

**Committee:** ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**Agenda Item**

**Date:** 23 January 2007

**12**

**Title:** Waste Collections from Community Premises.

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Item for decision

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### Summary

1. This report advises members of the need to set an equitable structure for the charging of waste collection from community premises. This arrangement has been considered and is recommended by the Waste Project Team. It offers a free collection from all premises to a fixed level of 1 bag per week from all premises. Trade waste charges are applicable for waste in excess of this amount.

### Recommendations

2. It is recommended that members approve the charging arrangement that reflects the wish to support community premises and balance it against the cost of collecting and disposing of the waste.
3. That a free service of 1 bag per week is implemented with effect from 1 April 2007. Community premises that have trade waste bags they no longer require may return them and request a refund.
4. Trade waste charges shall apply to premises that require waste services in excess of the free allowance.
5. Where successful recycling arrangements can jointly be established this will be a free service.

### Background Papers

6. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report:
  - Benchmarking from other authorities.
  - Respondents to community premises questionnaire on waste.

### Impact

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Communication/Consultation	Waste Project Team has considered how best to deal with the diversity of facilities and
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	<p>recommends this arrangement.</p> <p>A survey has been undertaken regarding the volume and type of waste generated from premises and the potential for recycling their waste.</p> <p>Community premises will be notified of this decision (if agreed) a voucher which maybe exchanged for a supply of bags will be provided.</p>
Community Safety	None.
Equalities	None.
Finance	There will be a rebalancing of this provision. Each premise will be subsidised by £52 pa.
Human Rights	None.
Legal implications	None.
Ward-specific impacts	All
Workforce/Workplace	There may be additional premises that need to be added to the existing domestic rounds.

## Situation

8. It has become self evident during the recycling implementation that some business/non-domestic premises have had collections from our domestic rounds. We have been establishing them on trade waste arrangements.
9. It is the norm that non-domestic premises are charged, and many "Community type" premises are long established on the trade waste system with all the Duty of Care arrangements in place. Others have historically been accessing the domestic system.
10. The Environmental Protection Act sets out the definition of domestic collection as being those properties that are residential. The charging of Council Tax separates the domestic premises from non-domestic. The former includes a contribution towards the cost of refuse collection the latter does not.
11. The council has the power to set the charge it feels appropriate for collection of non-domestic waste this is established within the council's fees and charges.

12. Members have indicated that they would like to review the charging for community premises.
13. The arrangements for community premises from other local authorities has been sought and this evidences a bias towards charging as trade waste.
14. We need to ensure that community premises have the opportunity to dispose of their trade waste responsibly.
15. We need to minimise waste to landfill where there is opportunity to do so.
16. The cost of sending waste to landfill has increased significantly in recent years and continues to rise well in advance of inflation.

### **Targets**

17. It is recognised that some community premises have low volumes of use or limited income. Others have a more commercial approach and are dealing with higher volumes of users, income and waste.
18. The aim of the charging policy is to give support to those without income raising opportunities and after the free allowance is used make a charge in line with the level of waste generated.
19. To be successful, the policy needs to be as clear and simple as possible whilst still achieving our aims.
20. Community premises are viewed for the purposes of this report as premises such as Village, Community and Church Halls, Places of religious worship, Youth voluntary premises, Day Centres.

### **Options**

21. It is proposed that each community premise is allocated a defined volume of free non-recyclable waste collection.
22. This will be the same volume for each premise which will be 1 bag per week. Once the volume of free waste is exceeded trade waste charges are applicable.
23. Those halls that have trade waste containers in place will be credited the value of the bags against their invoice.
24. Premises suited to receiving a free collection of recyclables will be offered the opportunity to trial and test what can reasonably be achieved.

### Pay-Offs/Penalties

25. Support is given to all community premises equally. This will equate to a free service for those producing up to one bag of non-recyclable waste per week.
26. We will work with premises that are interested in recycling as a method of reducing their waste and costs and those receiving a free service where there is sufficient volume to support the need for a collection.
27. Any reduction in waste to landfill will be of environmental benefit.
28. This is another message to the community that we need to tackle the problem of waste.
29. The proposed system of charging will give an equal level of benefit from the council to support each premise.
30. Those who produce in excess of the free allowance are likely to be those that have commercial lettings/income.

### Risk Analysis

31. The following have been assessed as the potential risks associated with this issue.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That the volume of free waste collection will not be welcomed by those that produce large amounts of waste	Med	Med	The volume of waste may be reduced by recycling. The charges can be passed on to hires that create the waste.
Premises that produce zero waste currently may choose to change their habits and make use of the free service.	Low	Low	We need to accept that this may occur. New premises will need to fit in with collection schedules.

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mitigating actions</b>
Participation in recycling may be difficult where hirers do not comply with the need to separate waste.	Med	Low	Initiating recycling on a trial basis will allow the possibilities to be assessed. Clear instructions on the bins will aid compliance.
That some premises may pass their free sacks to commercial operators	Low	Low	Special coloured sacks will be provided to identify the non-recyclable waste.