

# Transport and Environment Committee

2.30pm, Tuesday, 5 March 2019

## Household Waste Recycling Centre Opening Hours

Item number	7.10
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All
Council Commitments	<a href="#">49</a>

### Executive Summary

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The report outlines proposed changes to the opening hours of the three household waste recycling centres (Seafield, Sighthill and Craigmillar), following a decision of Full Council in February 2018 to bring their opening hours into line with our neighbouring Councils.

A full consultation has been undertaken with the affected staff group and has now concluded. In addition, research has been undertaken on the opening hours and controls put in place by neighbouring authorities.

The proposed opening hours are:

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday: 0900-1700; and
- Thursday 0900-1830.

## Household Waste Recycling Centre Opening Hours

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 Committee is asked to agree the proposed new opening hours for The City of Edinburgh Council's three Household Waste Recycling Centres:
  - 1.1.1 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday: 0900-1700; and
  - 1.1.2 Thursday 0900-1830.

### 2. Background

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- 2.1 In setting the budget for 2018/19 Full Council agreed to review the opening hours of the Household Waste Recycling Centres so that they would be more closely aligned to those of neighbouring authorities.
- 2.2 This decision has gained in importance in anticipation of planned changes to the service in neighbouring authorities, in particular the introduction of significantly reduced hours by West Lothian Council as outlined in Appendix 1.
- 2.3 This required a period of staff consultation, which has now been concluded.

### 3. Main report

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- 3.1 The current opening hours for Edinburgh and the neighbouring authorities are outlined in Appendix 1. These are correct as of 7 January 2019. Where there are likely to be further changes to those services, this is indicated where possible.
- 3.2 This shows that the Edinburgh sites are generally open longer than those of the neighbouring authorities. This means residents in neighbouring areas are able to use these sites purely because they are available. This results in additional waste being managed by this Council, and an associated financial burden.
- 3.3 This is likely to increase as an issue following the announcement of significantly reduced hours at sites in West Lothian (Appendix 1).
- 3.4 By bringing opening times more closely into line with neighbouring councils it is expected that the use of the sites by residents from outwith Edinburgh would be reduced.
- 3.5 Changes to the shift patterns and working hours required a consultation with the staff affected, which has now concluded, and agreement reached.

- 3.6 It is proposed to implement the new opening hours on 1 April 2019, subject to approval of this report.
- 3.7 The proposed hours are:
- 3.7.1 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday 0900 – 1700; and
- 3.7.2 Thursday 0900 – 1830.
- 3.8 This means that longer opening will be retained on a Thursday, and all sites will remain open seven days per week.
- 3.9 A communications campaign will be implemented to ensure that the new opening hours are advertised.
- 3.10 Further changes to site operations are being considered which would complement this change, for example, the use of automatic number plate recognition will be implemented at Seafield and Sighthill following the re-development of these sites.
- 3.11 In addition, the Council will also seek to introduce a permit scheme to discourage illegal disposal of commercial waste at Household Waste Recycling Centres. Closer working with Environmental Wardens, with staff being present on site, is also being considered. These will be subject to further reports to Committee in due course as appropriate.

#### **4. Measures of success**

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- 4.1 Reducing the opening hours to reflect those of neighbouring authorities is expected to reduce inflows of waste from residents in those areas, and so mean an overall reduction in the tonnage of waste managed by this Council.

#### **5. Financial impact**

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- 5.1 It is expected that a saving of £200,000 will result from this measure.

#### **6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact**

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- 6.1 This change was approved by Council in February 2018. Since then, consultation with affected employees as been completed and research on the practices of other local authorities.

#### **7. Equalities impact**

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- 7.1 No impacts have been identified.

## 8. Sustainability impact

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- 8.1 It is conceivable that residents may be encouraged to use alternatives to the sites, such as the National Reuse Line which would be beneficial.
- 8.2 A reduction in use of the sites by residents outwith Edinburgh may lead to an increase in the recycling rate overall, although this is speculative and will be kept under review.
- 8.3 Concerns may be raised that a reduction in the opening hours may lead to an increase in fly-tipping. Incidents of fly-tipping will be monitored and reviewed accordingly.

## 9. Consultation and engagement

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- 9.1 The proposals require changes to the terms and conditions of staff, which have been subject to consultation with the staff affected as well as the trades unions.
- 9.2 The consultation has concluded, and these parties have agreed to the changes.

## 10. Background reading/external references

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- 10.1 None.

### **Paul Lawrence**

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## 11. Appendices

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- Appendix 1            Current Opening Hours of Household Waste Recycling Centres in Lothian and Fife

## Current Opening Hours of Household Waste Recycling Centres in Lothian and Fife

The following information was correct at 7 January 2019. West Lothian Council are intending to introduce reduced hours during 2019.

Council	Opening Hours (Summer)	Opening Hours (Winter)
The City of Edinburgh (current)	Mon-Fri 0800-1920 (cars)/ 1900 (vans) Sat/Sun 0800-1750 (cars)/ 1730 (vans)	Mon-Fri 0800-1920 (cars)/ 1900 (vans) Sat/Sun 0800-1750 (cars)/ 1730 (vans)
The City of Edinburgh (proposed)	Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun 0900-1700 Thu 0900- 1830	Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun 0900-1700 Thu 0900- 1830
East Lothian	0830-1815	0830-1615
Midlothian	0930-1615 Stobhill* 1000-1615 Penicuik *final access for vans and trailers 30 minutes prior to closing	0930-1615 Stobhill* 1000-1615 Penicuik *final access for vans and trailers 30 minutes prior to closing
West Lothian Current	1000-1700 (last entry 1645)	1000-1700 (last entry 1645)

<p>West Lothian Proposed</p>	<p>1000-1600 Sat/Sun 0800-1400 Weekdays as follows: 5 sites. All sites open Saturday and Sunday AND in addition: 2 sites open Mon/Wed/Fri 3 sites open Tues/Thurs</p>	<p>1000-1600 Sat/Sun 0800-1400 Weekdays as follows: 5 sites. All sites open Saturday and Sunday AND in addition: 2 sites open Mon/Wed/Fri 3 sites open Tues/Thurs</p>
<p>Fife</p>	<p>11 sites in total Hours:0900-1745 (last entry) 2 sites are open 7 days (no lunch break) 3 sites are open 6 days with 45 minute lunch break 6 sites are open 5 days with 45 minute lunch break</p>	<p>11 sites in total Hours:0900-1700 (last entry) 2 sites are open 7 days (no lunch break) 3 sites are open 6 days with 45 minute lunch break 6 sites are open 5 days with 45 minute lunch break</p>