

Household Waste Recycling Centre Disruption

Introduction

All Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) across the county have faced disruption which has meant that material has had to be rejected and some sites have even faced short term closure. There are several factors which have contributed to this disruption which will be highlighted below along with measures to be taken to mitigate the disruption.

Background

The material which is collected at the HWRCs is collected by a commercial haulier and removed to separate disposal outlets which are located around the county. The haulage contract provides a fixed number of vehicles to service the whole of the county. In relation to the different disposal locations, they are also commercial facilities who will process, transfer or dispose of material under contract to LCC. Such locations must have the relevant planning permission and Environmental permit controlled by the Environment Agency to deal with waste.

These haulage and disposal services have to be procured within strict procurement rules with due diligence to ensure that the commercial operator meets the required standards.

Causes of Disruption

- A Waste Transfer Station on Boston Industrial Estate closed in the last 2 years and that was a location which received a significant proportion of material from the Boston and Spalding HWRCs.
- The haulage operator Biffa sometimes faces driver shortages, and the full requirement of trucks has not always been available. This is part of a national trend.
- LCC has no control of when residents visit and what type of material they present. If spare containers are not available, then material may have to be rejected as material cannot be stored on the floor. Sites are restricted in size with a finite number of containers which need removal once they are full.

Mitigation

- Other disposal outlets are being secured to take material, which should reduce turn around times for trucks. An example is Bourne Skip Hire which is now taking material from Bourne HWRC. Previously material from Bourne was being hauled as far as Skegness which tied up trucks for several hours. This has saved 15 hours per week in haulage times and any reduction in turn around time in one part of the county will have an effect across the service. Two other more local disposal locations have been secured in the county.
- Biffa are providing an extra driver and vehicle capacity in July.
- Sid Dennis Ltd is now providing haulage to take material from Skegness HWRC directly to his Waste Transfer Station in Skegness. Previously this operation was performed by Biffa but now there is a reduction in haulage miles.

- Traffic count surveys are to be carried out to show how busy the HWRCs are which may justify different opening hours. If there are any peaks and troughs this can be communicated to the public to reduce waiting times.
- LCC's main web page for waste is being improved to include links to other live social media pages which will provide details of any disruption. We will share this with Boston Borough Council once the update is complete.