

Appendix 1

Household Recycling Centre Access Policy Review Consultation Response Report – July 2021

What was the consultation about?	<p>The Recycling Centre Vehicle Access Policy was last amended in 2009. Since then, usage patterns and demands on Dorset Council recycling centres have changed. Dorset Council invited residents to give their views on access to recycling centres to ensure the policy suits the needs of users whilst meeting the Council's aims.</p> <p>Some vehicles need a permit to access Dorset Council's Household Recycling Centres (HRCs), and some are not allowed on site at all. This is mainly to prevent abuse by traders who illegally deposit commercial waste at Dorset Council household recycling centres. These permits are currently free.</p> <p>Vehicles that require a permit are allocated either a sole vehicle permit or a limited entry permit, depending on criteria outlined below:</p> <p>Sole Vehicle Permit - allows unlimited use, any day of the week. A vehicle must be all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the only vehicle registered to a household- not used for commercial purposes- not signwritten <p>Limited Entry Permit – allows 3 visits per annum, weekdays only (excluding bank holidays). The permit is for all residents that have access to a vehicle that requires a permit, but do not fulfil all the criteria for the sole vehicle permit.</p>
What did we need to find out	<p>The consultation was conducted to find out about current use of the HRC sites, the permit scheme and residents views on access to the sites. The consultation also gave an opportunity to identify any potential impact that changes in permit provision may have.</p>
Over what period did the consultation run?	<p>The consultation period ran from 28th May 2021 to 11th July 2021, a period of just over 6 weeks.</p>
What consultation methods were used?	<p>The consultation involved an online and a paper survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online survey. This included free text sections for people to add further comments or to expand on their answers.• Paper surveys available from the DC managed libraries.
How many responses were received overall?	<p>3289 responses were received: 3281 online and 8 paper copies. Most respondents were residents of the Dorset Council area (93%), 6% from the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council area and 0.7% from</p>

	other Local Authorities. Four respondents identified as: a town councillor, a parish councillor, a parish clerk and one soon-to-be resident of the area.
How representative is the response to the wider population?	<p>The response size is good for a council consultation of this type. As this was an open survey it is not possible to define a statistically valid sample size. There was an uneven balance between males and females with 59.7% of responses from males and 36.9% from females. Responses came from a range of ages but 56.6% came from respondents aged 65 or older. This compares to only 29% of the population being in this age band in the wider Dorset population.</p> <p>With 91% of the respondents saying their ethnic group was White British this is fairly typical of the wider population. Responses from disabled people were above average at 7.9% of responses compared to a Dorset figure of 5% based on those claiming either Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payments or Attendance Allowance.</p>
How will the results be used?	The results of this survey will be used to help elected members understand the views of residents before updating the current vehicle access policy.
Who has produced this report?	Consultation and Engagement Team, Dorset Council, July 2021

1. Executive Summary

1.1. Background

Since the last amendment of the Recycling Centre Vehicle Access Policy in 2009, usage patterns and demands on HRCs have changed. Dorset Council invited residents to give their views on access to recycling centres to ensure the policy suits the needs of users whilst meeting the Council's aims.

1.2. Respondents

3289 responses were received: 93% were from the Dorset Council area, 6% from Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council area and 0.7% from other Local Authorities. Nearly 60% of respondents identify as male, 37% female and 56.6% of respondents stated that they are over the age of 65%. 7.9% reported that they are disabled.

1.3. Use of HRCs

The most selected sites were Wimborne, Dorchester, Weymouth & Bridport. 16% also use sites in other counties and council areas. Nearly 90% said they use a car, 13.7% use a van. Of the 450 respondents who have used a van, 67% said it was the vehicle that they use the most. Nearly half of the respondents visit up to 6 times a year, a third up to 12 times a year. Weekdays were most popular with users overall. The most popular materials

to take to an HRC were small electrical appliances (76.6%), garden waste (66.3%), metal (58.3%), wood (55.7%) and cardboard (55.0%).

