

**REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES  
COMMITTEE ON 23 FEBRUARY 2010**

**SUBJECT: BULKY WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE**

**BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise members of the Council's Bulky Household Waste Collection Service and the option to include white goods in the charging scheme.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to Waste Management.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **That Members note the current provision and consider charging for the uplift of white goods.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 At the Economic Development and Infrastructure Services meeting on 8 December 2009, Members requested a report on the Council's Bulky Household Waste Collection Service to consider the service provision, charging unilaterally and the effects on fly-tipping. The service was previously reviewed and reported to the Environmental Services Committee on 29 September 2004.

3.2 History:

- Prior to the introduction of wheeled bins for households in 1998, charges were applied based on the cost of a quarter of an hour's attendance by the refuse collection crew per uplift and pro rata for any further time after that.
- Upon the introduction of wheeled bins, no excess waste was allowed to be placed by the wheeled bin for uplift and to allow the public to dispose of their waste easily, charges on bulky waste collections were dropped. However this proved problematical in both the number of residents continuing to place excess waste for collection and a substantial rise in the number of requests for bulky waste collections. These both put a strain on the service. There were around 16000 requests annually.
- There was no discernible reduction in the number of fly-tipping occurrences post cessation of bulky waste collection charges.
- In September 2004, the Environmental Services Committee agreed to allow 'jobbing' contractors a free deposit of waste arising from work at domestic properties to alleviate the problem faced by householders in disposing of this waste. The criteria for the provision of bulky waste collection was also reviewed to reduce the number of requests.

- The situation did not improve during 2005/06 and a report was submitted to the Environmental Services Committee in August 2006 to resolve the problem. Members approved the following:
  - (a) that bulky uplift telephone availability is reduced to 34 hours per week (Monday to Friday) and that on-line booking is promoted for the service;
  - (b) that collection of white goods continues to be collected separately at no cost to the householder;
  - (c) that a 'back door' collection service for bulky waste is made available to those residents who are infirm or disabled; and
  - (d) that the opening hours of the Council's recycling centres at Gollachy, Moycroft, Waterford and Keith be extended as follows:  
All year – Sunday 10am to 3pm  
April to October – Wednesday/Thursday 4pm to 7pm
  - (e) that the proposals set out in (a) to (d) above be reviewed in one year and a report thereon be submitted to the Environmental Services Committee.

The Policy and Resources Committee approved the reintroduction of a charge for bulky waste collection at £15.00.

- An interim report was submitted to the Environmental Services Committee in March 2007 and a report submitted in October 2007 advising Members of the effect of reintroducing charges. Wednesday and Thursday late opening was not deemed useful due to the low usage and was dropped. The number of requests for bulky waste collection was shown to have dropped dramatically by around 80% which had a severe detrimental effect on the anticipated income.
- The reintroduction of charges had no effect on the number of fly-tipping incidents. These in fact had dropped.

### 3.3 Current Service Provision:

- The service provision remains unchanged from that approved by Members in 2006.
- The number of bulky waste collection requests are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>White Goods</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
2007/08	2853	1862	4715
2008/09	2645	1517	4162
2009/10 to Dec.	1583	876	3318 full yr estimate

### 3.4 Fly-tipping:

The number of current fly-tipping incidents can be compared to past records:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of incidents</b>	<b>What would be expected if the Scottish average of</b>
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		<b>incidents per person was used for Moray</b>
2005/06	395	N/A
2006/07	281	713
2007/08	277	801
2008/09	238	665
2009/10 to Dec	145	387

It can be seen therefore that charging for bulky waste collection has no detrimental effect on the number of fly-tipping incidents. It can also be seen that the number of incidents of fly-tipping in Moray are below what could be expected from the population size.

### 3.5 Comparison with a sample of other authorities:

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Charge for bulky waste collection?</b>	<b>Charge for white goods collection?</b>
Moray	Yes	No
Aberdeenshire	Yes	Yes
Aberdeen City	Yes	Yes
Highland	Yes	Yes
Angus	Yes	Yes
Perth & Kinross	Yes	Yes
Stirling	Yes	No

### 3.6 Effect of charging:

From past evidence, charging for bulky uplifts has no effect on the number of fly-tipping incidents. Charging may not achieve additional income due the number of requests dropping.

## 4. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

### **(a) *Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan***

**The introduction of charging for the uplift of bulky household waste will have no effect on the SOA and SIP as the waste will continue to be produced.**

### **(b) Policy and Legal**

**The Council has a duty to collect household waste but may make a charge for the collection of bulky household waste.**

### **(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)**

**Past evidence shows that introducing a charge for the uplift of white goods will not result in the additional income anticipated from the number of potential collections.**

**(d) Consultations**

**There are no consultations associated with this report.**

**5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 Charging for bulky household waste has no impact on the number of fly-tipping incidents.**
- 5.2 Introducing a charge for the uplift of white goods will not result in the additional income anticipated from the number of potential collections.**
- 5.3 Members may wish to consider the introduction of charges for the collection of white goods.**

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Background Papers:

Ref: SW/732107