**Appendix D** 

# **Recycling and Household Waste Sites**

**Second Consultation Survey Report** 

**April 2024** 

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#### **Acknowledgements**

We would like to express our thanks to everyone who has taken the time to provide their views and feedback as part of the consultation process.

#### Purpose of this report

This document provides a summary of the findings of the 4-week public consultation undertaken between 21 February 2024 and 20 March 2024, on proposed changes following the initial 12-week consultation to Leicestershire County Council's Recycling and Household Waste Sites (RHWS) which ran from the 1 November 2023 to 24 January 2024. This report reflects the findings of the formal consultation questionnaire.

#### **Background**

Leicestershire County Council continues to face financial challenges, with growing demand for County Council services and general price rises (inflation) increasing the cost of delivering services. As such financial savings continue to be required, and the council's recently published budget plan included a requirement to make savings from the Recycling and Household Waste Sites. An initial 12-week consultation was held and after listening to feedback from residents along with the announcement of extra funding from government, revised proposals were presented for consultation which include:

- keeping Market Harborough Recycling and Household Waste Site open 3 days a week, whilst reducing opening days at Kibworth Recycling and Household Waste Site from 5 to 4 days per week
- keeping Shepshed Recycling and Household Waste Site open 2 days per week

#### **Consultation methods**

The consultation consisted of an online questionnaire (see appendix) accessed via the 'Have your say' page on the Council's website, with an email address provided to enable residents and stakeholders to ask questions about the consultation or request the questionnaire in alternative formats.

#### About the respondents

In total, 566 responses were received. Results have been reported based on those who provided a valid response, i.e., excluding the 'don't know' responses and no replies from the calculation of the percentages, where applicable. The following provides a summary of the responses. All results, including the open comments, have been passed to the service for reference and further consideration.

In reply to Q1, the majority of responses (96%) were from Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland residents, with all other categories under 1% of which the largest was residents from another county (0.9%). These and other roles selected are summarised in Chart 1 below.

Chart 1: Summary of Q1: In what capacity are you responding to this survey?

Response	#	96	
Leicester, Leicestershire or Rutland resident	541	96.3%	
Resident of another county	5	0.9%	
Leicestershire recycling and household waste site employee $$	4	0.7%	
$\label{lem:continuous} \textit{Representative of another public sector organisation}$	3	0.5%	
Representative from a parish, district or borough council	3	0.5%	
Leicestershire County Council staff member	3	0.5%	
County, district or parish councillor	2	0.496	
Other (please specify)	1	0.2%	

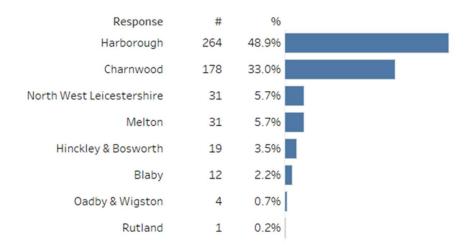
Those who indicated they were responding as a Leicester, Leicestershire or Rutland resident, resident of another county or interested member of the public were asked a series of demographic questions, of which:

- 54% were female and 45% were male, with 1% indicating that they use another term
- The highest proportion were aged 55 to 64 years (22%)
- 21% indicated that they had a long-standing illness, disability, or infirmity
- The majority identified as white (97%) and 4% identified in equal parts with a description of Asian or British Asian (1%) Mixed (1%) and other ethnic group (1%)
- Over half were employed, either full-time (42%) or part-time (10%), with 10% self-employed and 34% wholly retired from work.

### Use of recycling and household waste sites

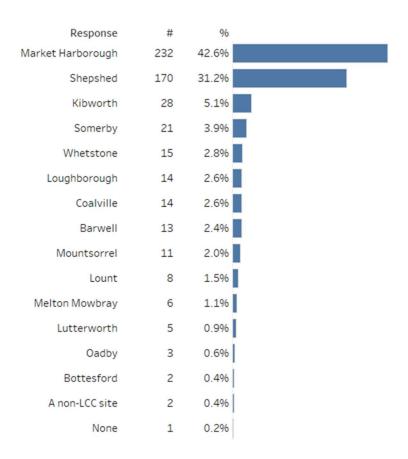
When residents were asked which area they lived in, the majority of respondents indicated that they lived in either Harborough (49%) or Charnwood (33%), both being key areas of focus in the revised proposals.

Chart 2: Summary of responses to Q4: Which area do you live in?



