

# Fairness and Equalities Impact Assessment (FEIA)

Version 3.6 May 2017

The purpose of this assessment is to provide balanced information to support decision making and to promote better ways of working in line with equalities (Equalities Act 2010), Welsh language promotion (The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011), sustainable development (Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015), and the four parameters of debate about fairness identified by the Newport Fairness Commission (NFC Full Report to Council 2013).

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**Head of Service:** Paul Jones                      **Date:** 04/02/2021

**I confirm that the above Head of Service has agreed the content of this assessment**

**Yes**

**When you complete this FEIA, it is your responsibility to submit it to**  
impact.assessment@newport.gov.uk

## **1. Name and description of the policy / proposal being assessed. Outline the policy's purpose.**

HWRC – charges for non-household waste

Household waste recycling centres (HWRC) need to accept household waste free of charge, as costs of collecting, recycling and disposing of household waste are covered via Council tax. The Council however, and although not required to, accepts other types of waste such as DIY and construction materials as they can be commonly produced by residents. This supposes an extra cost so the proposal is to introduce a small charge to offset the costs of handling and recycling plasterboard waste and tyres.

## **2. Outline how you have/ will involve stakeholders who will be affected by the policy/proposal**

Main stakeholders affected by the proposal are the Newport residents who make use of the HWRC to dispose of these type of materials. As part of the council's budget proposal consultation, a public survey was made available from the 8th of January to the 12th of February. The proposals and survey was made widely available in both Welsh and English, as well as being available on request in other formats. The information has been posted on the council's website, shared in the One Newport newsletter and on council social media platforms regularly. Proposals have also shared directly across BAME, disability and Welsh language networks and well as organisations who form part of the Public Services Board in Newport. The council's Fairness Commission and Youth council have also been consulted on proposals.

Ordinarily the council would look to facilitate focus groups and engagement sessions face to face at community level to ensure understanding, relay information and receive feedback, however this has not been feasible due to current COVID-19 restrictions. The council has been able to print and send documents and provide alternative versions of the proposal and survey if requested, for those unable to access the details online. Participation has been encouraged regularly from residents across Newport to ensure all members of the community, including those from marginalised or under-represented groups or those sharing protected characteristics as set out in the Equality Act are able to contribute.

**3. What information/evidence do you have on stakeholders? e.g. views, needs, service usage etc. Please include all the evidence you consider relevant.**

There is statistical information on service usage – i.e. number of HRWC visits, tonnage of the different waste streams collected etc. There will also be information on any complaint/comment received from residents on the service.

**Equality information – consultation respondents**

*Data correct at time of writing (4<sup>th</sup> February 2021)*

Considering the consultation data received, the following summarises equality information that we know about people who completed the consultation survey:

A total of 192 people completed the survey, 2 responses were received through the medium of Welsh.

**Age**

Of the participants to the surveys, 25-64 year olds made up the largest percentages, with no participants under the age of 18 taking. Less than 1% of people were aged over 75 and 4.61% preferred not to state their age range.

**Gender**

Over 52% of participants were female, 41% were male, less than 1% were non-binary and over 5% preferred not to state their gender.

**Disability**

More than 11% of people said that they were disabled and 5.56% preferred not to give this information.

**Race**

More than 88% of people who responded to this survey were of a range of White ethnic backgrounds. 3.7% of people were from a range of Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic backgrounds (compared to a population figure of more than 10%), and more than 7% preferred not to say.

**Sexual orientation**

77% of participants were heterosexual/straight, with 3.7% identifying as gay. Less than 3% stated they were lesbian, bisexual or identified in 'another way' and 16% preferred not to provide the information.

### **Religion / belief**

Christian participants and those of 'no religion' made up the largest groups responding; over 39% in each group. No participants stated they were Hindu or Jewish. Less than 3% were humanist, Buddhist or Muslim and just over 5% were Agnostic or 'any other' religion.

