

North Lanarkshire Council Report

Policy and Strategy Committee

Does this report require to be approved? Yes No

Ref LR

Date 11/06/26

Household Waste Recycling Centres and Special Uplift Review

From Lyall Rennie, Chief Officer (Community Operations)

E-mail renniely@northlan.gov.uk

Executive Summary

The introduction of the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) regulation in Scotland from October 2023 significantly changed the disposal requirements for Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating (WUDS). These regulations prohibit landfilling of POPs-containing WUDS, mandating incineration at approved facilities instead. As a result, North Lanarkshire Council (NLC) has incurred substantial operational and financial pressures.

This report provides a comprehensive review of the financial impact of these regulations, operational changes required across Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) and proposed amendment to the special uplift service, charity access arrangements and festive site closures. The recommendations aim to ensure compliance with legislation, maintain service sustainability and improve the customer experience.

To further enhance recycling performance and improve the customer experience at HWRCs, a revised charity access guidance has been developed to manage the key waste streams generated by charitable organisations while ensuring regulatory compliance and cost efficiency.

Complementary measures include enhanced staff training and public education initiatives.

Finally, in response to a motion agreed by Council, an assessment was undertaken to evaluate the feasibility, operational implications, and financial considerations associated with introducing paint donation points at HWRCs. The review concludes that, due to operational and cost-related constraints, the introduction of paint donation points is unlikely to be progressed at this time.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Policy and Strategy Committee:

- (1) Approve the acceptance of WUDS-containing POPS only at:
 - Netherton HWRC Wishaw
 - Wardpark HWRC Cumbernauld
 - Stobcross Street HWRC Coatbridge
- (2) Approve the introduction of an £80 charge for the uplift of WUDS-containing POPS.

- (3) Acknowledge the intention to engage with Zero Waste Scotland as part of their work to develop a National Toolkit on improving Recycling Performance in HWRCs, with the aim of the Council piloting targeted interventions, public and staff communication and engagement strategies.
 - (4) Approve restrictions charity access at HWRC's to the following waste streams only: textiles, cardboard, large electrical goods (e.g. fridges), small electrical items and batteries.
 - (5) Approve the extension of HWRC annual festive site closures to include 26 December and 2 January in addition to 25 December and 1 January, to support staff wellbeing and align with seasonal frontline service delivery.
 - (6) Acknowledge the outcome of the assessment undertaken in response to the Council motion regarding the introduction of paint donation points at HWRCs, and agree that, due to identified operational and financial constraints, the proposal will not be progressed at this time.
-

The Plan for North Lanarkshire

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Priority | Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities |
| Ambition statement | (17) Ensure we keep our environment clean, safe, and attractive |
| Programme of Work | Sustainable Futures |

1. Background

- 1.1. North Lanarkshire Council operates six Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs), providing essential recycling and waste disposal services to residents. These sites facilitate the recycling and safe disposal of a wide range of household materials, supporting the Council's statutory duties under the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012, and contributing directly to the strategic objectives outlined in The Plan for North Lanarkshire and aligning with the Refuse Disposal Amenities Act 1978.
 - 1.2. The introduction of the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Regulations in Scotland, effective October 2023, requires councils to:
 - Identify WUDs containing POPs
 - Store POPs separately
 - Transport POPs using dedicated vehicles
 - Dispose of POPs exclusively by incineration at approved facilities
 - 1.3 WUDs must not be mixed with other waste streams at any stage. This has required substantial change within NLC's HWRC network and uplift operations.
-

2. Report

Financial Impact

- 2.1. Since the introduction of POPs regulations, North Lanarkshire Council have faced substantial cost increases as shown in Table 1 below:

| Cost Element | Pre-POPs regulations | Post-POPs regulations | Increase |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Disposal costs for WUDS | £172,713 | £412,293 | £239,580 |
| Additional operational costs (staffing, vehicles, compliance) | Not applicable | £719,096 | £719,096 |
| Total annual cost | £172,713 | £1,131,389 | £958,676 |

