

ANGUS COUNCIL

ANGUS COUNCIL – 19 OCTOBER 2017

NEW CONTROL MEASURES AT RECYCLING CENTRES

REPORT BY HEAD OF HOUSING, REGULATORY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

ABSTRACT

This report brings forward a proposal for new control measures at recycling centres to address identified health and safety issues. A proposal to bring back a paper on use of trailers at recycling centres was included in a motion agreed at the meeting of Angus Council on 7 September 2017.

1. RECOMMENDATION

1.1 It is recommended that the Council:

- (i) Agrees to the amended opening hours at recycling hours, as detailed in 5.1, and the adjustment in opening hours at Brechin, Kirriemuir and Monifieth recycling centres.
- (ii) Agrees to the banning of trailers at Kirriemuir Recycling Centre and restrictions on the use of trailers at other recycling centres as detailed in this report.
- (iii) Notes the introduction of body worn cameras for employees based at recycling centres.
- (iv) Remits the Head of Housing, Regulatory and Protective Services to bring back a report to Communities Committee regarding the suitability of a household waste disposal permit scheme at recycling centres.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/CORPORATE PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcome(s) contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- Our communities are developed in a sustainable manner
- Communities that are prosperous and fair
- Communities that are safe and strong

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 At the meeting of Angus Council on 29 June 2017 it was agreed to defer the closures and changes to Recycling Centres, and to establish a Member Officer Group (MOG) to review the proposals as contained in Report 209/16 and as agreed and amended at the Communities Committee on 24 May 2016.

3.2 Report 275/17 to the meeting of Angus Council on 7 September advised members of the outcomes of the MOG. At the meeting a motion regarding changes to recycling centres was raised by Councillor Myles and agreed by Council. The motion included reference to the health and safety issues identified by the MOG and proposed implementation of the control measures identified in Report 275/17. These were as follows.

- The emptying of wheeled bins into recycling skips to be stopped immediately and staff instructed to police the enforcement of this;
- Customers will no longer be able to walk into recycling centres owing to the risks of mixing with traffic
- A paper on the use of trailers at recycling centres to be brought forward

4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The changes to opening hours at recycling centres will come into effect on 30 October 2017 for Arbroath, Brechin, Carnoustie and Montrose recycling centres. Changes to opening hours at Forfar, Kirriemuir and Monifieth are scheduled to commence from 1 February 2018.
- 4.2 The ban on emptying of wheeled bin into skips and pedestrian access into the Centres will come into effect from Monday 30 October. This will be communicated to the public via on-site signage, the council web site and social media.
- 4.3 It is envisaged that the reduced hours at recycling centres will lead to increased congestion and increased queuing on approach roads outside recycling centres due to vehicles waiting to access the Centres. There is a risk that this will cause severe traffic management issues and inconvenience to the public and therefore additional control measures to mitigate the risk are required.
- 4.4 The use of trailers at recycling centres has a significant impact on congestion and how quickly skips on sites fill and require emptying. It is therefore considered essential that a policy to restrict the use of trailers is introduced to mitigate congestion issues.
- 4.5 During July 2017 Dundee City Council introduced a household waste permit scheme that requires householders that wish to use a van or trailer (only single axle trailers permitted) to register with the council and receive a permit. The permits are free and allow the householder 12 visits per year with their van/trailer. The purpose of the scheme was to deter the unauthorised tipping of waste from commercial activities at recycling centres. Since its introduction there has been a significant increase in the volume of vans and trailers visiting Angus recycling centres further adding to congestion at the sites. Consideration for further controls are therefore required

5. PROPOSALS

Changes to recycling centres opening hours

- 5.1 The table below details the new opening hours at each recycling Centre. These will be implemented from Monday 30 October with the exception of Forfar and Kirriemuir, which will be implemented from Thursday 1 February (hours will remain as current until then).

Day	Arbroath	Brechin	Carnoustie	Forfar	Kirriemuir	Monifieth	Montrose
Monday	9.15am to 4pm	Closed	12pm to 4pm	12pm to 4pm	12pm to 4pm	12pm to 4pm	12pm to 4pm
Tuesday	9.15am to 4pm	12pm to 4pm	Closed	12pm to 4pm	12pm to 4pm	12pm to 4pm	12pm to 4pm
Wed	9.15am to 4pm	12pm to 4pm	12pm to 4pm	12pm to 4pm	12pm to 4pm	Closed	12pm to 4pm
Thursday	9.15am to 4pm	12pm to 4pm	Closed	12pm to 4pm	12pm to 4pm	12pm to 4pm	12pm to 4pm
Friday	9.15am to 4pm	Closed	12pm to 4pm	12pm to 4pm	Closed	Closed	12pm to 4pm
Saturday	9.15am to 4pm	9.15am to 4pm	9.15am to 4pm	9.15am to 4pm	9.15am to 4pm	9.15am to 4pm	9.15am to 4pm
Sunday	9.15am to 4pm	9.15am to 4pm	9.15am to 4pm	9.15am to 4pm	9.15am to 4pm	9.15am to 4pm	9.15am to 4pm

