

REPORT TO: CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 5 MARCH 2026

REPORT ON WITHDRAWAL OF EXTENDED OPENING HOURS IN THE SUMMER AT WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

REPORT NO: 62-2026

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek approval for withdrawal of extended summer opening hours at both recycling centres from April 2026.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Summer opening hours (April - September) are reduced to 09:00 to 17:15 Monday to Friday, at Baldovie and Riverside recycling centres, from April 2026.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 It is estimated that the change to opening hours will generate an annual revenue saving of £33,740 per annum from 2026/27 onwards.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Currently from April – September, both Baldovie and Riverside Recycling Centres extend their opening hours until 20:15 Monday to Friday. Four temporary staff are employed for 16.25 hours over 26 weeks to cover this requirement. The four temporary staff also provide holiday/relief and sickness cover during this period for the 6 permanent full-time staff.

4.2 The proposal was subject to the Budget Consultation exercise 2026/27 and feedback is contained within Appendix 1 of this report.

5.0 LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

5.1 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) are provided under section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA 1990). Local authorities are obliged to provide HWRCs for residents to dispose of their household waste free of charge. The sites must be reasonably accessible and available at reasonable times.

6.0 REVISIONS TO OPENING HOURS AND ASSOCIATED SAVINGS

6.1 It is proposed that the summer operating hours would reduce from 09:00 to 20:15 to 09:00 to 17:15 Monday to Friday. Weekend opening hours would remain unchanged at 09:00 to 17:15. Both Baldovie and Riverside recycling centres will continue to operate 7 days per week over 52 weeks each year, excluding specific public holidays at Christmas and New Year.

6.2 For comparison, neighbouring local authorities operate similar opening hours during the summer period. However, unlike Dundee many are not open 7 days per week.

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Dundee (Proposed)							
Baldovie	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Apr – Sep	09:00 to 17:15	09:00 to 17:15	09:00 to 17:15	09:00 to 17:15	09:00 to 17:15	09:00 to 17:15	09:00 to 17:15
Oct – Mar	09:00 to 16:15	09:00 to 16:15	09:00 to 16:15	09:00 to 16:15	09:00 to 16:15	09:00 to 16:15	09:00 to 16:15
Riverside	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Apr – Sep	09:00 to 17:15	09:00 to 17:15	09:00 to 17:15	09:00 to 17:15	09:00 to 17:15	09:00 to 17:15	09:00 to 17:15
Oct – Mar	09:00 to 16:15	09:00 to 16:15	09:00 to 16:15	09:00 to 16:15	09:00 to 16:15	09:00 to 16:15	09:00 to 16:15
Angus							
Carnoustie	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Apr – Sep	10:00 to 16:00	CLOSED	13:00 to 19:00	CLOSED	10:00 to 16:00	10:00 to 16:00	10:00 to 16:00
Oct – Mar	10:00 to 16:00	CLOSED	10:00 to 16:00	CLOSED	10:00 to 16:00	10:00 to 16:00	10:00 to 16:00
Forfar	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Apr – Sep	09:15 to 16:00	09:15 to 16:00	12:15 to 19:00	09:15 to 16:00	09:15 to 16:00	09:15 to 16:00	09:15 to 16:00
Oct – Mar	09:15 to 16:00	09:15 to 16:00	09:15 to 16:00	09:15 to 16:00	09:15 to 16:00	09:15 to 16:00	09:15 to 16:00
Fife							
St Andrews	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Apr – Sep	09:00 to 17:45	CLOSED	09:00 to 17:45	09:00 to 17:45	CLOSED	09:00 to 17:45	09:00 to 17:45
Oct – Mar	09:00 to 17:00	CLOSED	09:00 to 17:00	09:00 to 17:00	CLOSED	09:00 to 17:00	09:00 to 17:00
Cupar	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓
Apr – Sep	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	09:00 to 17:45	CLOSED	09:00 to 17:45	09:00 to 17:45
Oct – Mar	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	09:00 to 17:00	CLOSED	09:00 to 17:00	09:00 to 17:00
Perth and Kinross							
Blairgowrie	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Apr – Sep	09:00 to 16:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	09:00 to 16:00	09:00 to 16:00	09:00 to 16:00	09:00 to 16:00
Oct – Mar	09:00 to 16:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	09:00 to 16:00	09:00 to 16:00	09:00 to 16:00	09:00 to 16:00