Table 1

- 2.2 Disposal costs alone increased by £239,580 in 2025/26 due to the requirement to incinerate POPs containing waste at specialist facilities. In addition, compliance with the regulations has necessitated additional staffing, dedicated vehicles, segregated storage and enhanced operational controls resulting in further annual costs of approximately £719,096. The staff and vehicles are being temporarily funded via the pEPR funding and are reporting an overspend on tonnage. The combined financial impact of POPs compliance is therefore estimated at £958,676 per annum.

Special Uplift Service

- 2.3 To ensure sustainability and achieve cost recovery, it is proposed that an £80 charge is introduced for WUDS uplifts.
- 2.4 This will require pre-collection screening through CRM booking forms to identify POPs-containing items. The proposed charge is based on a cost recovery model that reflects disposal outlet pricing and the council's operational costs. This approach supports compliance with POPs regulations while maintaining sustainability of the service. Currently four other Scottish Local Authorities (East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, Renfrewshire and Scottish Borders Councils) have introduced a charge for the separate collection of WUDS containing POPs items.
- 2.5 Disposal costs for WUDs items at compliant facilities range from £10 for small chairs to £40 for sofas and sofa beds. These costs do not include the council's transport or segregated handling costs which further increase the overall expense.
- 2.6 A point-based system is proposed to allocate charges proportionally based on item type and disposal costs as detailed in Table 2.

| WUDs item | Point(s) per item |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Office Chair | 1 |
| 2-seater sofa | 4 |
| 3-seater sofa | 4 |
| Corner Sofa | 4 |
| Armchair | 2 |
| Electric Recliner | 2 |
| Recliner | 2 |
| Rocking Chair Cushioned | 2 |
| Gaming chair | 2 |
| Dining chair cushioned | 1 |
| Conservatory Seating with cushions | 4 |
| Garden Seating-cushioned | 4 |
| Beanbag | 1 |
| Bench seat-cushioned | 2 |
| Chaise Longue | 2 |
| Sofabed | 4 |
| Futon | 4 |
| Pouffe / foot Stool | 1 |
| High Chair with cushioned seat | 1 |

Table 2

- 2.7 A fixed charge of £80 per uplift will be based on a maximum of 8 points per uplift. Anything more than 8 points will require an additional uplift to be booked, similar to the current Bulky Uplift service.
- 2.8 Without this adjustment, the council would absorb significant costs, jeopardising the viability of the special uplift service. The £80 charge ensures that the service remains financially sustainable and compliant with hazardous waste regulations.
- 2.9 There will be no change to the standard charges for non-WUDS uplifts.
- 2.10 The online request form will require to be updated for all special uplift items to maximise resources and improve recycling and recovery. This may take up to 3 months from approval.
- 2.11 It should be noted that residents will still have the opportunity to dispose of POPs containing WUDS free of charge at dedicated recycling centres. No change in tonnage is anticipated and there is not a requirement to redistribute staff. Due to the nature of this waste and the increased skip capacity to provide dedicated disposal points, those sites that will be large enough to provide a disposal point would be limited to the following three sites:
- Netherton HWRC, Wishaw
 - Wardpark HWRC, Cumbernauld
 - Stobcross Street HWRC, Coatbridge

- 2.12 All operatives at the sites will be provided with dedicated training on POPs identification, including those employed at the three other HWRC sites so they can provide advice on where such waste can be disposed of appropriately. The Council will also align with national public awareness campaigns to ensure residents are more aware of the reasons as to why there is now a need to collect and dispose of such waste separately.
- 2.13 Along with the specific communication on POPs, the Council aims to partner with Zero Waste Scotland to pilot initiatives from the forthcoming National Toolkit, focusing on:
- Improving HWRC recycling performance by improved signage and skip/container infrastructure.
 - Targeted interventions and enhanced communication strategies for residents and staff.
- 2.14 The Council will continue to monitor any potential impacts arising from the increased cost, including any associated illegal fly-tipping. Where incidents are identified and determined to constitute unlawful dumping, the service may, where appropriate, work in collaboration with relevant partners to consider suitable enforcement actions. It should also be noted that enhanced sanctions are being introduced by the Government, including provisions under which individuals convicted of fly-tipping offences may face additional penalties, such as penalty points on their driving license.

