

### DRAFT RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION

West Oxfordshire District Council strongly opposes the proposed closure of Household Waste and Recycling Centres in the County.

The reasons for these objections are:

- Many residents of West Oxfordshire already have an unacceptable distance to travel to a HWRC and this Council has lobbied for the provision of replacement facilities in the North of the District since the closure of Dean Pit. Further closures will mean a significant reduction in service provision for the public as all of our residents are likely to have to travel significantly further to deposit their waste.
- The provision of HWRC and Bring Bank facilities (offered by WODC) are a cost effective way of collecting excess waste. Closure of HWRCs will result in more waste being pushed into the kerbside collection refuse stream, which may increase collection costs for the District Authority which may outweigh the savings made by OCC in site closure. Fly tipping is also likely to increase and is already a significant problem in the district, increasing notably in the last 12 months. HWRC closure will therefore result in cost shunting to the district with a potential increase in both kerbside collection costs and fly tip removals and enforcement activity. Since the closure of Dean Pit, contrary to the statement in the OCC documentation, there has been a rise in fly tipping in the area and particularly in Chipping Norton.
- The proposals may disproportionately affect our older population, with proposals likely to focus provision nearest to centres of highest population density, yet a greater number of older people live in the rural districts rather than in Oxford city and may have reduced financial means, so will be greatly affected by increased travel costs. This is not reflected in the Equalities Impact Assessment.
- We would support the reduction in opening hours to allow the provision of an additional site as we consider a reduced provision at a greater number of sites is the best option for the public.
- The County Council does not appear to have considered a wide range of alternative options such as a mobile HWRC service or delivery of HWRCs by third parties to enable charges to the public to be levied.
- As a predominantly rural area with large numbers of homes with big gardens/orchards the need for an easily accessible HWRC is more acute than in other areas.