6.3 Although there would be no requirement to employ the 4 temporary staff over the 26-week summer period, two temporary employees would be required on a 37 hours per week basis from April to October to provide holiday/relief and sickness cover for the 6 permanent full-time staff. This has been factored into the overall saving of £33,740 per annum.

6.4 It is recommended that the revised opening hours be introduced from April 2026.

7.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 This report has been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment to identify impacts on Equality & Diversity, Fairness & Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk. An impact, positive or negative, on one or more of these issues was identified. An appropriate senior manager has checked and agreed with this assessment. A copy of the Integrated Impact Assessment showing the impacts and accompanying benefits of / mitigating factors for them is included as an Appendix to this report.

8.0 CONSULTATIONS

8.1 The Council Leadership Team have been consulted on the preparation of this report.

Tony Boyle
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

Catherine Conroy
Head of Environment

March 2026

APPENDIX 1

Budget Consultation 2026/27 – Withdrawal of Summer Hours Recycling Centres

Respondents had concerns that shorter hours, especially a reduction in evening opening would force them to rely only on busy weekends which could increase queues and traffic.

Groups particularly affected include full-time workers, tradespeople, and those without regular transport.

There was widespread concern that reduced access would lead to more fly-tipping and worsening environmental conditions thus increasing council clean-up costs which would offsetting any saving.

Many felt this change would hinder responsible waste disposal, especially for residents relying on recycling centres due to limited bin collections or storage options.

Reduced hours were also seen as increasing inequalities by impacting non-car owners, shift workers, carers, and households with childcare or mobility needs.

Some respondents, such as retired residents and infrequent users, anticipated minimal impact. Others mentioned that sites were used significantly by non-residents of Dundee and that neighbouring authorities should be making contributions to running costs.

Alternative options recommended by respondents included adjusting hours rather than reducing them overall, proposing later openings (e.g. 11am–7pm) or retaining one/two late-night sessions per week.

Other suggestions included closing entire days instead of evenings, reviewing usage data to align hours with demand, improving household waste collection, reinstating local recycling points, simplifying centre rules, restricting access to Dundee residents, and enhancing site operations and communication.

APPENDIX 2



Integrated Impact Assessment

Committee Report Number: 62-2026

Document Title: Withdrawal of summer opening hours – Recycling Centres

Document Type: Service

Description:

This report seeks approval for the withdrawal of the summer opening hours at both recycling centres from April 2026.

Intended Outcome:

It is intended that the summer operating hours would reduce from 09.00 - 20.15 to 09:00 to 17.15 Monday to Friday. Weekend opening hours would remain unchanged from 09.00 to 17.15. Both Baldovie and Riverside recycling centres will continue to operate 7 days per week.

Period Covered: 01/04/2026 to 31/03/2027

Monitoring:

If summer hours are reduced, existing operational arrangements for dealing with fly tipping will continue as present. This will be monitored by environment/waste staff. Traffic management arrangements will be monitored and controlled by site staff. During peak periods, additional control measures can be implemented, e.g. staffing, signage and traffic management. The financial saving will be reviewed via the revenue monitoring process.

Lead Author:

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Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

Impacts & Implications

Age: Negative

It has been noted that elderly people including those with mobility limitations may struggle with increased queues and fewer quieter evening slots. Both Baldovie and Riverside recycling centres will continue to operate 7 days per week. Some respondents, such as retired residents anticipated minimal impact. Other services, policies and initiatives are available to assist elderly residents, i.e. assisted collections, special collections, additional bin policy and community clean ups.