Residents (of Leicestershire or another county) were asked which site they used most often. Over forty percent (43%) said they used Market Harborough most often, with nearly a third (31%) selecting Shepshed as the site they used most often.

Chart 3: Summary of Q5: Which site do you use most often?



# Views on the proposals

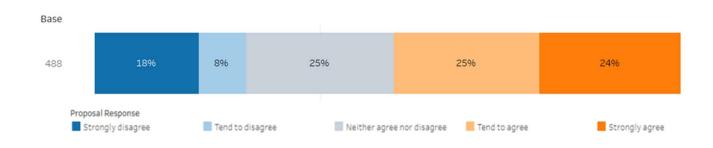
### **Proposal 1: Shepshed Recycling and Household Waste Site**

The Shepshed site is currently open 3 days a week on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. We recently consulted on the proposal to close the Shepshed waste site, however having considered the feedback, we are now proposing to keep Shepshed open for 2 days a week (Friday and Saturday) from October 2024.

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed with this revised proposal, to reduce the opening days at Shepshed rather than closing the site.

As Chart 4 below shows just under half (49%) agreed (25% tend to agree and 24% strongly agree). A quarter (25%) responded 'neither agree nor disagree' and just over a quarter (26%) disagreed (18% strongly disagree, 8% tend to disagree).

Chart 4: Summary of responses to Q6: To what extent do you agree or disagree with this revised proposal?



A follow up question 'Why do you say this?' provided respondents with the opportunity to provide an explanation for their response to the above question. A total of 339 respondents (60%) provided an answer to this question. A number of key themes were identified from these comments, which are summarised below:

#### **Housing development:**

Many comments were received with concerns over the increase in housing in the area, and
its impact on the Shepshed site due to the increase in population. It was felt that this would
increase pressure on the site and there were comments that this could potentially lead to
increased traffic at the site as well as fly-tipping.

#### **Environmental impacts:**

- Fly-tipping: concerns about the potential impact of reducing opening times to 2 days per week on fly-tipping:
  - Opening for just 2 days per week could increase fly-tipping and therefore create a greater burden on council resources to deal with it
  - Friday and Saturday opening might not be convenient to residents who work these days, which could increase fly-tipping
  - o Fly-tipping is already a problem in the area
- Concern that increased travel to other sites would impact on fuel usage and pollution

#### **Opening times:**

- A number of comments noted that Shepshed should be open 3 days per week / as much as possible
- Comments that Shepshed should also be open on a Sunday (all weekend)
- Comments that the Shepshed site needs to open when convenient for residents
- Concern that waste resulting from works carried out on Sundays or early in the week will have to be retained until the site opens on Friday
- If reduced to 2 days there will be the same amount of waste to move, just collected over a smaller time. This will have a negative impact on staff morale, as it funnels more throughput throughout each day. It also means the greater the throughput, the smaller the window of reaction should something fail (e.g. compaction)

#### Comments related to traffic:

- Concern that a reduction in opening times could increase traffic at Shepshed, an already busy site, and lead to queuing
- Road safety concerns related to increased traffic on the road leading to the Shepshed site
- Concern regarding increased traffic at the Loughborough site when the Shepshed site is closed

#### Positive comments regarding the proposals:

- Many positive comments were received agreeing with the proposal, some of which expressed thanks to the council that residents have been listened to and recognised the need to make savings
- Other more general positive comments included positive feedback regarding the Shepshed site and the sentiment that the sites were much-needed facilities to help residents recycle responsibly.

#### Other comments:

Various other comments were provided, as noted below:

- No opinion, or no impact (for example not nearby, do not use the site)
- Agreement that the proposal was better than closing but might not be ideal
- Concern that reduced opening times could put pressure on other facilities and encourage greater use of the black bin
- Accessibility concerns e.g. residents required to travel to other sites
- A few comments suggested that Shepshed had more alternative sites nearby and therefore would be a better candidate for closure than Somerby.

