporting/ completing the assessment.</i>	
Date			Version			
Type of document (mark as appropriate)	Strategy	Plan	Function	Policy	Procedure	Service ✓
Is this a new/ existing/ revision of an existing document (please mark as appropriate)	New		Existing		Revision ✓	
Title and subject of the impact assessment (include a brief description of the aims, outcomes, operational issues as appropriate and how it fits in with the wider aims of the organisation) Please attach a copy of the strategy/ plan/ function/ policy/ procedure/ service	<p>Household Waste Recycling Centre new contract service provision. The current HWRC contract ends in 2023 and therefore to give ample time to prepare for this a review of the service was commissioned. A public consultation was carried out concerning the future shape of the household waste recycling centre (HWRC) contract. The volatility of the recycling market has severely affected the planned income from these materials, and therefore future contracts are expected to incur higher costs.</p> <p>The independent review modelled different scenarios and determined if they were feasible. The study showed that there is a generous supply of household waste sites, when compared with national guidelines, and that a reduction in these numbers was a viable option.</p> <p>The consultation considered the four scenarios from the study (all of which include the potential closure of sites) and a 'no change' option that included a replacement for Congleton household waste recycling centre. The Congleton site is not owned by the Council with the current lease expiring in September 2021, the landlord has refused to extend this term and therefore the site will close then. Following the consultation, the recommendation is to not replace the Congleton site in conjunction with new measures to provide increased local bring bank facilities</p>					

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	and fairer access to waste disposal services in rural areas of the borough through measures such as a mobile service. The recommendation takes into consideration results of the consultation balanced with the council's need to reduce estimated cost increases from 2023 in a new contract.
Who are the main stakeholders, and have they been engaged with? (e.g. general public, employees, Councillors, partners, specific audiences, residents)	Members, general public, Town and Parish Councils
What consultation method(s) did you use?	Following acceptance at Cabinet a borough wide web-based consultation was commissioned. Due to the ongoing Covid situation the provision of readily available paper copies at our household waste recycling centres was not considered a sensible method of distribution. Similarly, we would usually ensure that all our libraries had copies, but these we closed. In order to ensure their availability, signs were up at each of our sites advertising the consultation and providing a QR code to be scanned – a familiar process for anyone out using the Covid track and trace app. An email address and phone number on the signs was available so that names and addresses could be taken, and a paper copy individually posted. A press statement was released on commencement of the consultation and this should ensure that all local media will pick it up and raise it with their readers. Engagement with the consultation was extensive with over 10,200 responses, of these over 6,000 made comments

Stage 2 Initial Screening

Who is affected and what evidence have you considered to arrive at this analysis? (This may or may not include the stakeholders listed above)	Residents who are users of our sites. Not replacing Congleton in 2021 will have the greatest impact on those residents served by the site. Evidence of this impact comes from the independent report commissioned to review the HWRC service - Residents will need to travel further to dispose of their recycling/waste. In addition to the time that residents would have to travel to more distant sites, the sites they go to would be busier. The spatial analysis forecasts that Macclesfield will see increased use with an estimated 9% more households visiting it. It is worth noting that the existing site in Congleton is challenging for residents with a disability as there are metal steps and gantries that need to be used. The nearest alternative sites are both on a single level and therefore offer much better access for anyone with a mobility issue. In addition, an environmental impact assessment has been carried out.
Who is intended to benefit and how?	The presentation of clear information to potential bidders of the new contract will enable them to determine whether this is a contract worth bidding for. The procurement of a good contract will then ensure that all users of our household waste recycling centres will receive a quality, value for money service.
Could there be a different impact or outcome for some groups?	Yes. The option of closure for Congleton will impact all groups that are in the vicinity and the sites that are most likely to receive additional users – Macclesfield and Alsager.

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Does it include making decisions based on individual characteristics, needs or circumstances?	No. We feel that this does not affect individual characteristics because all users drive to the sites. In recognition of residents who rely on others to drive, it is expected that the new service provider will explore options to enable mobile units to be deployed.
Are relations between different groups or communities likely to be affected? (e.g. will it favour one particular group or deny opportunities for others?)	Possibly. Depending on the preferred option chosen the communities who may be losing a site could be disappointed that others are not affected in the same way however, all options comply with Waste Resources Action Programme Advice for provision for residents.
Is there any specific targeted action to promote equality? Is there a history of unequal outcomes (do you have enough evidence to prove otherwise)?	The public consultation gave all residents the opportunity to engage with the council and present their views. Proposals being consulted on all comply with general guidance on acceptable levels of provision for our population numbers and acceptable distance to travel to a household waste recycling centre. The new service provider will be required to show consideration of residents who are in more rural areas or with limited means of transport – this may be in the form of mobile units visiting these areas. Residents without access to a vehicle are unable to use the sites currently, whilst those with a car enjoy unlimited access, we are seeking to address this with the new service provider through the mobile units and a fairer use policy. In addition to this we are planning to provide new local bring banks in the area to reduce the need to travel.

