

Have your say on proposed changes to recycling and household waste sites



Tell us how this might affect you

Online: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/waste-site-changes

For general enquiries or comments about this consultation
email Waste.Projects@leics.gov.uk

Public consultation: Submit your views by **24 January 2024**

Why change?

Leicestershire County Council remains the lowest funded county in the country and continues to face financial challenges. Growing demand for county council services and general price rises (inflation) are increasing the cost of delivering services. This means we are going to have to find more savings in the future, despite having made £250m of savings since 2010.

The council's recently published budget plan includes a requirement to make savings from the recycling and household waste sites (often referred to as the 'tips'). We estimate the changes proposed below would save £420,000 per year.

The proposals being put forward are those seen as being able to offer the best balance between how much money can be saved and the impact on our residents and site users.

We would like you to have your say on these proposals.

Our proposal for recycling and household waste sites

What is the current service?

The county council has a statutory duty* to provide places at which persons resident in its area may deposit their household waste free of charge.

We provide 14 recycling and household waste sites across the county (see map below) which are all operated by the council. We currently have more sites than any other council in the East Midlands - see table in 'Our proposals' below.

The total operational budget for waste management in 2022/23 was £28.9 million. The current budget for the operation of recycling and household waste sites is around £3.9 million (excluding waste disposal and treatment).

There have already been a number of service reduction and efficiency changes to the operation of the recycling and household waste site service to achieve savings of approximately £2.7m since 2013. The savings have been realised through various means including contract changes, insourcing of sites, changes to opening hours and days and the introduction of charging for non-household waste.



* Under Section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) 1990.

The current opening times for all sites are as follows:

- 9am - 7pm from April to September
- 9am - 4pm from October to March
- All sites are closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day

The table below shows the current opening days for each site:

Waste Site	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Barwell	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
Bottesford	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Coalville	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
Kibworth	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Loughborough	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
Lount	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lutterworth	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Market Harborough	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
Melton Mowbray	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mountsorrel	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Oadby	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
Shepshed	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Somerby	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Whetstone	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓

Permits are needed for certain vehicles and some types of waste (e.g. paint and asbestos) deposited at the sites by residents and parish councils whilst charities can access a site via appointment. This aims to control the volume of waste deposited, the types of waste delivered and prevent unauthorised access by traders. You can find out more about **waste permits** on our website www.leicestershire.gov.uk/waste

The sites accept a wide range of household and non-household waste types. Charges are made for some types of non-household waste such as concrete, bricks, rubble, glass windows, slabs and plasterboard. The current charge is £3 per tub/item.

The council is aware that the Government has recently announced that householders will be allowed to dispose of small amounts of 'DIY waste' free of charge at recycling and household waste sites. We await the details of the proposed change in legislation to fully assess the financial and any wider impacts on the county council.

Our proposals

Following a review of the current service and the financial challenges facing the county council, we are proposing the following changes to the recycling and household waste site service.

1. **Closing Market Harborough, Shepshed and Somerby recycling and household waste sites**
2. **Changing the opening days at Bottesford and Melton Mowbray recycling and household waste sites**
3. **Changing the summer opening hours at all recycling and household waste sites**
4. **Closing on Christmas Eve at all recycling and household waste sites**

We're encouraging you to have your say on these proposals in our survey.

Proposal 1: Closing Market Harborough, Shepshed and Somerby recycling and household waste sites

We are proposing to close the Market Harborough, Shepshed and Somerby recycling and household waste sites and estimate that by closing these three sites we will save approximately £270,000 a year.

We initially looked at closing two more of the recycling and household waste sites (Bottesford and Lutterworth) which would have saved an additional £160,000 a year.

The recycling and household waste sites were assessed against the following criteria:

- Finance
- Site size and condition
- Legal compliance
- Current and future use/housing growth
- Alternative available sites

Market Harborough, Shepshed and Somerby recycling and household waste sites are proposed for closure as they have significant overlap with other sites or are a lot more expensive per visit than other sites.

Bottesford recycling and household waste site is one of the most expensive sites to operate and the number of visitors and tonnage of waste it receives is low compared to other sites. However, Bottesford is in a relatively isolated, rural location and is the only site to the north of Melton. If the Bottesford waste site was closed, the next nearest waste site at Melton Mowbray is approximately 30 minutes drive away. Due to the relatively greater impact on residents living in that area if it were closed, the Bottesford site has not been proposed for closure.

Planning permission has been granted for the building of around 2,750 houses around Lutterworth over the next decade. Therefore, the Lutterworth waste site has not been proposed for closure to provide for residents in this area for the future.

The potential of making smaller changes to waste sites (e.g. by further reducing opening hours at all sites) as an alternative to site closures has been considered. However, reducing accessibility to frequently used sites would reduce waste site capacity overall and would impact on more service users. It could increase queuing on the roads around the sites and would also have a negative effect on staff recruitment and retention problems which could make it hard to safely deliver the service .

Therefore, the level of savings needed cannot be delivered by further smaller changes in service at each recycling and household waste site.

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 requires the county council to provide residents in its area with 'reasonably accessible' recycling and household waste sites. The council currently offers an above average number of sites per household when compared to the neighbouring authorities (see table below). This provides scope to retain a reasonable coverage for the county in the event of the site closures, ensuring the council continues to meet its legal obligation.