Disability: Negative

It has been noted that people with mobility limitations or fatigue-related disabilities may struggle with increased queues and fewer quieter evening slots. It was also noted that disabled people who rely on another adult for transport lose flexibility, increasing barriers to responsible waste disposal and reduced independence and increased reliance on carers can lead to restricted access compared to non-disabled residents. Both Baldovie and Riverside recycling centres will continue to operate 7 days per week. Other services, policies and initiatives are available to assist disabled residents, i.e. assisted collections, special collections, additional bin policy and community clean ups.

Gender Reassignment: No Impact

Marriage & Civil Partnership: No Impact

Pregnancy & Maternity: No Impact

Race / Ethnicity: No Impact

Religion or Belief: No Impact

Sex: Negative

Lone parent families (mostly women) can face time pressures around work and childcare, making reduced hours harder to manage. Single female households with children highlight safety, access and time constraints. Both Baldovie and Riverside recycling centres will continue to operate 7 days per week. Other services, policies and initiatives are available to assist residents, i.e. special collections, additional bin policy and community clean ups.

Sexual Orientation: No Impact

Are any Human Rights not covered by the Equalities questions above impacted by this report?

No

Fairness & Poverty

Geographic Impacts & Implications

Strathmartine:	No Impact
Lochee:	No Impact
Coldside:	No Impact
Maryfield:	No Impact
North East:	Unknown
East End:	No Impact
The Ferry:	No Impact
West End:	Unknown

Household Group Impacts and Implications

Looked After Children & Care Leavers: Negative

Respondents within the budget consultation 2026/27 noted that reduced hours were seen as increasing inequalities by impacting non-car owners, shift workers, carers, and households with childcare or mobility needs. Both Baldovie & Riverside recycling centres will continue to operate 7 days per week. Other services, policies and initiatives are available to assist residents, i.e. special collections, additional bin policy and community clean ups.

Carers: Negative

As above

Lone Parent Families: Negative

As above

Single Female Households with Children: Negative

As above

Greater number of children and/or young children: Negative

As above

Pensioners - single / couple: No Impact**Unskilled workers or unemployed: No Impact****Serious & enduring mental health problems: No Impact****Homeless: No Impact****Drug and/or alcohol problems: No Impact****Offenders & Ex-offenders: No Impact**

Socio Economic Disadvantage Impacts & Implications

Employment Status: Negative

Respondents within the budget consultation 2026/2027 had concerns that shorter hours, especially a reduction in evening opening would force them to rely only on busy weekends which could increase queues and traffic. Groups particularly affected include full-time workers, tradespeople, and those without regular transport.

Both Baldovie & Riverside recycling centres will continue to operate 7 days per week. Traffic management arrangements will be monitored and controlled by site staff. During peak periods, additional control measures can be implemented, i.e. staffing, signage and traffic management. The reduction in opening hours will bring Dundee in line with neighbouring local authorities who operate similar opening hours during the summer period. Other services, policies and initiatives are available to assist residents, i.e. assisted collections, special collections, additional bin policy and community clean ups.

Education & Skills: No Impact

Income: No Impact

Caring Responsibilities (including Childcare): Negative

Respondents within the budget consultation 2026/27 noted that reduced hours were seen as increasing inequalities by impacting non-car owners, shift workers, carers, and households with childcare or mobility needs. Both Baldovie & Riverside recycling centres will continue to operate 7 days per week. Other services, policies and initiatives are available to assist disabled residents, i.e. assisted collections, special collections, additional bin policy and community clean ups.

Affordability and accessibility of services: Negative

Respondents within the budget consultation 2026/27 noted that reduced hours were seen as increasing inequalities by impacting non-car owners, shift workers, carers, and households with childcare or mobility needs. Some respondents, such as retired residents and infrequent users, anticipated minimal impact. Both Baldovie & Riverside recycling centres will continue to operate 7 days per week. Other services, policies and initiatives are available to assist residents, i.e. assisted collections, special collections, additional bin policy and community clean ups.