Is there an actual or potential negative impact on these specific characteristics? (Please tick)									
Age	Y ✓	N	Marriage & civil partnership	Y	N ✓	Religion & belief	Y	N ✓	
Disability	Y ✓	N	Pregnancy & maternity	Y	N ✓	Sex	Y	N ✓	
Gender reassignment	Y	N ✓	Race	Y	N ✓	Sexual orientation	Y	N ✓	
What evidence do you have to support your findings? (quantitative and qualitative) Please provide additional information that you wish to include as appendices to this document, i.e., graphs, tables, charts								Consultation/ involvement carried out	
								Yes	No
Age	During the consultation 242 respondents raised the issue of age that would impact their ability to drive further to access any household waste recycling centres. The non-replacement of the Congleton site will result in the proportion of residents travelling more than 20 minutes rising from 2% to 4% and those travelling less than 20 minutes dropping from 98% to 96%. This is within national guidelines for the provision of household waste								✓

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	recycling centres and considered an acceptable coverage. Furthermore, the existing Congleton site contains stepped access to skips and by directing residents to alternative single level sites access for elderly is improved. There are also rural areas of south Cheshire, not currently served by a nearby household waste centre and the existing system requires vehicular access to use so the Council is exploring fairer access to waste disposal for rural areas and areas with lower car availability as part of its procurement of a new contract .		
Disability	During the consultation 242 respondents raised the issue of people with disabilities that would impact their ability to drive further to access any household waste recycling centres. The non-replacement of the Congleton site will result in the proportion of residents travelling more than 20 minutes rising from 2% to 4% and those travelling less than 20 minutes dropping from 98% to 96%. This is within national guidelines for the provision of household waste recycling centres and considered an acceptable coverage. Furthermore, the existing Congleton site contains stepped access to skips and by directing residents to alternative single level sites access for people with disabilities is improved. There are also rural areas of south Cheshire not currently served by a nearby household waste centre and the existing system requires vehicular access to use so the Council is exploring fairer access to waste disposal for rural areas and areas with lower car availability as part of its procurement of a new contract .		✓
Gender reassignment	The possible closure of some sites does not negatively impact this group, all groups are equally impacted.		✓
Marriage & civil partnership	The possible closure of some sites does not negatively impact this group, all groups are equally impacted.		✓
Pregnancy & maternity	The possible closure of some sites does not negatively impact this group, all groups are equally impacted.		✓
Race	The possible closure of some sites does not negatively impact this group, all groups are equally impacted.		✓
Religion & belief	The possible closure of some sites does not negatively impact this group, all groups are equally impacted.		✓
Sex	Currently we do not feel that this impacts negatively.		✓
Sexual orientation	The possible closure of some sites does not negatively impact this group, all groups are equally impacted.		✓
Proceed to full impact assessment? (Please tick)	Yes	No ✓	Date
Lead officer sign off		Date	

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Head of service sign off		Date	
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If yes, please proceed to Stage 3. If no, please publish the initial screening as part of the suite of documents relating to this issue

Stage 3 Identifying impacts and evidence

This section identifies if there are impacts on equality, diversity and cohesion, what evidence there is to support the conclusion and what further action is needed

Protected characteristics	<p>Is the policy (function etc....) likely to have an adverse impact on any of the groups?</p> <p>Please include evidence (qualitative & quantitative) and consultations</p> <p><i>List what negative impacts were recorded in Stage 1 (Initial Assessment).</i></p>	<p>Are there any positive impacts of the policy (function etc....) on any of the groups?</p> <p>Please include evidence (qualitative & quantitative) and consultations</p> <p><i>List what positive impacts were recorded in Stage 1 (Initial Assessment).</i></p>	<p>Please rate the impact taking into account any measures already in place to reduce the impacts identified</p> <p><i>High: Significant potential impact; history of complaints; no mitigating measures in place; need for consultation</i></p> <p><i>Medium: Some potential impact; some mitigating measures in place, lack of evidence to show effectiveness of measures</i></p> <p><i>Low: Little/no identified impacts; heavily legislation-led; limited public facing aspect</i></p>	<p>Further action (only an outline needs to be included here. A full action plan can be included at Section 4)</p> <p><i>Once you have assessed the impact of a policy/service, it is important to identify options and alternatives to reduce or eliminate any negative impact. Options considered could be adapting the policy or service, changing the way in which it is implemented or introducing balancing measures to reduce any negative impact. When considering each option you should think about how it will reduce any negative impact, how it might impact on other groups and how it might impact on relationships between groups and overall issues around community cohesion. You should clearly demonstrate how you have considered various options and the impact of these. You must have a detailed rationale behind decisions and a justification for those alternatives that have not been accepted.</i></p>
Age				
Disability				
Gender reassignment				

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Marriage & civil partnership				
Pregnancy and maternity				
Race				
Religion & belief				
Sex				
Sexual orientation				
<p>Is this change due to be carried out wholly or partly by other providers? If yes, please indicate how you have ensured that the partner organisation complies with equality legislation (e.g. tendering, awards process, contract, monitoring and performance measures)</p>				

Stage 4 Review and Conclusion

ASSESSMENT

Summary: provide a brief overview including impact, changes, improvement, any gaps in evidence and additional data that is needed			
Specific actions to be taken to reduce, justify or remove any adverse impacts	How will this be monitored?	Officer responsible	Target date
Please provide details and link to full action plan for actions			
When will this assessment be reviewed?			
Are there any additional assessments that need to be undertaken in relation to this assessment?			
Lead officer sign off	<i>A. Dunstone</i>	Date	19/04/21
Head of service sign off	<i>R. L. Kemp</i>	Date	20/04/21

Please publish this completed EIA form on the relevant section of the Cheshire East website