Charity Access to Household Waste Recycling Centres

- 2.15 Charities currently deposit mixed loads including general waste, WUDS containing POPs, house clearance materials and residual items not suitable for reuse/recycling at HWRCs. These materials fall outside the intended scope of charitable reuse and recycling activity and have created a significant and rising disposal cost for the Council. The cost of this cannot be estimated as material is not weighed on arrival. It is anticipated that there will be no change to the tonnage. Mixed loads are treated as POPs waste under current regulations, creating significant cost. Restricting charity access to the recycling of textiles, cardboard, large electrical goods (e.g., fridges), small electrical items, and batteries will ensure that site usage remains focused on genuine reuse and recycling activity, reduces avoidable disposal expenditure, and supports effective management of HWRC operations.
- 2.16 Charities that hold a North Lanarkshire Council Business Waste Account receive a free weekly uplift of up to 360 litres across waste streams such as paper, cardboard, plastics, metals, glass and residual waste. Any waste presented beyond the 360-litre allowance is chargeable at the rates set out in the Council's charging booklet. This will result in increased income but does not reduce the overall cost. In addition to these existing provisions, charities also utilise HWRCs for the disposal of materials listed above, and other non-recyclable materials (including WUDS containing POPs) resulting in additional and avoidable disposal expenditure.
- 2.17 Charities can arrange for the disposal of bulky items including waste upholstered domestic seating (WUDS) that contains Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) by contacting an appropriately licensed waste management facility that is authorised to accept and process POPs containing materials.
- 2.18 A Guidance document has been drafted (Appendix 1) that outlines the terms and conditions under which registered charities may access North Lanarkshire Council's HWRCs for the disposal and recycling of specific waste types generated through

charitable operations. Only registered charities with a valid Business Waste Account with North Lanarkshire Council and waste carriers license (free for charities) are eligible for access.

- 2.19 Charities may wish to review whether they continue accepting certain types of materials under the proposed changes. Charities will be able to continue accepting items they can sell; however, this may impact their ability to undertake full house clearances and dispose of materials free of charge. It is acknowledged that consultation with the charity sector has not been undertaken in advance of this report; however, subject to Committee approval in principle, charities who currently use this service will be contacted and advised of the proposed changes. Any amendments to the service will not be implemented until at least three months after initial engagement, allowing a transition period and, if required, any further changes to site rules to be reported back through the appropriate Committee process prior to implementation.

Extension of HWRC sites annual festive site closure to include 26 December and 2 January

- 2.20 HWRC sites have historically experienced significantly higher visitor numbers on 26 December and 2 January, resulting in increased pressures on staffing and site management during the festive period. These dates coincide with peak annual leave periods, making it challenging to resource sites safely without relying on overtime or reduced staffing levels. Extending the festive closures to include these dates would help ensure consistent and safe operational arrangements, support staff wellbeing during a period of high seasonal demand and bring HWRC closures into alignment with broader festive service patterns across frontline environmental operations. This would reduce overtime costs by £11.3k over the festive period.

