

The Highland Council

Transport, Environmental and Community Services Committee
6 February 2014

Agenda Item	3
Report No	TEC 1/14

Review of Recycling Centres

Report by Head of Waste Management

Summary

This report details the outcome of the recycling centre review. The Council has 21 recycling centres located around Highland. They were either inherited from the District Councils in 1996 or constructed between 2004 and 2006 using the Strategic Waste Fund. All have different capacities, throughput and abilities with respect to the provision of recycling facilities and as a result deliver different rates of diversion. An analysis of travel distances to the sites and communities served revealed that areas in south west Ross/Lochalsh and parts of Lochaber are furthest from an existing site.

Members are invited to approve measure to improve the operation of our recycling centres which will include:

- A pilot programme at Alness recycling centre to examine a range of ways in which we can identify and then eliminate the deposit of commercial waste;
- A ban on the deposit of household waste which has arisen as part of a commercial operation (eg house clearance work);
- The introduction of specific times/days for the deposit of waste by vans and trailers to ease congestion and “skip blocking”;
- The introduction of an inspection system to ensure that residual waste brought to the site does not contain recyclable waste;
- The re-organisation of sites to increase the provision (space permitting) of recyclable containers and of materials which can be recycled.
- An application to Zero Waste Scotland has been made to examine alternative ways to engage with the public and improve segregation of recyclable materials.

1. Background

- 1.1 “Recycling centres” evolved from “civic amenity sites” which councils had (and continue to have) a statutory duty to provide by virtue of the Refuse Disposal Amenity Act 1978.
- 1.2 Although this duty has existed for over thirty years no guidance or enforcement action has provided councils with a view on either the type or number of facilities which would meet an individual authority’s statutory duty.
- 1.3 As a result the density and sophistication of provision varies considerably throughout Highland and Scotland.

- 1.4 Recycling centres offer relatively efficient storage, collection and transport of recycle.
- 1.5 They are however licensable activities by SEPA and therefore require to be operated in accordance with a licence, and to be staffed at all operating times.
- 1.6 They require therefore a revenue stream as well as a capital stream to construct and maintain.

2. Current Situation

- 2.1 The Council currently operates 21 recycling centres (offering widely diverging opportunities to recycle based on available space) across Highland most of which were put in place by the former district councils as civic amenity sites.
- 2.2 Upgrading of some of the existing sites and construction of five new sites at Wick, Thurso, Dingwall, Nairn, and Fort William, were undertaken in 2004-6 through the Strategic Waste Fund. The construction of Dingwall Recycling Centre in 2005 was approximately £0.5M.

3. Key Data

- 3.1 The throughput tonnage varies between nearly 14kT per year at Inverness and 180T at Durness (North West Sutherland) reflecting both population density and the facilities at each site.
- 3.2 The recycling rate at the modern sites varies generally between 70-50% whilst the small rural sites remain largely “civic amenity” in make-up achieving up to 20% diversion.
- 3.3 The types of material which is segregated for recycling differs markedly: Dingwall offering the greatest opportunity (22) and Durness offering the least (One - WEEE).
- 3.4 A full breakdown of the throughput and recycling rates is given in Table 1 of **Appendix I** and the materials which are segregated for recycling at each site is given in Table 2 of **Appendix I**.

4. Gaps in Provision

- 4.1 A key feature of a recycling centre is its proximity to its user population.

An analysis of highland's provision was undertaken the results of which are as follows (Figure 1 illustrates the data):

- 93,199 (83%) properties are less than 20 minutes travel time from a recycling centre ;

- 12,264 (11%) properties are between 20 and 40 minutes travel time from a recycling centre;
- 3,962 (3.5%) properties are between 40 and 60 minutes travel time from a recycling centre;
- 3,387 (3%) properties are more than 60 minutes travel time from a recycling centre.

4.2 An analysis of the largest communities in Highland based on population size and distance from the current recycling centre network (and also an absence of green waste collections and at least 10 miles from an existing site) illustrates those areas furthest from a recycling centre. The centres are given in table 1 below.

Table 1: Most Populated Areas in Highland more than 10 miles from an existing Recycling Centre

Community	Households	Comparable Site/HHds
Lochcarron/Kyle (RC/SL)	1,511	Kingussie HHds 1,511 Tonnes <500 T Recycled 55-60%
Drumnadrochit/F Augustus (I)	1,271	
Kinlochleven/Balachulish (L)	1,256	
Lybster/Helmsdale (C)	1,121	
Mallaig/Acharacle (L)	1,099	
Broadford/Sleat (SL)	878	
Cromarty/N Black Isle (RC)	685	
Total	7,821	

4.3 Whilst communities enjoy the benefits of recycling centres, they are expensive to provide and in low population centres little additional recycling will be achieved.