#### **Suggestions:**

- Open Shepshed and Loughborough 3 days each, to provide more options
- Keep Shepshed open on Sunday as well, to enable residents to dispose of waste from weekend DIY projects
- One of the two opening days should be a Sunday when most people are not working
- Make the road to the Shepshed site 2-way if there is an increase in demand
- Have more sites open, and restrict opening times at each, than have fewer sites available
- Consider running one site if economically sensible and use savings for other areas e.g. health, education or social care
- Open Market Harborough 4 days, Shepshed 3 days and Kibworth 2 days based on population and growth
- Trial reducing the site opening to 2 days and ensure that there isn't a significant increase in fly-tipping. If not, then continue with the 2 days a week
- Consider 4 days open at Loughborough and 2 days open at Shepshed (week 1) and 2 days open at Loughborough and 4 days open at Shepshed (week 2)
- Stagger opening days, for example Saturday and Wednesday
- Close Shepshed to allow both Lount and Coalville to open for an extra day each week as Shepshed is close to these sites

#### Comments - other sites:

Several comments related to other sites including:

- Market Harborough concern that those who work Monday to Friday can only use their local site on 1 day a week
- Somerby comments expressing support for retaining the site at Somerby. There was also a
  suggestion to keep the sites at Somerby and Shepshed open 1 day per week so that residents
  in Somerby do not lose access to the local site.

# Proposal 2: Market Harborough and Kibworth Recycling and Household Waste Sites

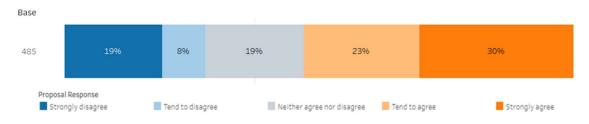
The Market Harborough site is currently open 5 days a week - Saturday to Wednesday (closed Thursday and Friday). The Kibworth site is currently open 5 days a week - Thursday to Monday (closed Tuesday and Wednesday).

Having considered the feedback from our recent consultation, we propose to keep Market Harborough open for 3 days a week (Thursday to Saturday) from October 2024. However, in order to keep the Market Harborough site open, opening days at Kibworth will need to reduce to 4 days a week (Sunday to Wednesday). This revised proposal gives residents 7 day access to a site in this part of the county.

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed with this revised proposal.

Chart 5 below shows that over half (53%) agreed with the revised proposal (30% strongly agree and 23% tend to agree). Just under a fifth (19%) neither agreed nor disagreed with 27% of respondents disagreeing with the new proposals (19% strongly disagree, 8% tend to disagree).

Chart 5: Summary of responses to Q7: To what extent do you agree or disagree with this revised proposal?



Following Q7 respondents were asked the follow up question 'why do you say this?' A total of 319 respondents (56%) provided an answer to this question. Key themes noted from the responses are summarised below.

#### **Opening times:**

- Comments that sites should be open both Saturday and Sunday as this is when people want
  to use the sites (including both Market Harborough and Kibworth). Concern that sites will be
  too busy on open days at the weekend
- The view that Market Harborough should be open more due to size and housing growth.
- Disagreement with part-time opening and support for full-time opening hours for all sites
- Kibworth should be open all weekend (and Harborough closed) due to capacity and ability to cope with increased demand
- Concern that the proposed opening days are not convenient
- References to Kibworth, including the view that it should stay open 5 days per week, and comments on the amount of money spent on its refurbishment

#### Travel and accessibility:

- Traffic concerns, particularly related to Kibworth and the A6, with references to the area being known as an accident 'blackspot' along with references to congestion, the site entrance and safety
- Reference to increased car use along with related costs and carbon emissions from driving to Kibworth
- Kibworth not considered to be easily accessible for Market Harborough residents
- Concern that accessibility issues will affect some residents ability to visit an alternative site (e.g. older people, disabled)
- Reference to the proximity of Kibworth and Market Harborough sites and driving times are reasonable relative to other Leicestershire residents
- Concern that traffic calming measures discourage use of Kibworth

#### **Suggestions:**

- Make savings elsewhere, for example close underused offices or other sites / buildings, make energy savings (e.g. lighting) and make staffing efficiencies (including management of staff)
- Provide a leaflet with opening days / times for residents
- Ensure permits are valid for Market Harborough and Kibworth sites
- Allow residents to use sites outside of county (e.g. Oakham)
- No need for both Market Harborough and Kibworth, with the suggestion to close Market Harborough and open Kibworth 7 days instead (as Kibworth has recently been refurbished) or close Kibworth and open Market Harborough 7 days
- Both sites could open 3 days per week, with 7-day access unnecessary

#### **Comments - other sites:**

- The view that Shepshed should be open an extra day in line with other sites
- Concerns about the consultation (no mention of other changes in this consultation e.g. changes affecting Melton Mowbray)
- Disagreement with the closure of the Somerby site
- Suggestion to reduce proposed days at Market Harborough and Kibworth to keep Somerby open?

