

## Surrey County Council (SCC)

### Public consultation on proposed changes to Surrey's Community Recycling Centre (CRCs) services.

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#### 1. Why is SCC consulting on changing CRC services?

Continued cuts to funding, rising costs and increasing demand for key services means that the need for SCC to find savings has reached unprecedented levels. We are determined to meet our responsibilities and will continue to support our residents as effectively as we can, but changes to services are still needed.

One of those services is waste, which includes running the county's 15 CRCs where 113,000 tonnes of waste and recycling are taken every year by Surrey residents.

Savings have already been made at CRCs by reducing opening days and hours, opening reuse shops at larger sites and introducing charges for larger amounts of non-household waste. However, we need to make further savings while maintaining this service which is highly valued by residents.

#### 2. If the proposals are agreed, when would the changes be introduced?

The views submitted in the public consultation will be taken into account when the final plans are agreed by SCC in autumn 2017. We'll give advance notice to residents if there are any changes in service.

#### 3. How much does the council need to save from the operation of CRCs?

The council needs to reduce the cost of operating the CRCs by £2m a year. The introduction of these proposals will go towards achieving this target.

**4. Why is construction and demolition waste classified as non-household waste?**

The law states that waste from construction and demolition work is classified as industrial or non-household waste. The council does not have to accept this type of waste and may charge for its disposal.

**5. Why are you proposing to stop the free daily allowance of non-household waste in the charging waste scheme?**

An average of 6,000 free bags per month have come in since the scheme started on 1 September 2016. As a result the council is still paying a significant amount to dispose of this material. The number of free bags coupled with significant pressures on the council's finances means SCC is proposing to remove the free daily allowance.

**6. Would all CRC sites be closed on the same weekday?**

The proposal is to close sites on the weekdays when there are fewer visitors. The council would try to avoid closing nearby sites on the same day to ensure an alternative site remains open.

**7. What's the rationale for ensuring Surrey's CRCs are only used by Surrey residents?**

Currently, residents using Caterham, Epsom, Shepperton and Warlingham CRCs have to prove they are a Surrey resident before accessing the site. This is to prevent residents from neighbouring counties, which have similar restrictions, from using Surrey's CRCs. It is now proposed to extend this to Camberley and Farnham CRCs, as research indicates that these sites are being used by residents from neighbouring counties.

**8. Why don't you just charge non-Surrey residents for using Surrey CRCs?**

This is something that we could consider in time, but we will need to look carefully at the administration costs.

**9. Why are you considering closing these CRCs?**

The sites that we are proposing to close are smaller, less well used, and have proportionally higher running costs than others.

**10. Won't the proposed changes increase fly-tipping?**

In the past year since changes have been made at the CRCs the amount of fly-tipped waste taken to Surrey's waste transfer stations by district & borough councils has gone down by more than 1,000 tonnes. SCC has a vested interest to ensure fly-tipping does not increase as it has to pay the disposal costs of any fly-tipped material collected by district and borough councils. The council wants to avoid the illegal dumping of waste, and recognises the environmental and social harm caused by fly-tipping.

Separately, SCC, working with the local authorities within the Surrey Waste Partnership, together with other agencies such as Surrey Police have developed a strategy to address the problem of fly-tipping across the county. The strategy focuses on coordinating and enhancing the prevention, investigation and enforcement activities of these partner organisations, and making use of recently strengthened powers available to local authorities in an effort to reduce fly-tipping in Surrey, and increase the chances of bringing those responsible to justice.

**11. Won't the proposed changes increase congestion and pollution?**

In recent years the number of visits to our CRCs has reduced, and we expect this will continue to fall as a result of the proposed changes. In some cases residents now may drive to alternative sites, however we don't expect there to be an increase in queuing.

**12. What will you do with the land if you close a CRC site?**

Following the public consultation if one of the recommendations to the County Council's Cabinet is to close a CRC site, we'll also make a recommendation in respect of the land.