### **Gender identity**

Over 86% of people identified as the same gender that they were assigned at birth and 1.4% did not. More than 11% preferred not to give this information.

### **Outcome and results of consultation**

48% of participants indicated that they would prefer option 1, to maintain the status quo.

This was followed by 45% agreeing to the recommended changes of charging for disposal of tyres, plasterboard and rubble at HWRC.

Option 4 was to stop accepting these items, but this would contradict our efforts at sustainability, have a negative environmental impact and not fit with the NCC parameters of long term wellbeing objective of promoting economic growth and regeneration while protecting the environment. This option received 1.9%.

Option 2 was agreed by 4.27%; to introduce charges for collection of aforementioned items, may have the detrimental impact on a large number of residents, who may find alternative ways of disposing of items such as rubble, which is currently highly disposed of, it would also negatively affect the rates of recycling.

More than 57% of those responding agreed that the planned proposal was fully explained.

### **Feedback**

Feedback from the consultation process highlighted a number of key themes:

1. A large number of respondents commented that any changes or implementation of charges would have a detrimental effect on the city and further increase the amount of fly-tipping in and around the area
2. Businesses could pay to use or have a (paid) license to use the HWRC for such items as tyres, plasterboard and rubble
3. The cost in savings was not thought to be comparable to the costs that would be incurred by the council if there was an increase in fly-tipping

Comments included:

- Current system works well, just need to ensure it is not abused by traders
- Any change from the status quo (proposal option 1) would be detrimental to the environment
- Fly-tipping is already out of control

- The council should charge vans and businesses
- Improper disposal of plasterboard will impact wildlife
- Introduce checks and charges for non-Newport citizens
- Anything that won't fit into current receptacle should be charged for

#### 4. Equalities and Welsh language impact

Protected characteristic	Impact:			Provide further details about the nature of the impact in the section below. Does it: 1. Promote equal opportunity 2. Promote community cohesion 3. Help eliminate unlawful discrimination/ harassment/ victimisation?
	Positive	Negative	Neither	
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence to suggest that this proposal will have a positive or negative impact on people that share this protected characteristic
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence to suggest that this proposal will have a positive or negative impact on people that share this protected characteristic
Gender reassignment/transgender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence to suggest that this proposal will have a positive or negative impact on people that share this protected characteristic
Marriage or civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence to suggest that this proposal will have a positive or negative impact on people that share this protected characteristic
Pregnancy or maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence to suggest that this proposal will have a positive or negative impact on people that share this protected characteristic
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence to suggest that this proposal will have a positive or negative impact on people that share this protected characteristic

Protected characteristic	Impact:			Provide further details about the nature of the impact in the section below. Does it: 1. Promote equal opportunity 2. Promote community cohesion 3. Help eliminate unlawful discrimination/ harassment/ victimisation?
	Positive	Negative	Neither	
Religion or Belief or non-belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence to suggest that this proposal will have a positive or negative impact on people that share this protected characteristic
Sex/ Gender Identity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence to suggest that this proposal will have a positive or negative impact on people that share this protected characteristic
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence to suggest that this proposal will have a positive or negative impact on people that share this protected characteristic
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence to suggest that this proposal will have a positive or negative impact on people that speak Welsh  6.05% of those who responded were Welsh speakers and 5.12% preferred not to say. There were no comments from participants regarding any effect or impact on Welsh language.  Access to information for the proposed service will be bilingual.