1.4. Permits

Respondents were asked if the two types of permit available – the Sole Vehicle Permit and the Limited Entry Permit – suited their needs in a variety of scenarios. 16.3% of respondents had used a van or vehicle requiring a permit. The SVP largely met need (88.7%), however the LEP was less likely to. Respondents stated this was because it did not allow enough visits and that they also wanted to use the sites at weekends. Of those that have used hire vehicles, 89.2% said that the access policy met their needs.

1.5. Vans

Views on whether there should be limitations on vans were mixed, with 35.9% saying no, 32.2% yes and 31.9% unsure. Those who felt there should be limitations stated that the issues were that vans would congest the site and overfill skips and bins, and also cited the risk of commercial/trade use and abuse. Suggested limitations included restricting vans to specific weekdays and the number of permitted visits, perhaps with a charge if these are exceeded. Those who felt there should not be limitations said that they were concerned about the risk of fly-tipping and that access should be made easy to discourage illegal dumping and to encourage recycling. Others highlighted that a van might be the only available vehicle in a household.

Approximately a third suggested that vans should be allowed access up to 12 times a year, with another third saying unlimited visits. 42.7% said that vans should not be able to access the site at weekends, with around 30% indicating that they should. Similar figures were apparent with regard to an annual admin charge, with 44.2% disagreeing with a charge, and 35.7% agreeing.

1.6. Trailers

8.6% of respondents said that they have used a trailer. 45.8% of all respondents felt that the number of trailer visits should not be limited, a quarter were unsure. Those who felt they should be limited again cited reasons of on-site congestion and overfill of skips, risk of commercial use and abuse and felt that they should be treated similarly to vans. Respondents who did not feel that visits using trailers should be restricted gave similar reasons as those for restricting vans, namely concerns about fly-tipping and restricting access as opposed to encouraging use of HRCs and recycling. Others said that a trailer prevents the main vehicle (usually a car) getting dirty. 64.2% said that they felt the current maximum trailer size was correct. Those that didn't agree with the current maximum size suggested that any size should be accommodated and that the disposal of waste should be encouraged. The most popular suggested trailer length was 8ft.

Similar reasons were given for restricting both van and trailer access. This is perhaps unsurprising given that 71.3% of those who felt van access should be restricted, also felt that use of trailers should be limited.

1.7. Other vehicles

When presented with other vehicles that do not require a permit (e.g. campervans, minibuses), 45.4% said they felt that none of the vehicles should require a permit. 41.3% selected double cab pick-ups, 36.3% minibuses and a quarter selected campervans as requiring a permit.

1.8. Blue Badges

There were mixed findings on whether Blue Badge holders should be exempt from needing a permit. Most respondents said no (47.2%), with 34.2% saying yes

1.9. Groups (users with a disability, van users)

Given the nature of the survey aims, the results from respondents who reported having a disability and also van users were specifically investigated. 256 respondents (7.2%) reported having a disability. Overall, their responses were relatively similar to the overall picture, any noticeable differences are highlighted in the main body of the report e.g. 51% felt that Blue Badge holders should be exempt from needing a permit whatever vehicle they use, compared to 34% overall. Perhaps unsurprisingly, answers from those who have used a van to access an HRC do show some differences. 54.5% of van users go up to 6 times a year, 40% of van users felt that they should have unlimited visits. 65.5% said that they should be able to access sites at the weekend, which was also their preferred time to visit HRCs, compared to the overall picture of weekdays being convenient. 87.3% did not want an annual admin charge.

1.10. Any Other Comments

Some respondents said that they did not have a further comment to make. The main issue raised was one highlighted throughout this report – concerns that restrictions, or making access to HRCs difficult or complicated, would increase incidences of fly-tipping. There were also comments about charging for the disposal of materials such as rubbles, and comments about difficulties with access to skips/bins. Other comments offered feedback on individual sites.

2. The Consultation

2.1. The consultation explained:

The Recycling Centre Vehicle Access Policy was last amended in 2009. Since then, usage patterns and demands on Dorset Council recycling centres have changed. Dorset Council would like to invite residents to give their views on access to recycling centres to ensure the policy suits the needs of users whilst meeting our aims.

Some vehicles need a permit to access Dorset Council's Household Recycling Centres (HRCs), and some are not allowed on site at all. This is mainly to prevent abuse by traders who illegally deposit commercial waste at our household recycling centres. These permits are currently free.

