
Farthinghoe Recycling Centre

1. Introduction

The Farthinghoe Recycling Centre was operated by the former South Northamptonshire Council from 2002 and is now part of the waste collection systems operating within West Northamptonshire Council.

Because of its history as an SNC service, this recycling centre is operated separately from the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) contract, which provides a further 5 recycling centres within WNC.

The Farthinghoe recycling centre recycles around 800 tonnes of material as well as providing a reuse shop for items such as furniture, books, crockery, bicycles and toys.

There are 2 contracts associated with the operation of the site:

1. A contract for the running and management of the site has been held by Day Recycling Limited since 2002 and was due for renewal in 2021;
2. A contract for haulage of different materials from the site to treatment locations. This is held by Dial-A-Bin.

For personal reasons Day Recycling has given notice to WNC and consequently, their contract will expire on 31 Jan 2022.

2. Options for Replacement Arrangements

Due to the short timescales to secure alternative arrangements, waste officers took advice from the procurement team to consider the options which may enable continued operation of the site.

The 3 primary options which were considered were:

- i. Including Farthinghoe recycling centre within the HWRC contract. This was not a preferred option for the following reasons:
 - A variation to the HWRC contract would need to be negotiated and it is not anticipated that this would be good value for money;
 - The HWRC contract is hosted by NNC until its natural expiry in 2025 and therefore WNC would lose the direct control of the services provided at Farthinghoe.
- ii. Bringing the operation of the recycling centre 'in house' as part of the South Waste services. This was not a preferred option, since to continue to offer a reuse service, the site staff would need to handle cash. Note that the service had been contracted out prior to the formation of WNC and there is no compelling reason to change this approach.

- iii. Procurement of alternative arrangements. This was option was further investigated via 'soft market testing' to ensure that there was sufficient market interest.

Following further consideration and discussion with the Portfolio Holder and Director, it was agreed that a competitive procurement process would commence with a view to implementing option 3.

3. Procurement

Procurement of a new contract to replace the Day Recycling contract is currently 'live' and tenders are due back in mid January.

The new contract will be co-terminus with the HWRC contract (ending 31 March 2025) which will enable a full review of these Recycling Centre services in advance of decisions regarding the strategy for provision of these services from 1 April 2026.

Following receipt of tenders in mid January, they will be evaluated, a preferred bidder selected and with the Portfolio Holder and Director's agreement, a new contract will be awarded. The timing is such that the new contractor will not be able to commence on 1 February 2022.

4. Temporary Closure of Farthinghoe Recycling Centre

Due to the timing of the procurement and award of contract outlined in section 3 above, it will unfortunately be necessary to temporarily close the Farthinghoe Recycling Centre for approximately one month (i.e. during February). A reopening date will be confirmed as soon as the new contractor is appointed.

During this temporary closure, the site will be cleared of all waste and we will take the opportunity to complete some refurbishment work.

We are working with our colleagues in the communications team to ensure that residents are aware of the temporary closure and we will emphasise the reopening date.

5. Keeping Members Informed

The Portfolio Holder has been and will continue to be briefed regularly on this matter.

There is a briefing meeting with WNC local members, Parish Councils and Brackley Town Council on 12 January 2022. Information will be included in the weekly WNC member's briefing.