

## Warwickshire Waste Partnership

25 September 2019

### Reducing residual waste at HWRCs

#### Recommendation(s)

1. The Warwickshire Waste Partnership is asked to review the information provided and support the introduction of a trial in 2020.

#### 1.0 Summary of performance data

- 1.1 A graph of visitor numbers across each site over the past 2 years is shown in appendix 1 attached. Visitor numbers at all sites but Lower House Farm has grown over this period. There are now on average 2% more daily visitors than there were in 2017.
- 1.2 A table of recycling, reuse and composting rates for each site over the past 3 years is shown in the table on appendix 2. Although there are seasonal and other fluctuations, the overall average household waste recycling rate across all sites has stayed roughly the same across the 3 years at 60%.
- 1.3 A summary of data from the September 2018 HWRC composition analysis is shown in the table in appendix 3. There has been a rise in the proportion of waste in the residual waste skips that is in bags or boxes – from 8% in 2016 to 11% in 2017 and up to 18% last year. The average percentage of waste that could have been recycled from the residual waste skips across all sites and all types of waste last year was found to be 41%. Considering just the loose waste deposited into the residual waste skips, the amount of waste that could have been recycled was 30%. However, considering just the waste deposited in bags or boxes into the residual waste skips, the amount of waste that could have been recycled at the kerbside was 50%. A further 13% of this bagged waste could have been recycled at the sites. So, in total 63% of the bagged waste could have been recycled.

#### 2.0 Discussion at March Warwickshire Waste Partnership

- 2.1 On 20<sup>th</sup> March, Warwickshire Waste Partnership discussed the HWRC composition analysis and various suggestions were put forward to reduce the amount of recyclable waste discarded in the residual waste skips. One proposal was to restrict the ability of the public to present waste for disposal in sealed bags or boxes. This would allow for site recycling advisors to inspect waste in containers destined for the residual waste to verify that none of the content was recyclable.

- 2.2 The county was tasked with considering a trial to test the restriction of closed bags and boxes.

### **3.0 Best Practice**

- 3.1 The Vale of Glamorgan introduced a bag/box sorting initiative at its 2 recycling centres in September 2018, in conjunction with their contractor FCC. Since no longer accepting unsorted bags or boxes, the scheme has improved recycling rates and reduced residual waste. Residual waste has reduced by 60% and the recycling rate for the sites increased by 15 percentage points. Residents are encouraged to recycle as much as possible at the kerbside, increasing kerbside recycling rates and leading to long term behaviour change. Torfaen County Borough Council rolled out a similar scheme in March 2019.
- 3.2 From an FCC analysis of the waste in the Vale of Glamorgan HWRC's residual waste skips presented in bags or boxes, over 60% could have been recycled. This is in line with the most recent WCC HWRC analysis, where 63% of was presented in bags or boxes in the residual waste skip could have been recycled. This suggests that a sorting initiative in Warwickshire could generate a worthwhile increase in recycling.

### **4.0 Proposed Trial**

- 4.1 Residents visiting all Warwickshire HWRCs would be asked to sort recyclable from non-recyclable materials at home, so that when visiting the sites, items could be quickly and correctly placed in the right skip. At one HWRC, any resident bringing in closed bagged or boxed waste would be asked by recycling advisors to open the container to show that they do not contain recyclable materials. If they do, the resident would be asked to sort the materials on site or return home to do so. A dedicated sorting area would be set up to provide space to do this. Residents would be given restricted access to the residual waste skip, enabling them to dispose of any non-recyclable waste in this container following the onsite checks.

### **5.0 Media Interest**

- 5.1 Following the publication of the papers from the March Partnership meeting, where the results of the HWRC composition analysis were discussed, WCC was contacted to comment on a news piece for the Coventry Telegraph.
- 5.2 As with any behaviour change project, it will be important to get the communication messages right and demonstrate that the trial is to find out how best to help residents recycle more of their waste. This will benefit the environment as well as reducing waste disposal costs.

## 6.0 Financial Implications

- 6.1 A budget will be developed as the project plans develop.
- 6.2 The trial will inform what level of investment will be required to roll any successful methods out to more HWRCs and will also give an indication of the savings in waste disposal costs that can be expected across all sites.

### Background papers

1. [Vale of Glamorgan press release](#)
2. March 2019 Partnership papers including HWRC composition analysis report
3. [Coventry Live press article](#)

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Report Author	Ruth Dixon	<a href="mailto:Ruthdixon@warwickshire.gov.uk">Ruthdixon@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>
Assistant Director, Communities	Dave Ayton Hill	<a href="mailto:davidayton-hill@warwickshire.gov.uk">davidayton-hill@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>
Strategic Director for Communities	Mark Ryder	<a href="mailto:markryder@warwickshire.gov.uk">markryder@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>
Portfolio Holder for Environment and Heritage and Culture	Heather Timms	<a href="mailto:cllrtimms@warwickshire.gov.uk">cllrtimms@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>

The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s):

Other members:

## Appendix 1

HWRC visitor numbers:

	Burton Farm HWRC	Cherry Orchard HWRC	Hunters Lane HWRC & Transfer	Lower House Farm HWRC	Princes Drive HWRC & Transfer	Shipston HWRC	Stockton HWRC	Wellesbourne HWRC	Total
2017-18	178,526	183,635	211,159	205,452	356,352	72,549	25,867	38,652	1,447,488
2018-19	191,845	183,805	211,209	202,309	361,901	77,470	30,875	38,652	1,473,362

## Appendix 2

HWRC recycling, reuse and composting rates:

	Burton Farm HWRC	Cherry Orchard HWRC	Hunters Lane HWRC & Transfer	Judkins HWRC	Lower House Farm HWRC	Princes Drive HWRC & Transfer	Shipston HWRC	Stockton HWRC	Wellesbourne HWRC	Total
2016-17	57.98	57.99	67.89	62.23	61.23	56.99	67.12	63.23	56.45	62.44
2017-18	57.23	58.12	66.78	60.23	60.23	54.93	67.34	62.23	57.23	61.46
2018-19	56.15	55.23	64.88	61.21	58.32	53.62	65.43	61.29	56.73	59.75

## Appendix 3

HWRC compositional data for residual waste from September 2018 survey:

Presentation of bags or boxes within the residual waste skip	2016	2017	2018
	8%	11%	18%

Materials loose in skip	2016	2017	2018
Kerbside recyclable	14%	11%	3%
Site recyclable	38%	50%	27%
<b>Total recyclable</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>30%</b>

Materials in bags / boxes	2016	2017	2018
Kerbside recyclable	50%	58%	50%
Site recyclable	11%	12%	13%
<b>Total recyclable</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>63%</b>

Combined materials	2016	2017	2018
Kerbside recyclable	18%	17%	12%
Site recyclable	40%	52%	29%
<b>Total recyclable</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>41%</b>