#### **Positive Comments:**

- Feedback that Market Harborough site is a credit to the council and the workers that run it
- Comments that the proposals are reasonable / logical
- Reference to the fact that keeping the sites open means there is an opportunity to increase days in future if needed and/or finances allow
- Comments that the proposals are not ideal but better than closing Market Harborough

#### Other Comments:

- Concerns regarding value received from council tax
- Concern about the impact of the proposals on staff and work life balance
- Comments noting that fly-tipping is already an issue in the Harborough District, which could increase if the site opening times are reduced
- Concerns about the capacity of Market Harborough and its ability to cope with demand over proposed 3 days open (especially weekend)

## Impact of revised proposals

In Q8 respondents were asked a free text question 'Do you have any comments on the potential impact of these revised proposals?'

A total of 348 respondents (61%) provided an answer to this question. Key themes related to the question were identified and are summarised below.

#### Fly-tipping:

Fly-tipping was the most recurring theme amongst concerns. Whilst many felt the reduction
in days and hours would increase fly-tipping, several felt the change to keep open the
Market Harborough and Shepshed sites some days would decrease or keep down the flytipping compared with full closures.

#### **Travel and Accessibility:**

- Some felt that the proposals would reduce traffic, whilst others felt that they would increase traffic
- Many comments highlighted planned housing developments and the potential impact of this on service levels, fly-tipping, traffic and site capacity
- There were a number of concerns regarding the A6 and entrance to the Kibworth site. Some felt this would result in an increase in collisions, while others simply thought it would cause increased congestion

#### **Environmental / Carbon:**

Views that proposals would have a negative environmental or carbon impact

#### Personal cost / Inconvenience / quality of life:

• The increased distance that would be required to travel leading to greater inconvenience and personal cost was also mentioned

#### Awareness of site opening days and times:

 Concern that people would not remember what site was open on which day, potentially resulting in fly-tipping at site entrances on closed days

#### **Other Comments**

#### **Staff impact:**

 Concern that the change in opening days and hours would negatively impact staff, including work-life balance and salaries

#### **Financial comments:**

• Finances were mentioned by a number of respondents, particularly how the increase in flytipping would cost more than what was saved, and that fines for fly-tipping should increase

#### Will impact recycling levels:

- Concern around maintaining recycling levels if the tip is more inconvenient, people will just throw things away, or fly-tip rather than attempting to recycle
- Concern about the lack of weekend hours at all sites. This was mentioned several times and relates to comments about traffic and capacity as well as service levels and fly-tipping levels
- Several respondents felt that opening hours at all sites should be increased not decreased

#### **Positive comments:**

 Many responses reiterated that the revised proposal was a good compromise, and a better outcome than closing the sites entirely

A few respondents suggested a trial be carried out to enable the impact on fly-tipping to be monitored and the closures to be re-evaluated.

### **Alternative Options**

Respondents were asked in Question 9 'Are there other options for significantly reducing the running costs of the recycling and household sites that you think we could consider?' A total of 282 respondents (50%) provided an answer for this question. Some comments reiterated concerns previously raised e.g. the impact of the proposals on fly-tipping and related costs. A number of key themes were identified which are summarised below.

#### Operating hours and opening days at the sites:

- Keep all the sites open even on reduced opening hours such as Friday to Sunday each week as this is preferable to site closures
- Consider seasonal variations and amend opening hours accordingly
- If reducing the number of days the sites are open, consider extending the opening hours
- Open later in the mornings and open longer on a Saturday when likely to be busy
- Reduce Kibworth to 2 days and keep Market Harborough open for more days

#### Staffing:

- Concerns were raised about high staffing levels and whether this could be reduced to make savings
- Consider the use of volunteers to reduce staffing costs
- Automation and self-service arrangements were also suggested as mechanisms to reduce staffing costs

#### **Charging and income generation:**

- Charge residents that live outside of the county
- Introduce a small charge for use of Somerby site rather than closing completely
- Introduce a small charge to use any of the sites; suggested amounts of £2.00 per visit and/or a charge to deposit certain materials such as paint
- Use of sites by traders should be stopped and more checks made for their legitimacy, introducing a charge for commercial use
- Consider selling reclaimed materials on site directly to the public and sell compost from the green waste

#### **Kerbside collections:**

- Improve the frequency, quantity and range of kerbside collections (e.g. electrical products, bulky items), which would mean less demand for disposal of waste at sites
- Reduce the current charges for chargeable kerbside services, especially garden waste

#### Other suggestions:

- Pool resources with district councils and neighbouring authorities to maximise opportunities for residents to recycle more
- Close the Kibworth site
- Increase council tax contributions
- Place more bottle banks in convenient locations and install local facilities
- Lobby Government for fairer funding
- Turn lights off at Kibworth when the site is closed
- Improve waste signage at the sites

# **Any Other Comments**

Respondents were asked if they had any other comments or suggestions about the revised proposals. A total of 191 respondents (34%) provided a response to this question.

