

## Kent County Council (KCC)

### **Proposed charges at Kent's Household Waste Recycling Centres (for the disposal of soil, rubble, hardcore and plasterboard)**

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### **1. Why is KCC proposing charges for soil, rubble, hardcore and plasterboard?**

KCC is required to provide a place for Kent residents to deposit household waste free of charge. However, the types of waste in the charging scheme are not classified as household waste, so the council can choose not to accept this material, to put limits on the amount we accept and/or charge to accept it.

In recent years the amount of waste from household alterations and building works that is being brought to our HWRCs has increased. Furthermore, with neighbouring authorities adopting charging, this will have an impact on KCCs HWRCs with regards to cross border usage. Therefore, we are proposing to introduce charges, which are in line with other councils, to recover the cost of dealing with these types of non-household waste and continue to offer a disposal option. These charges are intended to help KCC achieve critical savings while still maintaining a comprehensive service for residents.

### **2. Would KCC make money out of residents by charging for these waste types?**

The charges would cover the cost of managing the treatment of these waste materials, and to allow re-investment into the infrastructure at the HWRCs.

### **3. Can chargeable waste be brought in vans, pick-ups and other larger vehicles to the HWRCs?**

Yes, as long as the vehicle has a valid [vehicle voucher](#) if required, and all other site policies are adhered to.

### **4. Can traders bring business waste to the site if there is a charge?**

No, HWRCs are only for waste from residents' properties. Any tradesmen producing waste as part of their business will be redirected to one of the council's [waste transfer stations](#).

### **5. Will there be charges for garden waste?**

You will still be able to dispose of 'green' garden waste free of charge at HWRCs including:

- Grass cuttings
- Hedge trimmings, twigs, small branches
- Plants, flowers, leaves and weeds (please refer to our [garden waste](#) page for advice on intrusive weeds)

If you take these types of waste to any of our sites in a restricted vehicle (van, pickup or large vehicle) you will require a valid [vehicle voucher](#).

If the charges are implemented, please note soil and stones would not be accepted free of charge and a charge will be incurred. Turf can be accepted free of charge and should be placed in the green garden waste area.

## **6. Won't this increase fly-tipping?**

KCC understands that making changes to its Waste Management services raises concerns about the potential for increased incidents of fly-tipping. However, there is no clear evidence which shows that there is a link between charging at Household Waste Recycling Centres and increases in fly-tipping.

Where charges are already made for these non-household waste materials in other Authorities such as Hampshire and Surrey, they have either seen no increase in fly-tipping as a result, or only a slight increase in line with national trends.

Fly-tipping is a criminal offence and should not be considered a viable alternative to paying to dispose of waste legally. The majority of residents are law abiding citizens that would never consider fly-tipping.

KCC will continue to monitor this moving forward.

## **7. Won't this scheme increase queuing at the sites?**

We do not expect this scheme to impact queuing, but KCC will continue to monitor this moving forward.

## **8. Does everyone have to pay for chargeable waste?**

Yes. If these changes are made there will be no dispensations or subsidised rates under the charging scheme.

## **9. What can I dispose of for free?**

The proposed charges will not apply to general household waste or 'green' garden waste. Other categories of DIY waste, such as kitchen units, non-ceramic sinks and baths and doors may still be brought to the HWRCs and deposited free of charge. Visit the [KCC waste website](#) for further details.

## **10. Will there be any restrictions on how much chargeable waste I can bring to the site?**

Yes, there is already a limit of 90kgs per day for soil, rubble, hardcore and other items placed in this container for recycling such as ceramics and concrete. The proposal will amend this limit to 5 bags/items per day (up to the size of a standard black sack), which will also include plasterboard. Provided staff are satisfied that the waste has come from your own home and it is not business waste, you will be able deposit your waste.

## **11. Why is there a limit on the amount of soil, rubble and hardcore I can bring?**

The policy to limit these materials was introduced in 2012 to prevent trade waste abuse.

## **12. What are my disposal options for large quantities of chargeable waste?**

For larger quantities of soil, rubble, hardcore and associated materials from home renovation projects, please consider hiring a skip, skip bag or using a commercial



waste contractor to dispose of your waste. The HWRCs were not designed to accept large quantities of this type of waste.

### **13. How should I bring my waste?**

If the charges are implemented, waste included in the charging scheme should be brought to the site in appropriate sized bags (no bigger than a standard black sack). Items that don't fit into bags will be priced per item, such as a sheet of plasterboard, paving slab, concrete fence post or a sink. See proposed Chargeable Materials/Items. Waste such as soil and stones must be bagged and will not be accepted loose.

If you take these types of waste to any of our sites in a restricted vehicle (van, pickup or large vehicle) you will require a valid [vehicle voucher](#).

### **14. Will site staff weigh my material on site?**

No, the proposed charging scheme is based on bag, sheet or item quantity.

### **15. What if I disagree with the site staff's assessment of the charges to be applied?**

The site staff will have received training and guidance on how to assess your chargeable waste in bag(s), by sheet or by item. The site managers decision is final. How the proposed charge is being administered will be monitored to ensure that it complies with the policy.

### **16. How do I pay?**

All payments must be made via debit or credit card. (JCB, American Express and Diners cards are not accepted). **No cash or cheques** will be accepted on site.

### **17. What happens if I can't pay?**

You will not be allowed to dispose of any proposed or existing chargeable materials unless you can pay for disposal. You can dispose of any household waste free of charge. Legal proceedings may be taken against any persons disposing of chargeable waste without paying.

### **18. What are you going to do if waste is left outside the site?**

Leaving waste outside the site is fly-tipping. This is a criminal offence and can carry an unlimited fine or a five year prison sentence. Vehicles suspected of being used for fly-tipping can be seized and destroyed on conviction. All incidences of fly-tipping outside the HWRCs will be investigated and may result in prosecution.

### **19. What if I disagree with the proposed chargeable waste policy?**

Please complete the 'HWRC – Proposal to charge for soil, rubble, hardcore and plasterboard' [consultation questionnaire](#).

### **20. What if I deliver my chargeable waste and then decide to take some back home?**

Waste already deposited in the waste containers/areas cannot be retrieved due to health and safety reasons. You must decide if you want to take waste home without

paying before it is deposited into the containers/areas. If charges are implemented no refunds will be issued for waste that you decide to take back home.

**21. Is VAT included?**

Yes, VAT is included in the pricing.

You can request a VAT receipt by asking a member of the site staff and they will organise this for you.

**22. What will KCC do with the income and money saved if the charges are implemented?**

The savings will be used to operate the HWRCs and re-invest into the HWRC service.

**23. Can I pay a reduced rate if my bag isn't full?**

No. The prices are set per bag (or per part bag), item or sheet.

**24. Are other non-household wastes already charged for?**

Yes, KCC currently charges £2.50 per tyre for the disposal of car and motorbike tyres. Commercial tyres are not accepted.