2.2. Dorset Council HRC vehicle permit scheme

Vehicles that require a permit are allocated either a sole vehicle permit or a limited entry permit, depending on criteria outlined below:

Sole Vehicle Permit - allows unlimited use, any day of the week. A vehicle must be all of the following:






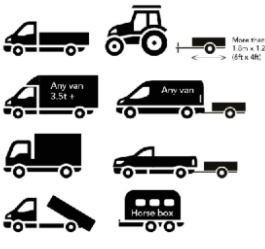
- the only vehicle registered to a household
- not used for commercial purposes
- not sign-written

Limited Entry Permit – allows 3 visits per annum, weekdays only (excluding bank holidays). The permit is for all residents that have access to a vehicle that requires a permit, but do not fulfil all of the criteria for the sole vehicle permit.

More information on the current access policy can be found [here](#)

This image summarises the way vehicles can currently access sites.

Vehicle restrictions at Household Recycling Centres

 No permit needed	 Permit needed	 Not allowed on site
		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cars • campervans • minibuses • double cab pick ups • people carriers • estate cars • trailers up to 1.8m x 1.2m (6ft x 4ft) not towed by a van • hire vans* max 3 day hire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vans up to 3.5t* • single cab pick ups • car derived vans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vans over 3.5t • vans towing trailers • single cab pick ups towing trailers • any trailer over 1.8m x 1.2m (6ft x 4ft) • Luton box vans • flatbed vans • tipper vans • tractors • horse boxes • agricultural vehicles • hire vans - over 3 day hire
<p>* excluding van types listed under 'not allowed on site'</p>		

2.3. The Consultation

The consultation period ran from 28th May 2021 to midnight on the 11th July 2021. It was suggested that the survey would take about 10 minutes to complete. Respondents were advised that the results of the survey would be used to help elected members understand the views of residents before updating Dorset Council's current vehicle access policy.

If respondents had any questions or wanted the survey in an alternative format, they were advised to contact the Waste Team wasteteam@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk. Paper copies of the survey were available in libraries and upon request.

Very few questions were compulsory.

2.4. Analysis Method

Questions were considered on an individual basis. Overall responses were examined along with specific responses of respondents who said they had a disability and those who have used a van. The main method of analysis was looking at the percentage of respondents who expressed a view on each question. Note: some figures may not sum due to rounding.

For each open question the text comments have been studied and “coded” depending on what issues were raised. The coded comments are then reported on based on the amount of times those issues have been raised.

2.5. Response Method

Overall, 3289 responses were received. The majority of these were electronic responses, 8 were paper responses.

3. About Respondents

The first questions related to the survey respondents themselves.

Q. Are you responding as?

	% of all respondents	Number
A Dorset Council resident	93.0	3058
A Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council resident	6.2	203
A resident from another Local Authority	0.7	24
Other	0.1	4

93% of respondents identified that they were Dorset Council residents, 6% from BCP and 0.7% from other Local Authorities. Most of those who said they lived in another Local Authority cited an area of Dorset, however some lived in counties or councils surrounding Dorset, such as South Somerset, New Forest, Hampshire and East Devon (see table below). The four ‘Other’ respondents were made up of a Town Councillor, a Parish Councillor, a Parish Clerk and a soon-to-be resident of Dorset.