Although the second consultation asked different questions, responses showed evidence of feedback in respect to questions asked in the first consultation. Key themes from the responses to this question are summarised below.

#### No further comments:

• The majority of respondents said they did not have any other comments or suggestions about the revised proposals

#### **Reconsideration of proposals:**

 Many respondents requested that the council reconsider the proposals with alternative suggestions, including opening days, staffing and income generation

#### **Comments about the Council:**

As with the first consultation, discontent with the council was observed in the responses
which on occasion were linked to the council being conservative led. Some comments also
indicated that respondents would vote differently in future elections as a result of the
proposals.

#### **Compromise:**

 On the other hand, some comments acknowledged that even though the proposals may not be ideal, they are probably the best compromise given the situation and financial circumstances of the council.

#### Positive comments regarding the proposals:

• Some respondents gave thanks to the council for listening to residents after the first consultation and for proposing a compromise.

#### Fly-tipping:

 As in the first consultation, fly-tipping concerns were expressed as an anticipated result of the proposals.

#### Other comments:

- The feeling that waste services are not a 'nice to have' service and should be provided as standard, featured periodically and was regularly linked to the idea that if people pay their council tax, they should be entitled to a waste service
- Some comments reflected some misunderstanding about the different responsibilities of district and county councils
- Several comments reflected the feeling that proposed changes were directly related to the costs incurred to upgrade the Kibworth site
- There were some financial concerns such as the impact of a reduced / imbalanced budget and whether savings could be found in other departments
- Comments were received around improving service levels, also querying the recruitment of mid and high-level council staff
- Comments were received regarding the frequency of household waste collections and increased disposal in the residual waste bin
- Some comments suggested alternative opening hours at Shepshed. There was also concern around the quality of the facilities at the Shepshed site
- Consideration regarding monitoring the impacts of changes was also suggested along with conducting a traffic analysis
- Comments regarding Kibworth included disappointment with reduced opening hours and concern over road safety
- Other comments received included support for retaining the site at Somerby, concerns about the environmental impact, population increase, and the impact of the proposals on rural areas
- There was also negative feedback expressed around why the equality questions within the questionnaire had been asked

# Appendix - Survey questionnaire



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

The council consulted the public and stakeholders between 1 November 2023 and 24 January 2024 on proposals to make savings of £420,000 from the recycling and household waste site service.

These proposals included closing 3 waste sites from October 2024, which made up £270,000 of the total savings. These sites were Market Harborough, Shepshed and Somerby.

The previous consultation received over 5,600 responses. Key findings included:

- 74% of respondents disagreed with the proposal to close the Market Harborough waste site
- 66% of respondents disagreed with the proposal to close the Shepshed waste site
- 40% of respondents disagreed with the proposal to close the Somerby waste site

Based on the response to this consultation, we have considered options to keep the Market Harborough and Shepshed waste sites open and would like to understand your views on our revised proposals:

- We are now proposing to open the Market Harborough waste site 3 days a week.
   However, to do this, opening days at the Kibworth waste site would need to reduce to 4 days per week (currently 5 days per week).
- We are also proposing to open the Shepshed waste site 2 days per week.

Somerby is a small waste site that is difficult to operate. As reflected in the first consultation, we still propose to close the Somerby waste site from October 2024 due to the high operational costs relative to the low number of users.

The proposals above would save £170,000 per year, £100,000 less than our original proposal to close all 3 waste sites.

More information on our proposals can be found on our website: http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/waste-site-changes

Thank you for your assistance. Your views are important to us.

Please note: Your responses to the main part of the survey (including your comments) may be released to the general public in full under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Any responses to the questions in the 'About you' section of the questionnaire will be held securely and will not be subject to release under Freedom of Information legislation, nor passed on to any third party.