Fuel Poverty: No Impact

Cost of Living / Poverty Premium: No Impact

Connectivity / Internet Access: No Impact

Income / Benefit Advice / Income Maximisation: No Impact

Employment Opportunities: No Impact

Education: No Impact

Health: No Impact

Life Expectancy: No Impact

Mental Health: No Impact

Overweight / Obesity: No Impact

Child Health: No Impact

Neighbourhood Satisfaction: Negative

There was concern that reduced access would lead to more fly-tipping and worsening environmental conditions thus increasing council clean-up costs which would offset any saving. Many felt this change would hinder responsible waste disposal, especially for residents relying on recycling centres due to limited bin collections or storage options. Both Baldovie & Riverside recycling centres will continue to operate 7 days per week. Existing operational arrangements for dealing with fly tipping will continue as present. This will be monitored by environment/waste staff. Traffic management arrangements will be monitored and controlled by site staff. During peak periods, additional

control measures can be implemented, i.e. staffing, signage or traffic management. The reduction in opening hours will bring Dundee in line with neighbouring local authorities who operate similar opening hours during the summer period. Other services, policies and initiatives are available to assist residents, i.e. assisted collections, special collections, additional bin policy and community clean ups.

Transport: Negative

Respondents within the budget consultation 2026/2027 had concerns that shorter hours, especially a reduction in evening opening would force them to rely only on busy weekends which could increase queues and traffic. Groups particularly affected include full-time workers, tradespeople, and those without regular transport. Others mentioned that sites were used significantly by non-residents of Dundee and that neighbouring authorities should be making contributions to running costs. Traffic management arrangements will be monitored and controlled by site staff. During peak periods, additional control measures can be implemented, i.e. staffing, signage or traffic management. The reduction in opening hours will bring Dundee in line with neighbouring local authorities who operate similar opening hours during the summer period. Other services, policies and initiatives are available to assist residents, i.e. assisted collections, special collections, additional bin policy and community clean ups.

Environment

Climate Change Impacts

Mitigating Greenhouse Gases: Unknown

Adapting to the effects of climate change: No Impact

Resource Use Impacts

Energy efficiency & consumption: No Impact

Prevention, reduction, re-use, recovery or recycling of waste: No impact

Sustainable Procurement: No Impact

Transport Impacts

Accessible transport provision: No Impact

Sustainable modes of transport: No Impact

Natural Environment Impacts

Air, land & water quality: No impact

Biodiversity: No Impact

Open & green spaces: No Impact

Built Environment Impacts

Built Heritage: No Impact

Housing: No Impact

Is the proposal subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)?

No further action is required as it does not qualify as a Plan, Programme or Strategy as defined by the Environment Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Corporate Risk

Corporate Risk Impacts

Political Reputational Risk: Negative

The withdrawal of the summer opening hours at both recycling centres may lead to an adverse reaction from residents. Respondents within the budget consultation 2026/27 were concerned that reducing the hours would lead to an increase in fly tipping which could result in higher costs for the council to clean up and that the centres are already very busy, and reducing hours could exacerbate the problem, leading to longer queues and more inconvenience, particularly at weekends. (Mitigations as detailed above).

Economic/Financial Sustainability / Security & Equipment: Positive

The withdrawal of the summer opening hours at both recycling centres will achieve a recurring revenue saving.

Social Impact / Safety of Staff Clients: No Impact

Technological / Business or Service Interruption: No Impact

Environmental: No Impact

Legal / Statutory Obligations: No Impact

Organisational / Staffing & Competence: No Impact

Corporate Risk Implications & Mitigation:

The risk implications associated with the subject matter of this report are "business as normal" risks and any increase to the level of risk to the Council is minimal. This is due either to the risk being inherently low or as a result of the risk being transferred in full or in part to another party on a fair and equitable basis. The subject matter is routine and has happened many times.