Disposal of paint at HWRC's

- 2.21 A motion was agreed at Full Council requesting that officers assess the feasibility, operational implications, and financial considerations associated with introducing paint donation points at HWRCs. The motion acknowledged that current arrangements do not allow paint to be disposed of at HWRCs and referenced national estimates that significant volumes of usable paint are wasted each year.
- 2.22 The motion further noted that some local authorities have introduced paint donation points at HWRCs, enabling surplus paint to be collected for reuse by community groups, schools, businesses, and third sector organisations, including through participation in the Community RePaint scheme.
- 2.23 In response, officers liaised with other local authorities and undertook an assessment of the feasibility of introducing paint donation points at HWRC sites. This engagement identified that most local authorities consulted have not considered accepting paint as a waste stream at HWRC sites. Two authorities had previously trialed pilot schemes, reporting significant operational difficulties, including challenges in managing the quality and volume of paint presented for reuse and reliance on third-party organisations to service collection points. These findings informed a feasibility assessment which examined operational practicality, health and safety obligations, staffing impacts, site capacity and storage constraints, alongside the associated financial implication.
- 2.24 The assessment identified a number of specific local operational challenges associated with accepting and storing paint for reuse. These included limited available space at sites, the need for additional staff time and training, and health and safety

risks linked to handling and storage. The proposed service model relied on a third-party provider collecting only non-hazardous paint in good reusable condition, with periodic site visits to select suitable containers based on visual inspection only. Paint subsequently deemed unsuitable following off-site checks, would require to be returned to the HWRC for disposal, resulting in additional handling and disposal costs for the Council.

- 2.25 This model also raises wider governance and control issues, including how the Council would monitor the type and condition of paint deposited by the public, ensure its safe storage pending collection, and manage responsibility for rejected or returned paint. The requirement for a dedicated drop-off area, uncertainty over collection volumes, and the absence of funding to offset additional operational costs further increase risk.
- 2.26 Taking account of the operational and financial constraints identified, it is concluded that the introduction of paint donation points at North Lanarkshire HWRCs is unlikely to be progressed at this time. The volumes anticipated would overwhelm any potential off takers leading to an increased hazardous waste cost to NLC. The Council will continue to monitor developments within the waste and reuse sector, and review options should circumstances change in the future.

3. Measures of success

- 3.1. Increased recycling in outlet gate fees from higher quantity of recyclate and lower contamination of materials.
- 3.2. Improved staff satisfaction
- 3.3. Continued legislative compliance.

4. Supporting documentation

- 4.1 Appendix 1 Charity Access to HWRC Guidance



Lyall Rennie
Chief Officer (Community Operations)

5. Impacts

| |
|--|
| <p>5.1 Public Sector Equality Duty and Fairer Scotland Duty Does the report contain information that has an impact as a result of the Public Sector Equality Duty and/or Fairer Scotland Duty? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> <p>The impact may affect residents on lower income as the charge for the bulky uplift of WUDS containing POPs will increase from £42.55 to £80.</p> <p>If Yes, has an assessment been carried out and published on the council's website? https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/your-community/equalities/equality-and-fairer-scotland-duty-impact-assessments Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An assessment has been carried and approved however has not been published on the council's website yet.</p> |
| <p>5.2 Financial impact Does the report contain any financial impacts? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant financial impacts been discussed and agreed with Finance? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> <p>Development of the CRM will require to be resourced. This may need to be funded by Waste Resources to implement the new KPI's timeously.</p> |
| <p>5.3 HR policy impact Does the report contain any HR policy or procedure impacts? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant HR impacts been discussed and agreed with People Resources? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> |
| <p>5.4 Legal impact Does the report contain any legal impacts (such as general legal matters, statutory considerations (including employment law considerations), or new legislation)? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant legal impacts been discussed and agreed with Legal and Democratic? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> <p>The Persistent Organic Pollutants (Amendment) Regulations 2025 imposes new obligations on the council as detailed in the report</p> |
| <p>5.5 Data protection impact Does the report / project / practice contain or involve the processing of personal data?</p> |

