

**Cabinet Meeting: Monday, 08 July 2024**

**Question from: Councillor Hunt**

**Question to: Councillor Durrans, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Public Services and Communities**

The people of Elland remain restless and concerned about the potential loss of the Elland Waste and Recycling Centre, previously recommended for the axe, but the fate of which remains pending till later in the year. I must warn with the utmost sincerity that any curtailment of this public service would lead to grim consequences on two accounts: the first, a negative impact on the environment and our Council's key climate agenda, on account of vast numbers of vehicle trips made by residents (in traffic) to alternative waste and recycling centres around the Borough. The second is the negative expected value inherent in cutting this service in terms of a spike in costly and damaging fly tipping.

Will the Council please ensure that they give careful attention to these two likely consequences of a potential closure and that they undertake meaningful research to establish the likely, empirical cost in closing the tip in terms of environment and monetary costs associated with pollution and fly tipping?

In short, my position and that of the residents of Elland is that keeping the tip open will SAVE the council money and assist with its core policy platform of achieving net zero in the long run.

### **Response**

Thank you for your question, and of course I can understand the concerns of local people in Elland.

However, as you are aware, no decision has yet been made to close Elland HWRC.

Please be assured that any future deliberations about this, or any other HWRC, will involve careful consideration of all relevant information, including the impact of the recently introduced permit scheme, and a clear desire to avoid any unintended financial or environmental consequences, such as those you indicate.

In terms of fly-tipping, this is of course a criminal and anti-social act which shows a brazen disregard for fellow citizens, as well as the wider environment, and for which I'm sure we will all agree there is absolutely no excuse.

Indeed, this is one of the reasons why Cabinet agreed last year to increase the level of fines that can be levied by the council to £1000, and why we pursue perpetrators vigorously, using technology as appropriate to help identify and prosecute those who continue to think this behaviour is acceptable.

For people who are unable, or do not wish to go to a HWRC, the council continues to offer a bulky waste collection service and there are also routes to dispose of surplus material through registered waste carriers (but it is very important that people check

that anyone taking waste is suitably registered or they could be leaving themselves open to challenge should the waste not be disposed of correctly).