

Single Member Cabinet Decision

Executive
Forward Plan
Reference

E3330

Retention of the Recycling Centre Booking System

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| Decision maker/s | Cllr David Wood, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services |
| The Issue | <p>As part of the re-opening of the recycling Centres during COVID-19 restrictions in 2020, a booking system was introduced at the Midsomer Norton and Bath Recycling Centres. Residents book online to ensure a swift visit at an allocated time. This booking system stopped the long queues which build up to use the site which are a source of frustration to visitors, and cause congestion on the surrounding road network.</p> <p>The booking system received positive feedback from site users.</p> <p>Retaining the booking system provides several benefits; residents have certainty that they will be able to access the site at the time booked and no wasted trips as the site is too busy; it reduces vehicle queues and the associated pollution from idling engines, alongside removing any congestion on the surrounding road network.</p> |
| Decision Date | Not before 25 January 2022 |
| The decision | <p>The Cabinet Member agrees that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The booking system will be retained for residents using Old Welton and Bath Recycling Centres on an ongoing basis.• Keynsham Recycling Centre will remain as a site with no booking system. |
| Rationale for decision | <p>Prior to the booking systems being introduced residents would visit any of the three recycling centres and join a queue to enter. At peak times these queues could be significant and would be a significant source of frustration to site users.</p> <p>Positive feedback was received from members of the public regarding the benefits of the booking system, with requests received for it to remain in place once the COVID restrictions had been lifted. Benefits cited were that visits were quicker, and they did not waste time or fuel sat waiting in queues or visiting the site and finding the queues too long to wait or already closed.</p> <p>A Consultation was carried out on the council website during January and February 2021, from which 87% of respondents wanted to retain the booking system at Bath & Midsomer Norton once social distancing had been removed</p> <p>During the time that the booking system has been in place no</p> |

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| | <p>problems with queuing on the highway have been experienced at Bath or Midsomer Norton, resulting in improved traffic flow on the road network and reducing localised pollution from idling engines.</p> <p>Following the positive feedback and the benefits of reduced traffic congestion and queuing seen as a result of the booking system, it was recommended that it remained in place at Bath and Midsomer Norton. To enable residents the flexibility of using a site without booking it was recommended that it is currently not introduced at Keynsham Recycling centre.</p> |
| Financial and budget implications | There is no additional resource implication to retaining the booking system, as it is primarily a self-service form completed on-line. The on-site monitoring of booked vehicles can be carried out within existing resources |
| Issues considered | Customer Focus; Sustainability; Equality (age, race, disability, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation); Corporate; Health & Safety; Impact on Staff; Other Legal Considerations |
| Consultation undertaken | Cabinet colleagues; Staff; Other B&NES Services; Service Users; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer |
| How consultation was carried out | A public consultation was carried out on the Councils Have you Say website pages in January and February 2021. Consultation with staff and services within B&NES was carried out through email or face to face discussions. |
| Other options considered | <p>Introducing a booking system at all three Recycling Centres was discounted to retain some flexibility so that if a resident cannot wait until a slot is available, they still have the option to visit one recycling centre.</p> <p>Introducing a part time booking system only on certain days/times was discounted due to the potential confusion it could cause to residents as to what days and times you needed to book.</p> |
| Declaration of interest by Cabinet Member(s) for decision: | None |
| Any conflict of interest declared by anyone who is consulted by a Member taking the decision: | None |
| Name and Signature of Decision Maker/s | Cllr David Wood, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services |
| Date of Signature | 8 th February 2022 |

Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision