

CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL

Report to:- Carlisle City Council

Date of Meeting:- 7 February 2012

Agenda Item No:-

Public

**Title:- DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER SPECIAL URGENCY -
QUARTERLY REPORT**

Report of:- The Leader

Report reference:- GD.11/12

Summary:-

Under Access to Information Procedure Rule 17.3, I am required to submit a quarterly report to Council on decisions taken under Special Urgency during the preceding three months.

There has only been one instance of a non-key decision being taken under those provisions which related to Cumbria County Council's Proposed Changes to the Household Waste Recycling Centres (EX.012/12). The decision was taken by the Executive on 16 January 2012 and a copy of the Decision Notice is attached.

Recommendation:-

That the position be noted.

Contact Officer: Morag Durham

Ext: 7036

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: Portfolio Holder Decision PF.003/10

Impact assessments

Does the change have an impact on the following?

Equality Impact Screening	Impact Yes/No?	Is the impact positive or negative?
Does the policy/service impact on the following?		
Age	No	N/A
Disability	No	N/A
Race	No	N/A
Gender/ Transgender	No	N/A
Sexual Orientation	No	N/A
Religion or belief	No	N/A
Human Rights	No	N/A
Health inequalities	No	N/A
Rurality	No	N/A

If you consider there is either no impact or no negative impact, please give reasons:

Any impact would be dealt with within the body of the report referred to

If an equality Impact is necessary, please contact the P&P team.

Decision Ref No:

EX.012/12

Subject Matter:

CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL'S PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES

The Leader informed the meeting that this item of business was brought before the Executive as an urgent item in order to comply with the consultation period which ran from 9 January to 19 February 2012.

The Director of Local Environment submitted report LE.04/12 concerning Cumbria County Council's proposed changes to the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs).

She informed Members that the County Council was asking the public for its views on proposals to reform the way it provided HWRCs in the county. The proposed changes would see the county's six least used and least efficient HWRCs close and be replaced by a mobile service.

The County Council was making the following proposals:

To close six HWRC's. The six sites identified by the review as most suitable for closure (Ambleside, Brampton, Grange, Kirkby Stephen, Millom and Wigton) accounted for 15% of the total tonnage of waste handled at all of Cumbria's HWRCs and had the smallest number of visitors.

To change the opening hours of the remaining HWRCs so they are open at the times when people used them most and reflected seasonal usage which would reduce the number of days remaining sites were open from seven a week to five, the HWRCs would stay open at weekends when they were used most.

To introduce a charge for waste classed as 'non-household waste', which local authorities are not legally obliged to accept at HWRCs and included soil, rubble, asbestos, plasterboard and car tyres.

In conclusion, the Director of Local Environment recommended that the Executive respond to the consultation and highlight the impact of the closure of the Brampton site, such as the potential increase in fly-tipping as a result of the changes and the impact on the environment and the cost of dealing with the fly-tipping.

It was further recommended that the consultation response include a request that the County consider other options to closure to reduce the cost of the site at Brampton, such as reducing opening times, staffing, or to seek other ways to keep the HWDC open such as partnerships or increasing community involvement and to promote use of the site to increase its productivity during the reduced opening hours. Also, to request whether the County Council would provide any financial support to the City Council should there be an increase in fly-tipping.

The Leader commented upon the very contentious and illogical nature of the County Council's proposals, stating that he had been inundated with calls from members of the public since their publication. Closure of the HWRCs would result in costs to all Cumbrian District Councils and was therefore a false economy.

The Leader was not suggesting that the County Council should not review how the

HWRCs operated within the County, but would ask that they give consideration to opening hours, usage, etc rather than closure.

The Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder stated that he too had been contacted by a number of people with regard to this extremely contentious proposal. He represented the City Council on the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership, a fundamental aim of which was to encourage increased recycling and promote the green agenda. He noted that the County Council was already committed to investing in a new state-of-the-art HWRC in Lillyhall as part of West Cumbria HWRC improvement programme, which would involve the closures of the Frizington and Workington HWRCs when the new site became operational in 2013.

He considered the proposals to be ill thought out and not deliverable. During the current difficult financial conditions it may well be prudent to review the days upon which HWRCs were open, but replacement of the centres by a mobile service was not acceptable.

The Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder added that the proposed closure of the Brampton HWRC would mean that people had to travel much further to dispose of their waste, thereby using more fuel to the detriment of the environment.

In moving the recommendations, the Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder urged anyone who was concerned by the proposals to respond quickly to the consultation paper.

The Economic Development Portfolio Holder outlined her support for the sentiments expressed by her colleagues, requesting that the Executive write directly to the County Council outlining their strong opposition to the proposed closure of the Brampton HWRC.

The Leader moved that the Executive delegate authority to the Director of Local Environment, in consultation with the Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder, to respond to the public consultation which course of action was agreed.

Decision:

That the Executive granted delegated authority to the Director of Local Environment, in consultation with the Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder, to respond to Cumbria County Council's proposed changes to the Household Waste Recycling Centres as detailed above.

Key or Non-Key Decision:

Non-Key

Key Decision Ref:

Not applicable

Portfolio:

Environment and Housing

Who made decision:

Executive

Date:

16-Jan-12

Reports and Background Papers considered:

A Report of the Director of Local Environment (LE.04/12) - Cumbria County Council's Proposed Changes to the Household Waste Recycling Centres

Reasons for Decision:

It is considered that the proposals are contrary to a sustainable environment and could see a reduction in recycling and an increase in fly-tipping. The closure of the HWDC sites

could result in potential additional costs to Carlisle City Council from increased fly-tipping

Summary of Options rejected: None

Interests declared None

Date published 18-Jan-12

Urgent decision not subject to call in No

Consent of Chairman/ Deputy Chairman of Council to Urgency: Not applicable

Deadline for call-in: 5.00 pm 25 January 2012

Implementation date if not called-in: 26 January 2012

Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel: Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Call-in notified to and date notified:

Approved for implementation on:
