

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING

30TH MARCH 2006

Review of Weighbridge Services at Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services, Green Street, Kidderminster

OPEN	
COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:	Internal Organisational Theme
CORPORATE PLAN THEME:	Delivering Quality Services
KEY PRIORITY:	Value For Money Services
CABINET MEMBER	Councillor Marcus Hart
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Head Of Cultural Leisure And Commercial Services
CONTACT OFFICER:	Andrew Dickens, 01562 732900
APPENDICES:	None

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet's approval to a change of the operating hours of the Public Weighbridge at Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services, Green Street, Kidderminster.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is asked to DECIDE:

- 2.1 **The operating hours of the Weighbridge at Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services in Green Street, Kidderminster be amended following the transfer of Customer Services and Hub Service to Kidderminster Town Hall.**
- 2.2 **The revised operating hours be from 8.00am until 2.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding Statutory and Bank Holidays.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council provides a Public Weighbridge Service on a discretionary basis from Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services in Green Street, Kidderminster. Although the Council does not have a statutory requirement to provide this facility, it is relied on by a number of small hauliers and local garages, who are based within the district.
- 3.2 The Weighbridge was acquired from Worcestershire County Council, who previously operated the facilities when Trading Standards occupied the building, prior to its sale to Wyre Forest District Council. The District Council has continued to operate the facilities from 8.00am until 5.00pm on the basis that it is manned by qualified operators on a rota basis.
- 3.3 The main service is provided by qualified operators who are also Customer Services Assistants and will, in the main, be transferring to the Town Hall from June/July 2006, as part of the establishment of the Worcestershire Hub and Customer Services Contact Centre.
- 3.4 A review of the current usage of the Weighbridge shows that demand has declined over the past two years, following the opening of weighbridges by local hauliers and weight transfer operators at their own depots within the district. This has resulted in some 300 weighs per month, the bulk of which are undertaken between 8.00am and 12noon, Monday to Friday.
- 3.5 Although there are some current Administrative Officers who are trained and qualified to operate the Weighbridge under the Road Traffic Act, the amount of available resources to be able to provide adequate and full qualified cover for the Weighbridge will be greatly reduced post the transfer of services to the Worcestershire Hub.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 It is therefore proposed, in order to retain the service within the existing establishment of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services, to revise the operating hours from its current provision of 8.00am until 5.00pm on normal working days to 8.00am until 2.00pm.
- 4.2 Discussions with existing regular users shows that their current usage can be accommodated in the main within these revised hours. This means that the Council will be able to maintain the service, albeit on reduced hours, without additional costs by utilising the existing Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services establishment.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Having consulted current users, it is not anticipated there will be a reduction in income from the revision of the operating hours as proposed in this report.
- 5.2 As it is intended to provide cover from within the existing administrative establishment of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services, there will be no additional expenditure relating to these proposals.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 If the Council wishes to continue the provision of Public Weighbridge Facilities, then they are required to provide fully trained and certified operators to issue weight tickets under the Road Traffic Act. Operators must attend a short course and undertake an examination on how to carry out general and individual actual weighs.
- 6.2 There are no further Legal or Policy Implications with the proposals in this report.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 There are no significant elements of Risk Management the Council needs to address by the proposals in this report.

8. CONSULTEES

- 8.1 Corporate Management Team.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 None.