

Waste Services Savings Proposals

**Presentation to the Leicestershire Equalities
Challenge Group - 10th November 2023**

Service Background

- There are 14 recycling and household waste sites located across the County, all of which are directly operated by the Council.
- There are 70 operational staff working across the sites.
- The Council owns and operates its own fleet of vehicles
- Sites are open 5 days per week, 9am – 7pm in the summer, and 9am to 4pm in the winter.

Recycling & Household Waste Site Locations



Savings Background

- Growing demand for county council services and general price rises are placing continued financial pressure on the council.
- The council's recently published budget plan includes a requirement to make savings from the recycling and household waste sites.
- Proposals to make £420,000 of savings have been developed.

Proposals – Site Closures

- Three recycling and household waste site closures:
 - Market Harborough
 - Shepshed
 - Somerby

- Sites were selected for potential closure using the following criteria:
 - Finance
 - Site size and condition
 - Legal compliance
 - Current and future use/housing growth
 - Alternative available sites

- Site closures would realise a saving of approximately £270,000

Proposals – Changes to Summer Opening

- Currently the sites are open from 9am to 4pm during the winter months (October to March) and from 9am to 7pm during the summer months (April to September).
- The proposal is to change the summer opening hours to 9am to 5pm on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, retaining 9am to 7pm opening hours on the other two days that sites are open.
- The 7pm closing time is proposed to stay on two weekdays per week during the summer months to cater for those working during the day.
- The reduction of summer opening hours would realise a saving of approximately £150,000.

Proposals – Bottesford Part Time Opening

- Before the Covid-19 pandemic, the Bottesford recycling and household waste site was open 5 days a week Saturday to Wednesday.
- Since the pandemic the site has been open 3 days a week on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.
- The proposal is to make this change permanent.

Proposals – Christmas Eve Closure

- All the recycling and household waste sites are currently closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.
- It is proposed to close ALL sites on Christmas Eve too.
- Data shows we generally experience low visitor numbers on Christmas Eve compared to other days in December.
- Whilst this change will not directly contribute towards the savings target, it will partially offset additional operational costs and enable a better service during the busy period between Christmas and New Year.

Equalities Issues Considered

- The majority of site users are white males in the 45-75 age range.
- Somerby has a higher percentage of residents in the 50-80 age range than Leicestershire as a whole.
- Rural isolation – distance and drive time to next nearest site.
- Consultation and service change information to be offered in different languages and formats.

Next Steps

- The public consultation is from 1 November 2023 until 24 January 2024.
- Final decision by the Cabinet in April 2024.
- Site closures in October 2024 (subject to Cabinet approval).
- Christmas eve closure from December 2024 (subject to Cabinet approval).
- Summer opening hours changes from April 2025 (subject to Cabinet approval).

Take Part in the Consultation

- Submit your views by 24 January 2024.
- Access the consultation questionnaire online:
www.leicestershire.gov.uk/waste-site-changes
- For general enquiries about the consultation, or to request a paper copy or alternative format of the consultation questionnaire email Waste.Projects@leics.gov.uk or telephone 0116 3050001.