

REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 20 APRIL 2010

SUBJECT: WASTE MANAGEMENT – RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BULKY HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION AND THE WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS

BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 To advise members on the relationship between the Council's Bulky Household Waste Collection Service and the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations.

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 relationship between the bulky household waste collection service and the Council's duty under the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 At the Economic Development and Infrastructure Services meeting on 23 February 2010, Members requested a report on the implications of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations (WEEE Regs) in relation to their deliberations on the Council's Bulky Household Waste collection Service and in particular the charging of white goods.

4. Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA)

4.1 Under the EPA1990 and the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992, the Council is legally obliged to arrange for the collection of household waste and to provide facilities for the deposit of household waste by residents in its area.

4.2 There is no charge to residents for the collection of household waste or the deposit of this waste by them at designated facilities. However, there are certain types of waste classed as household waste for which a charge may be levied, in this case Bulky Household Waste (which does not fit or cannot fit into the standard wheeled bin).

5. Bulky Uplift Arrangements

5.1 Members agreed at their meeting on 23 February 2010 to continue to charge for bulky household waste but not to charge for white goods.

6. WEEE Regulations 2006

- 6.1 The main thrust of the regulations, to comply with the European WEEE directive is that Producers and Retailer/Distributors are held responsible for funding the collection, treatment and storage of WEEE.
- 6.2 The Council has no obligations under the Regulations but must continue to accept waste from households at its facilities. Therefore, the main recycling centres were entered into the takeback scheme (**Appendix 1**).

7. WEEE Arrangements

- 7.1 The Waste Management Officer registered the Council's main recycling centres as Designated Collection Facilities in May 2007 to ensure that it would not incur additional costs. The disposal of hazardous WEEE such as ODS (Ozone Depleting substances) fridges, CRTs (TV/monitor tubes) and fluorescent tubes are also included in this free uplift.
- 7.2 The Waste Management Officer on behalf of the Council, entered an agreement in 2008 with REPIC, one of the Producer Compliance Schemes to remove WEEE from Council facilities. Viridor, a company based in Perth remove and treat the WEEE on behalf of REPIC. Viridor bought out the company which the Council had previously dealt with therefore there was a smooth transition between service deliveries.
- 7.3 In 2008/09 over 400t of WEEE was sent for recycling through the scheme.
- 7.4 The scheme has run successfully since its introduction at no cost to the Council.

8. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan

The appropriate collection and recycling of WEEE is in accordance with the recycling targets contained within the SOA.

(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.

The Council has a duty to provide facilities where residents can deposit household waste free of charge.

The Council has no duty to be involved in the collection of WEEE, however to continue to accept WEEE from householders it was

required to have at least one Designated Collection Facility under the WEEE Regs.

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

There is no cost to the Council for the removal of WEEE from its recycling centres.

There is a cost to the Council for the uplift of White Goods as part of its Bulky Household Waste Uplift Service.

(d) Consultations

There are no consultations associated with this report.

9. CONCLUSION

9.1 There is no cost to the Council for the removal of WEEE from its recycling centres.

9.2 There is a cost to the Council for the uplift of White Goods as part of its Bulky Household Waste Uplift Service.

9.3 WEEE is stored at the Council's Designated Collection Facilities in accordance with the Code of Practice.

9.4 WEEE is transferred from the Council's facilities for recycling/reprocessing and disposal in accordance with the Code of Practice.

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Background Papers: None
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Appendix 1

Summary of WEEE legislation

- Under the European WEEE Directive, the UK Government has an obligation to collect 4 kilos per head of population.
 - The legal obligation of retailers (distributors) is to offer free in store take-back on a one-for-one, like-for-like basis or opt out using the Distributor Takeback Scheme (DTS).
 - The legal obligation of the producer is to finance the collection and treatment of separately collected WEEE through Producer Compliance Schemes (PCS).
 - Local authorities have no obligations under the Regulations.
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- Producer compliance schemes have to finance the costs of the collection, treatment, recovery and environmentally sound disposal of all WEEE from private households that is deposited at a Designated Collection Facility (DCF).
 - The Distributor Takeback Scheme had to register a network of designated collection facilities from which a producer compliance scheme can collect WEEE.
 - Local authorities were given the opportunity of registering sites as designated collection facilities with the Distributor Takeback Scheme. If they did not they would have to make their own arrangements for the removal and disposal of WEEE from their sites and claim back costs.
 - Producer Compliance Schemes then offered their services to designated collection facilities for the removal of WEEE.
 - The Department of Trade and Industry produced a Code of Practice for collection of WEEE from designated collection facilities in February 2007.
 - Producer compliance schemes and designated collection facilities have an obligation to comply with the standards contained in the Code.