Please see the table below showing how the county council compares to neighbouring authorities in respect to recycling and household waste site provision:

Authority	Number of Waste Sites	Geographical Area Served (km ²)	Households per Site	Hours per Week (averaged across sites)	
				Summer	Winter
Leicestershire County Council	14	154	22,000	50	35
Warwickshire County Council	9	219	29,000	40	37
Staffordshire County Council	14	187	28,000	48	45
Nottinghamshire County Council	12	174	31,000	81	66
Derbyshire County Council	9	283	41,000	66	66
Lincolnshire County Council	11	538	32,000	37	37
Former Northamptonshire County Council	10	236	33,000	40	40

The impact on fly-tipping in the event of site closures has also been considered. However, the factors that can influence fly-tipping levels are complex and there can be big differences between calendar years and between local authorities which makes trends hard to interpret.

Examples of factors that are thought to most influence levels of fly-tipping include population sizes in an area, the amount of housing, how busy the roads are, levels of deprivation and the split between urban and rural areas.

We do not expect levels of fly-tipping to show a sustained increase should the site closures be implemented. The council already monitors levels of fly-tipping in Leicestershire and engages with the district and borough councils as they work to manage it and we will continue to do so.

In respect to increased drive times for residents to get to a recycling and household waste site in the event of site closures, the table below highlights the sites proposed for closure and the number of miles it would be to alternative sites. It is important to note that the council does not have a policy on maximum drive time or distance for residents to get to a recycling and household waste site.

Start Point	Alternative Recycling and Household Waste Site	Distance (miles)	Drive Time (minutes)
Shepshed (town centre)	Lount	9.0	16
	Coalville	7.5	16
	Loughborough	6.2	17
Market Harborough (town centre)	Kibworth	5	12
	Lutterworth	13.9	25
	Oadby	12.4	26
Somerby (village centre)	Melton	7.5	16
	Mountsorrel	16.6	28

Distance and drive times were taken from Google maps at approximately 11.36am on 9 October 2023.

Proposal 2: Changes to opening days

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, the Bottesford recycling and household waste site was open 5 days a week Saturday to Wednesday (closed Thursday and Friday). More recently, the site has been open 3 days a week on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. We propose to make this change permanent.

We also intend to amend the opening days at the Melton Mowbray recycling and household waste site. The Melton site is currently open Thursday to Monday (closed Tuesday and Wednesday). We are proposing to change the opening days to Saturday to Wednesday (closed Thursday and Friday) to ensure there is sufficient distribution of sites open across the County each weekday following the proposed closure of the three sites. The site would continue to be open 5 days a week. There is no saving associated with this proposed change.

Please see the table below for the proposed opening days for Bottesford recycling and household waste site (and also for Melton Mowbray for information purposes):

Waste Site	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Bottesford	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Melton Mowbray	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓

Proposal 3: Changing summer opening hours at all recycling and household waste sites

Currently the sites are open 9am to 4pm during the winter months (October to March) and 9am to 7pm during summer months (April to September).

We propose to change the summer opening hours to 9am to 5pm on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, retaining 9am to 7pm on the other two days either Tuesday and Wednesday or Thursday and Friday (dependent on site). At Bottesford, 9am to 5pm opening hours would be on Saturdays only due to part time opening.

The last time we consulted about the waste site opening times (in 2019), residents and site users told us that they wanted to be able to visit the sites after work on weekdays. The 7pm closing time is therefore proposed to stay on two weekdays per week from April to September to cater for those working during the day. These proposals would equate to a saving of £150,000 a year.

Proposal 4: Closing Christmas Eve at all recycling and household waste sites

At the moment, all the recycling and household waste sites are closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. We are proposing to close ALL sites on Christmas Eve too. Data shows we generally experience low visitor numbers on Christmas Eve compared to other days in December so we believe the impact of this proposal would be limited.

Whilst this change will not directly contribute towards the savings target, it will partially offset additional operational costs and enable a better service during the busy period between Christmas and New Year.

Have your say

We want to know what you think of these proposals, and if / how you would be affected by the proposed changes to the recycling and household waste site service.

How the consultation will work

The consultation begins on 1 November 2023 and will last twelve weeks ending at midnight on 24 January 2024.

To submit your views please fill out the consultation survey, available online at www.leicestershire.gov.uk/waste-site-changes

Maps of the proposed changes to recycling and household waste sites can be viewed on [Social Pinpoint](#).

Paper copies and alternative formats of the survey are available on request by emailing Waste.Projects@leics.gov.uk. If you have trouble using email, consider asking a friend or family member to help you. If this is not possible, you can also contact us by calling 0116 305 0001. However, please note that sometimes our phone lines are busy and you may have to wait to speak to an advisor.

If you are able to, please complete this survey online as it is better for the environment and will save us money.

What happens next?

When the consultation closes, we will analyse the feedback and use this to draw up a final proposal which will be discussed by the council's cabinet in Spring 2024.

Should these recommendations be supported by the cabinet, site closures and part time opening would commence in October 2024, the changes to summer opening hours would commence in April 2025 and closing on Christmas Eve from December 2024.

You can view the latest information in a number of ways:

- Visit us online www.leicestershire.gov.uk/waste-site-changes

Our web pages will be kept up-to-date with the latest information and developments. You'll also be able to access the survey here.

- Follow us [@leicscountyhall](https://twitter.com/leicscountyhall) for general updates from the council

Find out more about reducing waste

You can find out more about preventing, reducing, reusing and recycling your waste at www.lesswaste.org.uk

Get the latest environment news straight to your inbox by signing up to the quarterly Environment Matters newsletter at www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/sign-up-for-environment-matters

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0116 305 0001 اور ہم آپ کی مدد کے لئے کسی کا انتظام کر دیں گے۔

假如閣下需要幫助，用你的語言去明白這些資訊，
請致電 0116 305 0001，我們會安排有關人員為你
提供幫助。

Jeżeli potrzebujesz pomocy w zrozumieniu tej informacji
w Twoim języku, zadzwoń pod numer 0116 305 0001,
a my Ci pomożemy.