4.4 Since 2011, all households throughout Highland have access to kerbside recycling services through the alternate weekly collection. The bulky uplift service is available to over 98% of households in Highland. Over 98% of households live within a few miles of a recycling point. Despite this, there has been a proportional rise in the amount of residual waste collected at the recycling centres.

4.5 To tackle this increase, a programme of improvement at all recycling centres to increase diversion and reduce waste to landfill.

- A pilot programme at Alness Recycling Centre to examine a range of ways in which we can identify and then eliminate the deposit of Commercial Waste
- A ban on the deposit of household waste which has arisen as part of a commercial operation (eg house clearance work);
- The introduction of specific times/days for the deposit of waste by vans and trailers to ease congestion and “skip blocking”;
- The introduction of an inspection system to ensure that residual waste brought to the site does not contain recyclable waste;
- The re-organisation of sites to increase the provision (space permitting) of recyclable containers and of materials which can be recycled;
- An application to Zero Waste Scotland has been made to examine alternative ways to engage with the public and improve segregation of recyclable materials.

4.6 This programme will commence in April and will be rolled out throughout all recycling centres in order of priority based on throughput.

5. Implications

5.1 The proposals set out in this report will require to be delivered within the existing budget.

5.2 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

5.3 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5.4 Additional diversion of material from landfill will assist in reducing climate change implications and contribute to Carbon Clever.

5.5 There are no Risk implications arising from this report.

6. Recommendations

6.1 Members are invited to approve:

- a. A pilot programme at Alness recycling centre to examine a range of ways in which we can identify and then eliminate the deposit of commercial waste;
- b. A ban on the deposit of household waste which has arisen as part of a commercial operation (eg house clearance work);
- c. The introduction of specific times/days for the deposit of waste by vans and trailers to ease congestion and “skip blocking”;
- d. The introduction of an inspection system to ensure that residual waste brought to the site does not contain recyclable waste;
- e. The re-organisation of sites to increase the provision (space permitting) of recyclable containers and of materials which can be recycled.
- f. An application to Zero Waste Scotland has been made to examine alternative ways to engage with the public and improve segregation of recyclable materials.