### How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? Describe how.
 <p>Long Term</p> <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	<p>At present NCC's HWRC accepts plasterboard and tyres despite these materials falling outside the definition of household waste, providing an easy and accessible alternative to private collections by commercial operators. Those collections may not only be more costly but also suppose additional requirements such as residents having to ensure proper duty of care when handling that waste, or else they could be liable to a fine. By introducing a small charge to cover the extra costs generated by this waste, the service area will ensure the service can be maintained longer term.</p>

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? Describe how.
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>NCC is committed to recycling, with set targets for its HWRC as part of the wider waste strategy, and will always maximise opportunities to divert waste from landfill. By keeping a wider range of materials being collected we are adding resilience to the site, which is also used as platform for other reuse and recycling initiatives with third sector partners.</p>
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>Main stakeholders will be Newport's residents and, as stated above, the proposal will be subject to public consultation.</p> <p>The council provided consultation via a number of methods when requested and launched the consultation on website, via social media, through partnerships and received local media coverage as well as writing to those who may be impacted or directly affected by any changes.</p>
 <p>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>The introduction of a small fee for plasterboard and tyres has to do with protecting the service provided and making it viable long-term. It will also provide residents with an easy and cheap alternative to the use of private companies, reducing the risk of duty of care breaches that could impact negatively on residents. It also reduces the risk of fly tipping.</p>
 <p>Integration</p> <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p>All HWRC materials are recycled using local companies, which contributes to a circular economy and works towards the WFG goals. This proposal helps maintain the range of materials collected and recycled via our HWRC, which has an overall positive impact on a healthier and more prosperous Wales.</p>

## 5 What will the impact be on the wellbeing goals (under Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015)?

The proposal, in allowing the Council to keep collecting certain waste streams, and with the commitment that those materials will be recycled, contributes positively to the wellbeing goals in line with the wider elements identified in the Council's [waste strategy](#).

## **6 Will the proposal/policy have a disproportionate impact on a specific geographical area of Newport?**

Whilst the HWRC is available to all residents of Newport, several comments from survey respondents indicated a specific concern in relation to current levels of fly tipping already occurring in areas including Duffryn and Coedkernew. Several respondents were of the view that the introduction of a charge would result in a significant increase in fly tipping.

## **7 How does the proposal/policy relate to the parameters of debate about Fairness identified by the Newport Fairness Commission**

The 4 parameters of fairness have been considered in relation with this proposal:

- Equal treatment while recognising difference: the proposal would be applicable to all people regardless of their background
- Mutual obligations between citizens and LA: the Council has a duty to collect municipal waste; however the proposal relates to an extra service on top of all the standard statutory services. On their part, residents have the obligation to dispose of their waste in the right way and ensure the waste is collected by either the Council or a licenced waste carrier. From that perspective, residents can choose not to use this chargeable service and hence not incur any extra costs, but they need to ensure they comply with legislation re correct disposal of waste – in that sense this service will offer a simple solution for those items that may be more difficult or expensive to move otherwise.
- Reciprocity and interdependency within relationships – although this is not a statutory service, the Council is aware of the added difficulty/cost that moving this material may pose for some residents, hence the need to provide an alternative to private waste carriers. This in turn enables residents to comply with their obligations in a safer way and helps fight fly tipping
- Transparency and accountability - by undertaking this assessment we are being open and transparent about the council policies and their impact on the communities; we are communicating the change in pricing structures and we are also committing to keep reviewing the service to ensure recycling/reuse is maximised and the service remains being viable.

## 8. Equality Impacts and Actions

Please complete the below action plan which sets out steps that will/will not be taken in order to mitigate any negative impacts that your assessment has identified.

Impact identified	Who does it affect?	What will you do to mitigate the impact? If you plan to take no action, please justify your rationale	Who is responsible?
Potential for increase in fly tipping and impact on surrounding environment	Residents of Newport – in particular, those living in areas which already experience high levels of fly tipping		

## **8 Monitoring, evaluating and reviewing**

This service can be monitored by data collated from the Council's CRM system on no. of requests, complaints/comments received etc. on a regular basis.

Costs and income generated by the service will also be monitored regularly as part of the MTFP process

Data on tonnage collected by the service and destination will also be monitored as part of the reporting obligations to Natural Resources Wales by the Council.

## **9 Involvement**

This proposal has been subject to public consultation as part of the MTRP approval process and details of the proposal and outcome published in associated cabinet papers.