

Member Briefing

Number: 1177

Title: New household waste recycling centre opening in Chester

Summary: This briefing note advises of the opening of the new household waste recycling centre (HWRC) in Chester on 4 May 2018. The new site is situated adjacent to the existing household waste recycling centre, which will be transformed into a new trade recycling centre in July and include a new reuse shop.

The previous Chester HWRC was one of the smallest, yet busiest in the borough, which not only limited recycling performance but also impacted upon customer's experience. The new HWRC will be one of the largest in the borough, offering better recycling performance and improved traffic flow both inside and outside the site.

Chester's new HWRC is built upon the site of a former Chester City Council waste transfer station, historically used to store waste before going to landfill. Due to the site's unique construction it proved too expensive to redevelop, so had been left derelict since its closure in the early 90s.

The new HWRC has been carefully designed to maximise the attributes of the old transfer site. Teaming up with Probation Services, the site was cleared of vegetation and over the last six months, MPH Construction have renovated and enhanced this old site, ensuring it meets both current design and environmental permit standards. This approach has not only revived a derelict site, it has also allowed the new Chester HWRC to be developed for around a third the cost of a typical new facility. Together with a £120,000 contribution from HW Martin, the project will have cost the authority around £890,000, far less than the likely £3.5 to £4 million cost of developing a new site.

Trade waste recycling centre (opening July 2018): A new trade waste recycling centre will open in July on the site of Chester's old HWRC. This pay as you throw facility allows small and medium sized traders to recycle their waste for a low cost price. Traders will be charged by the weight of the item/s they are leaving, with prices also based on material type.

Reuse shop (opening July 2018): Also opening in July is a reuse shop. Items which people have been left at the site, such as bric-a-brac, small electricals and furniture, will be offered for sale at the shop after they have been safety tested.

Better monitoring: CCTV, automatic number plate recognition (ANPR), mystery shoppers and body camera technology have been introduced to improve the service and site safety.

Communication to residents: Information will be distributed to households in the Chester area via a leaflet, which will be delivered through resident's letterboxes during week

commencing 14 May 2018. Social media and notices on both internal and external Council websites will be shared during the week commencing 30 April 2018.

Site opening times: During the summer months (1 April to 30 September) the site will be open 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm Saturday and Sunday. In winter (1 October to 31 March) the site will be open 8am to 4am, seven days a week.

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