

Dear Cllr 

## Changes to Opening Arrangements at Morpeth and Prudhoe Household Waste Recovery Centres.

I am writing to inform you that from 7:30 pm on Monday 15th May 2023, Morpeth and Prudhoe Household Waste Recovery Centre's (HWRC's) opening arrangements will change from the current 7 days per week to 4 days per week, with the new days of opening being Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

This change will help us improve the value for money of this service by reviewing the opening times of those sites that receive lower tonnages of waste so that they better reflect usage patterns in order to deliver a saving of £60,000, which was agreed in February 2023 when the County Council approved its revenue budget for 2023/ 24.

Morpeth and Prudhoe HWRCs are currently open 7 days per week, 363 days each year with summer opening, 1st April to 31st October being 8am to 7.30pm and winter (1st November to 31st March) being 8am to 6pm. Under the new arrangements, the opening times will remain the same but the opening days at Morpeth and Prudhoe will be reduced from 7 days per week to 4 days per week, Friday to Monday inclusive. This would ensure that the sites would be open as normal during the Easter and summer Bank Holidays and to cover the busier weekend periods.

It is considered that the new opening arrangements minimise the overall impact of the cost savings on HWRC users, whilst still providing those residents who are affected with sufficient opportunity to deliver waste to a conveniently located HWRC, which are open long hours for the majority of the week and provide a comprehensive range of reuse, recycling, composting and disposal services. These opening times have been successfully operated at 5 other HWRCs in the county since 2016. We will be undertaking communications activity to widely publicise the changes to service users, both through signage at the sites, press releases and other channels. We will also be closely monitoring the local environment around the sites and working with our contractor to ensure that any waste flytipped in the vicinity of the sites is quickly removed and where possible enforcement action taken against the perpetrators. However, our experience has shown that the majority of service users quickly adjust to the new opening times and that the implementation of these opening times at other HWRCs did not result in any noticeable changes to flytipping rates.

If you require any further information regarding this change, please contact Dr Wendy Fail via e-mail or by writing to Dr Wendy Fail, Senior Waste Management Officer, Local Services, Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 2EF.

Yours sincerely