21	Please select one op	you responding to this survey? tion only.	
	Leicester, Leicesters	shire or Rutland resident	Go to Q4
	Resident of another	county	Go to Q5
	Leicestershire recyc	ling and household waste site employee	Go to Q6
	Leicestershire Coun	ty Council staff member	Go to Q6
	Representative of a	business or private sector organisation	Continue to Q
	Representative of a	voluntary sector organisation, charity or community group	Continue to Q
	Representative from	a parish, district or borough council	Continue to Q
	Representative of ar	nother public sector organisation	Continue to Q
	County, district or pa	arish councillor	Continue to Q
	Other (please specif	y)	Continue to Q
	If 'Other', please specify		
22	If you indicated that y please provide your o	ou represent an organisation, business, community gro letails.	oup or council,
	Role:		
	Organisation:		
23	Are you providing you Please select <u>one</u> op	ur organisation's official response to the consultation? tion only.	
	Yes		Go to Q6
	No		Go to Q6

Q4	Which area do you live in? Please select <u>one</u> option only.
	Blaby
	Charnwood
	Harborough
	Hinckley & Bosworth
	Melton
	North West Leicestershire
	Oadby & Wigston
	Leicester City
	Rutland
Q5	Which waste site do you use most often? Please select <u>one</u> option only.
	Barwell
	Bottesford
	Coalville
	Kibworth
	Loughborough
	Lount
	Lutterworth
	Market Harborough
	Melton Mowbray
	Mountsorrel
	Oadby
	Shepshed
	Somerby
	Whetstone
	A non-Leicestershire County Council site
	None

# Our revised proposals

#### Proposal 1: Shepshed

The Shepshed waste site is currently open 3 days a week on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

You may know that we recently consulted on the proposal to close the Shepshed waste site, however having considered the feedback, we are now proposing to **keep Shepshed open for 2 days a week** (Friday and Saturday) from October 2024.

	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Why do you sa	ay this?				
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Im	pact of the revised proposals
Q8	Do you have any comments on the potential impact of these revised proposals?
Δlt	ernative options
Q9	Are there other options for significantly reducing the running costs of the recycling and household waste sites that you think we could consider?
An	y other comments
210	Do you have any other comments or suggestions about these revised proposals?

Please continue if you said in Q1 that you are responding as either of the following:

Leicester, Leicestershire or Rutland resident
Resident of another county

Otherwise, please skip to the instructions at the end of the survey.

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Leicestershire County Council is committed to ensuring that its services, policies, and practices are free from discrimination and prejudice, address the needs of all sections of the community and promote and advance equality of opportunity.

Many people face discrimination in society because of their personal circumstances and for this reason we have decided to ask these monitoring questions.

We would therefore be grateful if you would answer the following questions. You are under no obligation to provide the information requested, but it would help us greatly if you did.

boligation to provide the information requested, but it would help us greatly it you did.
Q11 What is your gender? Please select <u>one</u> option only.  Male Female I use another term
Q12 Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth? Please select <u>one</u> option only.  Yes  No
Q13 What was your age on your last birthday? (Please enter your age in numbers not words)
Q14 What is your full postcode? This will allow us to see how far people live from one of our sites. It will not identify your house.
Q15 Do you have a long-standing illness, disability or infirmity? Please select one option only.  Yes  No
Q16 What is your ethnic group? Please select <u>one</u> option only.  White  Mixed  Asian or Asian British  Black or Black British
Other otheric group

Q17 Which of these activities best describes what you are doing at present? Please select one option only.
Employee in full-time job (30 hours plus per week)
Employee in part-time job (less than 30 hours per week)
Self employed full or part-time
On a government supported training programme
Full-time education at school, college or university.
Unemployed and available for work
Permanently sick / disabled
Wholly retired from work
Looking after the home
Doing something else
Q18 What is your sexual orientation? Please select one option only.
Bi
Gay or Lesbian
Heterosexual / straight
☐ I use another term
Thank you for your assistance. Your views are important to us. When the consultation closes at midnight on Wednesday 20 March 2024, we intend to report the results back to Cabinet in May

2024.

Please return your completed survey to:
Recycling and Household Waste Site Consultation 2024
Environment and Waste Management
Room 700
Leicestershire County Council Have Your Say FREEPOST NAT18685 Leicester LE3 8XR

Data Protection: Personal data supplied on this form will be held on computer and will be used in accordance with current Data Protection Legislation. The information you provide will be used for statistical analysis, management, planning and the provision of services by the county council and its partners. Leicestershire County Council will not share any personal information collected in this survey with its partners. The information will be held in accordance with the council's records management and retention policy. Information which is not in the 'About you' section of the questionnaire may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.