| |
|--|
| <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, is the processing of this personal data likely to result in a high risk to the data subject?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, has a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) been carried out and e-mailed to dataprotection@northlan.gov.uk</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> |
| <p>5.6 Technology / Digital impact</p> <p>Does the report contain information that has an impact on either technology, digital transformation, service redesign / business change processes, data management, or connectivity / broadband / Wi-Fi?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> <p>The service will require development of the council's CRM system to implement the performance indicators.</p> <p>Where the impact identifies a requirement for significant technology change, has an assessment been carried out (or is scheduled to be carried out) by the Enterprise Architecture Governance Group (EAGG)?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> |
| <p>5.7 Environmental / Carbon impact</p> <p>Does the report / project / practice contain information that has an impact on any environmental or carbon matters?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> <p>Reduced idling from vehicles waiting in queues at HWRCs, an optimised skip collection programme based on booking information leading to fewer skip movements.</p> |
| <p>5.8 Communications impact</p> <p>Does the report contain any information that has an impact on the council's communications activities?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> |
| <p>5.9 Risk impact</p> <p>Is there a risk impact?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the key risks and potential impacts, highlighting where the risk(s) are assessed and recorded (e.g. Corporate or Service or Project Risk Registers), and how they are managed?</p> |
| <p>5.10 Armed Forces Covenant Duty</p> <p>Does the report require to take due regard of the Armed Forces Covenant Duty (i.e. does it relate to healthcare, housing, or education services for in-Service or ex-Service personnel, or their families, or widow(er)s)?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the provision which has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the particular needs of the Armed Forces community to make sure that they do not face disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public services.</p> |

5.11 Children's rights and wellbeing impact

Does the report contain any information regarding any council activity, service delivery, policy, or plan that has an impact on children and young people up to the age of 18, or on a specific group of these?

Yes No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact and the provision that has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the relevant Articles from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

If Yes, has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) been carried out?



Charity Access to Household Waste Recycling Centres

APRIL 2026

Purpose

This guide outlines the terms and conditions under which registered charities may access North Lanarkshire Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) for the disposal and recycling of specific waste types generated through charitable operations.

Eligibility

A charity must:

- Be a registered Scottish Charity
- Hold a valid NLC Business Waste Account
- Hold a SEPA waste carrier registration (free of charge for charities) - Please note under new Environmental Authorisation (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (EASR) if your charity had previously registered under the old regulations you will need to complete a new authorisation by 1 April 2027 – please follow the link - [Moving to the new Regulations | Beta | SEPA | Scottish Environment Protection Agency](#).
- Book via the council's online system in the name of the charity.

Permitted Materials

Charities **may** bring:

- ✓ Textiles
- ✓ Large electrical items
- ✓ Small electrical items
- ✓ Batteries
- ✓ Cardboard

These items must be clean, sorted and suitable for recycling.

Prohibited Materials

Charities may **not** bring:

- × Furniture
- × Waste Upholstered domestic seating (WUDS)
- × POPs containing items which can include;

| WUDs containing POPs items |
|------------------------------------|
| Office Chair |
| 2-seater sofa |
| 3-seater sofa |
| Corner Sofa |
| Armchair |
| Electric Recliner |
| Recliner |
| Rocking Chair Cushioned |
| Gaming chair |
| Dining chair cushioned |
| Conservatory Seating with cushions |
| Garden Seating-cushioned |
| Beanbag |

| |
|--------------------------------|
| Bench seat-cushioned |
| Chaise Longue |
| Sofabed |
| Futon |
| Pouffe / foot Stool |
| High Chair with cushioned seat |

- × General waste
- × Mixed loads from house clearances
- × Bulky items, for example large household items that are too big, heavy or awkward to fit in a standard wheeled bin and therefore require a special (bulky) uplift service.

Any prohibited items presented will result in refusal of access.

Alternative Disposal

Charities must arrange disposal of bulky items or POPs containing WUDs through a licenced waste management facility authorised to accept POPs.

Enforcement

Misuse, incorrect bookings or prohibited materials may result in:

- Restriction or denial of future booking requests
- Notification to SEPA