

## **Press statement – Recycling Centre Service restart guidance**

### **Monday 4th May 2020**

#### **[START]**

Local authority network groups have combined forces to produce a guidance document to restart recycling centres. Led by NAWDO, networks including the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC), Assistant Directors of Economy, Environment, Planning and Transport (ADEPT) and London Waste Advisory Recycling Board (LWARB) produced the restart recycling centre guide for local authorities.

Speaking on behalf of the key networks, Gurbaksh Badhan Chair of NAWDO said “the guide provides a number of considerations for local authorities in devising plans for restarting the recycling centre services. We hope colleagues across local authorities find the guide useful and can adapt to best fit their local needs. Customers using the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) will see noticeable changes. The sites will look and feel different to enable social distancing, this could include the phased restart of the HWRC service. Some may introduce a booking system or certain waste streams may not be accepted straightaway, for further information please check your local authority’s website. Anyone intending to visit the recycling centres is reminded to visit only if you need to and remember to keep two meters apart. Where possible and available use your kerbside collection services rather than visiting a recycling centre. Like many other sector services, the recycling centre service will need to be kept under review to reflect any changes in the national advice.”

Restarting recycling centres service will require a number of supporting systems to commence working again including supply chains. Changes may include a range of things to manage demand and social distancing. This could include phased opening of the network, traffic management, the number of customers able to be on site at any one time, restrictions on some materials as the supply chain may not be fully open at present, however may do so in coming days and weeks.”

The Coronavirus pandemic has brought unprecedented times to us all. Many local authority waste management services have continued to operate well with minor disruptions; other waste management services have been disrupted for a number of reasons including frontline staff shortages. Local authorities have worked hard to keep a range of their services moving, this is largely due to our teams on the ground delivering an essential service.

The majority of local authorities’ temporarily suspended HWRC services due to conflicting advice if the trip was considered essential travel. This meant customers would be sent back home and worse still be fined, the conflicting position needed to be resolved. Many local authorities are finalising their plans to restart their recycling centre services. A request to customers for a little patience at the restart, as we manage the initial customer demand and in advance a big thank you



NAWDO led on this project on behalf of the key networks, Gurbaksh Badhan NAWDO Chair said:

*“ Many local authorities have been busy putting their plans together to enable a restart of recycling centres and keeping social distancing at the forefront to keep staff and customers safe. A request to customers for a little patience at the restart, as we manage the initial customer demand and in advance a big thank you.”*

#### **[END]**

**Notes to Editors:**

For more information, please contact [admin@nawdo.org.uk](mailto:admin@nawdo.org.uk) or visit [www.nawdo.org.uk](http://www.nawdo.org.uk)

**Covid-19 Weekly waste survey:**

<https://www.adeptnet.org.uk/covid-19-waste-survey-results>

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**About NAWDO:**

*The National Association of Waste Disposal Officers is a network and voice for local authorities with statutory responsibility for waste treatment and disposal. NAWDO was formed in 1992 and its members include London Boroughs, Metropolitan, Unitary, Joint Waste Disposal Authorities, Waste Partnerships and County Councils from all UK regions (except Scotland) to keep up to date with the fast-changing waste and resources industry. With over 80 members NAWDO represents around 80% of all local authorities with waste disposal duties in the UK.*

**About LARAC:**

*The Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee was formed in 1985 to represent the emerging voice of local government recycling officers. Full Membership is open to any local authority within the UK. They represent local authority views in waste and recycling issues, and they are run by an Executive of 20 serving local authority waste management officers. They have members from authorities in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales including associates from the Channel Islands. Associate membership is open to any Local Authority with a waste function within the EU.*

For more information on LARAC please visit the website: [www.larac.org.uk](http://www.larac.org.uk)

**About LWARB:**

*The London Waste and Recycling Board is a partnership of the Mayor of London and the London boroughs to improve waste and resource management. The city's economic and environmental future depends on a transition to a low-carbon circular economy, and LWARB works to ensure that London's businesses, local government and communities thrive by helping them make the very best use of resources and materials.*

For more information on LWARB please visit the website: [www.lwarb.gov.uk](http://www.lwarb.gov.uk)

## **About ADEPT:**

*The Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport (ADEPT) represents 'Directors of Place' from county, unitary, metropolitan and combined authorities along with directors of local enterprise partnerships, sub-national transport bodies and corporate partners drawn from key service sectors. ADEPT members are at the very heart of maximising clean sustainable growth, delivering the projects that are fundamental to creating more resilient communities, economies and infrastructure. Over 14.7 million households in England – and two thirds of the population – rely on services provided by ADEPT members. These services include housing, environmental and regulatory services, planning, economic development, culture and highways and transport. The Association represents members' interests by proactively engaging central Government on emerging policy & issues, responding to consultations and enquiries, and promoting initiatives and research aimed at influencing Government policy.*

*For more information on ADEPT please visit the website: [www.adeptnet.org.uk](http://www.adeptnet.org.uk)*

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