Designation: Head of Waste Management

Date: 24 January 2014

Author: Head of Waste Management

Appendix I
Recycling Centres Baseline Data

Table 1: Highland's Recycling Centres and Throughput 2012-13

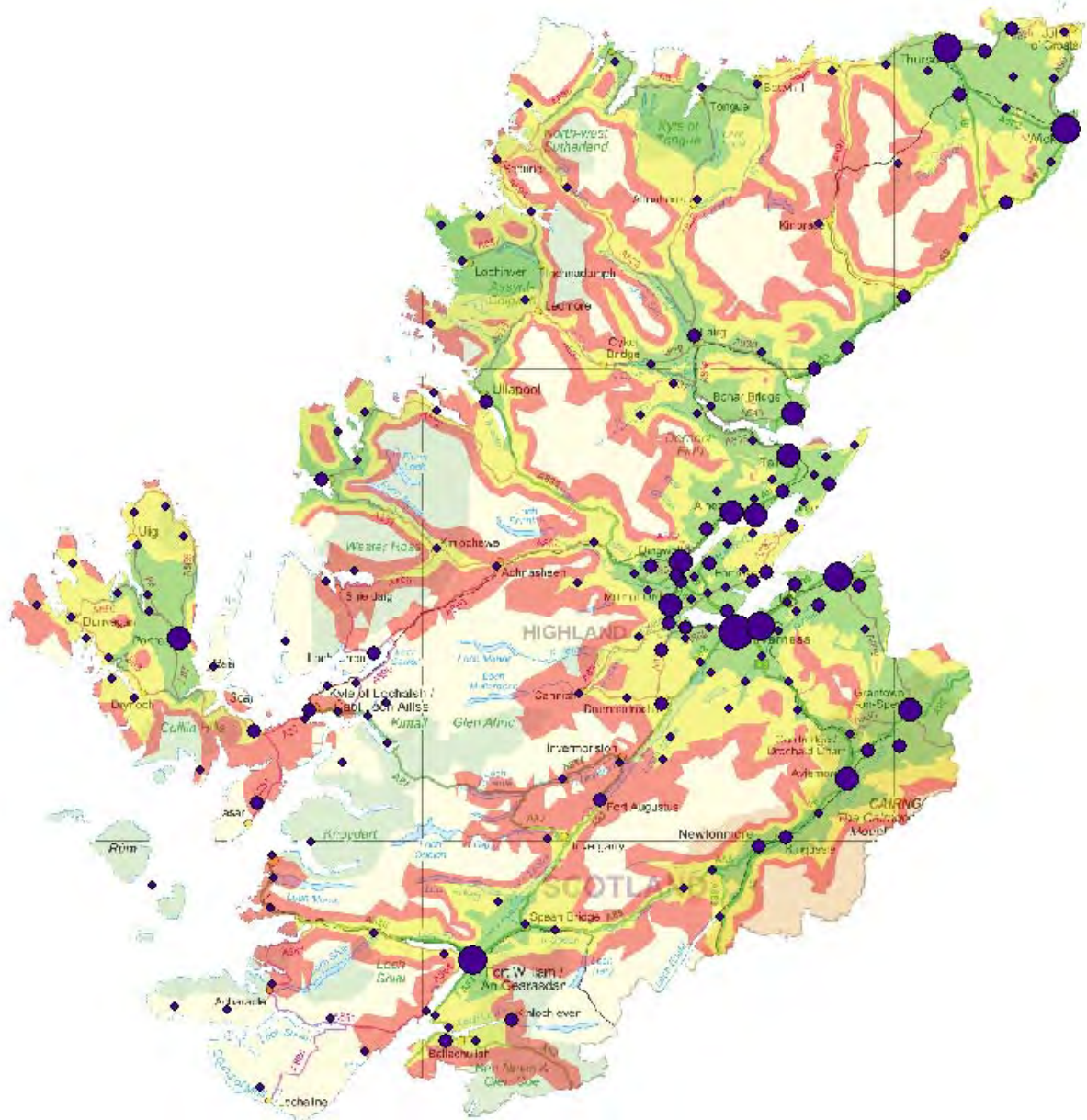
Recycling Centre	Catchment HH - 2011 Census Settlement zones	Total Arisings 2012-13 tonnes	Total Landfilled 2012-13 tonnes	Total recycled 2012-13 tonnes	Recycling Rate	Total arisings KG/HH	Recyclate kg/HH	Landfill kg/hh
Inverness	35474	13330	5058	8272	62%	376	233	143
Dingwall	9046	3581	1002	2579	72%	396	285	111
Thurso	6522	2173	988	990	46%	333	152	152
Fort William	6351	2389	1036	1448	61%	376	228	163
Nairn	5693	2724	709	2015	74%	479	354	125
Alness	5457	2681	1407	1274	48%	491	233	258
Wick	5369	2012	999	857	43%	375	160	186
Tain	5297	1685	741	943	56%	318	178	140
Portree CA	3681	1467	882	585	40%	398	159	240
Aviemore	2434	1035	337	698	67%	425	287	138
Achnagonalin	2039	546	203	342	63%	268	168	100
Ardachu	2039	4343	3755	360	8%	*	177	*
Kingussie	1511	238	101	137	58%	157	91	67
Gairloch	1041	1915	1502	102	5%	*	98	*
Ullapool	938	1523	1093	258	17%	*	275	*
Lairg	804	394	330	58	15%	490	72	411
Bonar	632	464	378	85	18%	734	135	599
Torbreck	497	1157	1028	25	2%	*	51	*
Achulvoldrach	473	1225	1106	21	2%	*	44	*
Seater CA	448	241	196	45	19%	537	99	438
Durness	347	179	174	5	3%	517	14	502

* The Transfer Station tonnages include weights for RCV collections

Table 2 – Number and type of Materials available for segregation at each Recycling Centre

Recycling Centre	Soil & stones (municipal)	Biodegradable waste	Wood	All WEEE	Metals	Cardboard	Glass	Plasterboard	Paper	Textiles	End of life tyres	Furniture	Mineral based chlorinated oil	Batteries - automotive	Gas cylinders	Bric a Brac	Bikes	Plastic packaging	Composite packaging (e.g Tetrapaks)	Metallic packaging (cans)	Batteries - post consumer	Oil filters	Cooking Oil	Number
Inverness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		20
Dingwall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	22
Thurso	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	22
Fort William	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	21
Nairn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	20
Alness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	18
Wick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	21
Tain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	19
Portree CA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	18
Aviemore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	20
Achnagonain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			13
Ardachu *	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>												<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	9
Kingussie		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>											5
Gairloch*		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										9
Ullapool*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>														8
Lairg		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>															<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5
Bonar		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3
Torbreck*				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																	3
Achulvoldrach*				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>														4
Seater CA				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6
Durness				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																				1
Total Number	13	17	15	21	18	12	18	12	12	14	12	7	12	11	11	3	2	11	5	11	11	10	9	
Total Tonnage 12-13	7500	4500	3150	2150	1500	1050	625	420	175	150	140	100	32	28	28	13	13	12	12	8	5	5		

Figure 1: Travel Times to Highland Recycling Centres



Legend:	GREEN	up to 20 minutes
	YELLOW	between 20 and 40 minutes
	RED	between 40 and 60 minutes
	NO COLOUR	greater than 60 minutes