- 5.2 The hours shown above are as agreed at the meeting of Angus Council on 7 September with the following adjustments:

- Kirriemuir opening 6 days per week rather than 7 days, and Brechin opening 5 days rather than 4 days. This will more effectively address congestion concerns and moves Brechin in line with Carnoustie and Monifieth in terms of number of opening days.
- Monifieth will be open on Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays rather than mirroring opening days for Carnoustie. This will allow customers to visit Carnoustie when Monifieth is closed and vice-versa.

- 5.3 The motion that was agreed at the meeting of Angus Council on 7 September 2017 included reference to adjusting opening times to optimise usage. It is therefore considered appropriate to proceed with the above and there are no financial implications from these adjustments.

Use of trailers at recycling centres

- 5.4 Report 275/17 noted that there were particular concerns regarding traffic management at Kirriemuir Recycling Centre relating to the restricted single lane access, queuing on main road and restricted space within the Centre. The reduction in opening hours at the Centre is likely to lead to further congestion and therefore it is considered necessary to introduce a total ban on any trailers using the site. This will help to alleviate traffic related issues on site.
- 5.5 As noted in 4.4, trailers already cause congestion issues and lead to skips filling up quickly and requiring emptying. Given the significant reduction in opening hours/days at recycling centres it is considered necessary to introduce controls on the use of trailers to aid traffic management of the sites and reduce frequency of site closures for emptying for skips. It was identified that larger trailers coming onto sites cause the biggest issues and therefore the best approach would be to put a limit on the size of trailer that is permitted.
- 5.6 It is proposed that a 6 feet limit on the length of the body of a trailer permitted into recycling centres is introduced at Brechin, Carnoustie, Forfar, Kirriemuir and Monifieth recycling centres. Anything bigger than this is more likely to be associated with commercial activities rather than household and can still be tipped at Arbroath or Montrose recycling centres. Arbroath and Montrose recycling centres are larger Centres that have recently been redeveloped so that skips can be changed-over without the Centre having to be closed. These sites are therefore more capable of accepting larger trailers, however to prevent disruption at these Centres it is proposed that a visitor with a trailer over 6 feet (length of body) will only be permitted to tip once per day at the site.
- 5.7 It is proposed that these rules on the use of trailers are communicated immediately and apply from Monday 30 October 2017 when opening days/hours will be changing at some Centres.

Introduction of body worn cameras

- 5.8 The enforcement of site rules, such as requirement of pre-paid voucher by commercial customers, at recycling centres can lead to strong opposition from customers and occasionally to employees being subject to acts of aggression towards them. This might be exacerbated by the additional rules and new opening hours to be implemented. To address this and introduce an added control measure to mitigate the risk of violence and aggression towards staff, body cameras will be worn by employees based at recycling centres. These will be visible to customers and can be switched on by staff to record when there is a perceived risk of violence and aggression towards them.

Household waste tip permit scheme

- 5.9 The introduction of a household waste permit scheme by Dundee City Council (as detailed in 4.5) has led to a significant increase in commercial vans visiting Angus recycling centres. Commercial operators are already required to purchase a voucher to dispose of waste at Centres however it is difficult to effectively police this as many customers claim to be using commercial vans for disposal of their own household waste. A self-declaration scheme is in place that requires those with commercial vans to sign a form confirming they are disposing of their own household waste, however it is recognised that on occasion commercial operators can fraudulently claim to be disposing of their own household waste.
- 5.10 It is therefore proposed that further consideration is given into the introduction of a household waste permit scheme (as described in 4.5) as a means to reduce the incidences of commercial waste being tipped without payment at recycling centres and thereby increasing the amount of income generated. Contact would be made with councils that have introduced such schemes and a report on the suitability of a similar scheme in Angus submitted to the Communities Committee in due course.

- 6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS** There are no significant financial implications relating to the change of rule regarding access to recycling centres by vehicles towing trailers. There will be the requirement for signage to be amended on site to communicate the change to site rules however associated costs are considered minor and will be contained within the existing revenue budget for Housing, Regulatory and Protective Services

6.2 There will be a cost associated with the introduction of body worn cameras for staff at recycling centres. These are not considered significant and will be contained within the existing revenue budget for Housing, Regulatory and Protective Services.

NOTE: The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

- Report 209/16 to Communities Committee
- Report 275/17 to the Angus Council

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