

Committee: Environment Committee

Agenda Item

Date: 22 January 2008

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Title: BULKY WASTE CHARGING

Author: Diane Burrige, Director of Operations, 01799 510580 Item for decision

Summary

- 1 Members are offered the opportunity of revisiting the Waste Strategy for Uttlesford 2005 in respect of its policy for the Bulky Waste Service for domestic properties.

Recommendations

- 2 That Members consider the introduction of a charge for bulky waste and select a charging structure from the list of options.
- 3 That members agree the level of charge.
- 4 That a Recycling booklet is produced this year to supersede the May 2006 edition.

Background Papers

- 5 The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author.
 - Waste Strategy for Uttlesford 2005.
 - Bulky waste arrangements for the top 21 recycling performers
 - Bulky waste arrangements for Essex waste collection authorities

Impact

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Communication/Consultation	Customers will be advised of any charge at point of commissioning, council's fees and charges available on web site. Revised publication of recycling booklet.
Community Safety	None.
Equalities	None.
Finance	Charging will contribute to the cost of service provision. Cost of publication of revised recycling booklet.

Human Rights	None.
Legal implications	None.
Ward-specific impacts	All
Workforce/Workplace	Additional element to dealing with customer request to obtain payment.

Situation

- 7 The number of collections continues to rise as does the cost of providing the service, notably the cost of fuel.
- 8 In accordance with the strategy the council offers a free collection service for items of furniture and white goods. Other items that are part of the fixtures and fittings of a domestic property are chargeable e.g. boilers, kitchen units, bathroom suites. Commercial fitters of such items have a responsibility to deal with waste resulting from their business and need not be funded by the local authority.
- 9 A requirement of the Waste Electrical and Electronic (WEE) Regulations place a responsibility on suppliers to remove and recycle large items such as cookers, fridges and freezers, most do this at low cost (most commonly £7) or free of charge.

Collection arrangements

- 10 There is a requirement to collect fridges and freezers separately from other bulky waste to permit responsible disposal.
- 11 Other bulky waste items are tipped into landfill, there are no opportunities for UDC to separate and recycle. However, householders can pursue reuse by choosing other routes for disposal of items such as donate to charity, sell, and deliver to a Recycling Centre.

Other Authorities

- 12 Table 1 attached to this report show that 19 of the top 21 recycling authorities apply a charge for bulky waste.
- 13 Table 2 shows the arrangements for other Essex Authorities. This evidences that those authorities that do not apply a charge are all at the top of the table for number of collections per household and generally have increasing numbers to deal with. The reverse applies to those that charge with collections per household generally reducing and having a lower number of collections per household.

Targets

- 14 Anecdotal evidence suggests that customers will be prepared to pay for a service particularly if the service can be prompt or by appointment.

Options

- 15 Charging structure that limits the number of items and a permits low cost or free first collection in each financial year and then applies a charge for all subsequent collections in the same year sufficient to recover their cost.
- 16 Fixed charge for a fixed number of items.
- 17 A separate charge for white goods from other bulky items.
- 18 A fixed charge for a set number of items and charge per each additional item.

Pay-Offs/Penalties

- 19 This will bring some equity to those residents that rarely use the service in balance with those who access the service frequently.

Risk Analysis

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

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That fly tipping may increase	Experience of other councils indicates the likelihood of an increase is low	Low	High profile enforcement will be a deterrent. Performance measurement will identify any increase. Review impact in 12 months
That community may be confused about the introduction of a charge	Medium	Medium	Clear communication of the charging structure.

Table 1

ESSEX AUTHORITIES							
BenchMarking of Bulky Household Waste Collections							
District	Price	Restriction on No. (up to...)	Number per Year			Collections per property 2003/4	Collections per property 2006/7
			2003/4	2006*	2006/7		
Harlow	None	3 large items or 8 bags	18,200	16,000	14,059	0.535	0.402
Uttlesford	None	None	7,700	10,550	9,546	0.266	0.309
Basildon	None	5 items	19,000	31,688	28,600	0.264	0.391
Rochford	None	3 items, once per 3 months only	7,000	12,540	14,522	0.211	0.426
Brentwood	£12 min charge	For 2 items, £6 per item thereafter	3,000	2,500	2,000	0.099	0.065
Thurrock	£12.71, £22.25	3 & up to 10 respectively, >10 = quotable	5,153	-	3,865	0.084	0.063
Epping Forest	£22, £27, £37, £45	3, 7, 10, 15 items respectively	4,000	4,000	3,785	0.077	0.071
Chelmsford	£19.80	5 items, plus £12.10 for fridges, £24.20 for fix & fits	4,900	-	4,000	0.074	0.061
Braintree	£23.50	6 items	2,950	-	2,997	0.052	0.053
Southend	Individually priced	None	3,120		2,410	0.045	0.031
Maldon	£18.75 3 items £6.25 each additional	3 items, contractor quotes, £23.50 if collect fridges	780	710	710	0.031	0.027
Castle Point	£25.00	5 items, free to OAP	1,000	2,000	2,000	0.028	0.055
Tendring	£16.50+VAT	3 items	1,645	-	1,010	0.026	0.016
Colchester	£21.54, £10.02, free	5 bulky items, up to two white goods items	1,300		2,984	0.020	0.045
* Results from survey carried out by Tim Read - Castle Point							

Table 2

TOP RECYCLYERS & COMPOSTERS	
Bulk Collection Policy (from recycling rate survey 10/2007)	
LOCAL AUTHORITY	Bulk Policy
Daventry	3 items £15 up to 6 items £30
Waveney	3 items £22
Chiltern	3 items £25 then £15 per extra
South Cambridgeshire	3 items £30 then £5 per extra
Chichester	3 items £33
Cherwell	4 items £10
Mid Suffolk	5 items £16
St Edmundsbury	5 items £20 then £3 per extra
Forest Heath	5 items £20 then £3 per extra
South Norfolk	5 items £25 then £4 per extra
Stratford-on-Avon	6 items £20
Huntingdonshire	6 items £23.70
Eastleigh	8 items £27 then £2.50 per
Ryedale	Free
Harborough	Charge - apply for quotation
Hambleton	Charge - apply for quotation
Melton Mowbray	Charge - apply for quotation
Rushcliffe	First item £11 then £5 per
Lichfield	First item £13.60 then £5.60 per
Charnwood	Up to 3 x 3 item collections free per annum
North Kesteven	First 3 items £6, 4-6 items £12