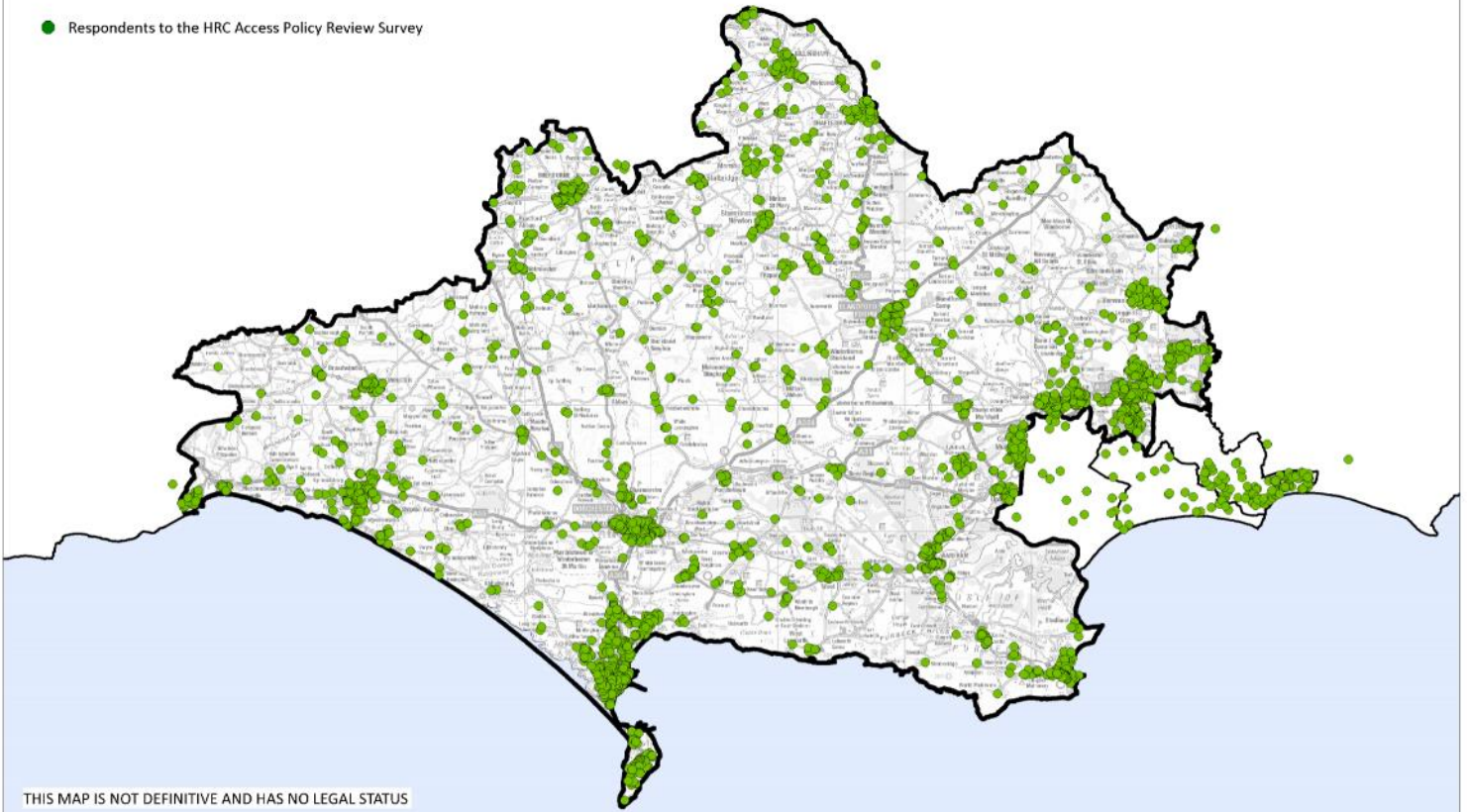
Other Local Authority	No.
Dorset Council area (e.g. Weymouth, East Dorset, Purbeck, Wimborne)	13
South Somerset	2
New Forest	2
Hampshire	1
East Devon	1
Buckinghamshire	1
Wandsworth	1
Huntingdonshire	1
Second homeowner in Dorset/frequent visitor	1

Map of responses to the consultation

Postcodes were supplied by all 3289 respondents with the majority of those living in the Dorset Council area, but also a proportion living in the BCP area or neighbouring counties.

This map shows the distribution of overall responses to the consultation which demonstrate a good spread across the geographical area. Promotion of the consultation appears to have been

● Respondents to the HRC Access Policy Review Survey



THIS MAP IS NOT DEFINITIVE AND HAS NO LEGAL STATUS

**Respondents to the HRC Access Policy Review Consultation
(Home Postcodes)**

Ref:
Date: 07/2021
Scale: 1:1321578
Drawn By:
Cent X: 387253
Cent Y: 104599



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