

LEISURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

REVIEW OF BULKY WASTE AND ELECTRICAL ITEMS COLLECTION

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide members with an analysis of the collection service and to set out proposals for future development.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 The council currently collects household waste that does not fit in the household bin through 2 routes. The first uses a box van equipped with a tail lift to collect electrical items including fridges and freezers. These are taken to the Household Waste Recycling Centre where they are passed on for recovery. Other bulky items are collected using a refuse collection vehicle and are taken with the household refuse for incineration. Throughout this report the term Excess is used to refer to both the Electrical Items and Bulky Household Waste items. The service collected over 4300 bulky items and 1410 electrical items in 2018/19.

- 2.2 A study is already underway to look at the possibilities of implementing a re-use scheme for many of the items collected through these services in council properties.

3.0 The impact of Charging on flytipping

- 3.1 Questions have been raised about whether charging for Excess waste collection encourages flytipping. Comparisons were made with 3 local authorities who collect excess waste free of charge to see if there was a significant variation in the quantity of fly tipped waste or in its composition (**Appendix A**).

- 3.2 What the analysis shows is that a free collection does not result in a reduction in flytipping there are a significant number of factors involved in flytipping which is a crime that does not follow geographical boundaries. Some of Newark and Sherwood's best features such as its rural nature combined with great transport links unfortunately make it an ideal area in which to fly tip waste.

4.0 Review of Charges

- 4.1 The Table below shows a comparison of the current charges made by the 7 collection authorities within Nottinghamshire. Newark and Sherwood District Council's existing fees are slightly below the county average.

	Bulky			White Goods		
	1ST	2ND	Total	1ST	2ND	Total
Ashfield	£13.00	£7.00	£20.00	£18.00	£7.00	£25.00
Bassetlaw	£12.50	£9.00	£21.50	£12.50	£9.00	£21.50
Broxtowe	£20.00	£7.00	£27.00	£20.00	£7.00	£27.00
Gedling	£14.00	£8.00	£22.00	£14.00	£8.00	£22.00
Mansfield	£10.20	£10.30*	£20.50	£16.00	£16.00	£32.00

Newark	£14.00	£8.00	£22.00	£14.00	£8.00	£22.00
Rushcliffe	£17.50	£8.50	£26.00	£17.50	£8.50	£26.00
AVERAGE	£14.46	£8.26	£22.71	£16.00	£9.07	£25.07

*can be up to 2 items

- 4.2 Moving to a free service is likely to have significant financial implications to the authority. As a waste collection authority we are legally bound to arrange for the collection of this type of waste and presently the charges levied allow us to collect this waste as a cost neutral exercise. Taking the figures from 2018/19 the service cost £84,524 to operate and the income achieved was £84,859. A free service would not only result in a shortfall of £84k but it would certainly dramatically increase the demand for the service which if this only resulted in a requirement for one additional team that would be another £84k, realising a total cost of £168k.
- 4.3 A free bulky waste collection might also have a detrimental effect on legitimate waste collection businesses in the area who are suddenly undercut by these changes.
- 4.4 Included within the figures for collection and charges is the disposal of white goods. As members will know, white goods when fly tipped can represent a real danger to the environment and to children. This type of waste has increasingly been left on footpaths by residents who hope that a “scrap man” will stop and take them away. This does happen but once the valuable parts are removed the white goods get fly tipped anyway. A calculation has been made to estimate the financial impact of removing the charge for the collection of white goods. For the financial year 18/19 the cost of the service was £6,000 and the income was £15,500 with over 1,200 items collected. Overall this represents a profit of £9,500. It is likely that a free service will attract more usage and so if the service was provided free of charge not only would the £9,500 profit be lost the cost of the service could increase to £12,000.

5.0 Proposals

- 5.1 The recent resident’s survey highlighted the requirement for additional resources in certain wards of the district. It is anticipated that at least 3 “Days of Action” will be carried out in 2020 and we would propose to provide free bulky waste collections during those days. This would alleviate pressures within the areas identified, allowing removal of stored items in gardens and communal areas as well as reducing the risk of fly tipping, which in turn will have an additional, positive impact on the environment.
- 5.2 That the bulky waste scheme is more widely promoted as a low cost and legitimate method of disposing of excess waste items
- 5.3 In order to make the scheme more attractive to residents it is proposed that we reduce the fee to £13 for the first item and £7 for subsequent items for both bulky waste and white goods. This would place our charges as significantly below the average for Nottinghamshire. Increased use of the service may make up for the drop in revenue.

6.0 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 An implications checklist has been completed. No requirement for an impact assessment was identified

7.0 Financial Implications (FIN19-20/9731)

7.1 If the proposed changes are implemented we expect to see a decrease in revenue income of approximately £6,230. However it is hoped that service requests may increase following the reduction in prices and the extra promotion of the service. Any additional costs to promote the service can be met within the current Cleaner, Safer, Greener revenue budget.

8.0 Community Plan – Alignment to Objectives

8.1 1.1 Increasing Awareness and take-up of the bulky waste collection service offered by the council.
1.2 improved communications around enforcement activity and bulky waste services.

9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS: that

- (a) Newark & Sherwood do not progress with a “free of charge” bulky waste service at this time;
- (b) the bulky waste and white goods charges are altered in line with the proposals in 5.3;
- (c) the provision of free bulky waste days are trialled in selected areas and are dovetailed with the next 3 Days of Action being planned in 2020; and
- (d) some of the current Cleaner, Safer, Greener budget is utilised to fund the additional promotion of the bulky waste service.

Background Papers

Nil.

For further information please contact Andrew Kirk on Ext: 5577

Matthew Finch
Director – Communities & Environment

APPENDIX A – comparison of flytipping incidents 2018/19

	Newark and Sherwood District Council	Nottingham City Council	North Lincolnshire Council	Charnwood Borough Council
Total Incidents	1372	7864	1488	852
Single Black Bag Incidents	159	3716	34	19
Single Item Incidents	182	1820	150	182
Car Boot or Less Incidents	229	978	389	251
Small Van Load Incidents	526	816	553	254
Transit Van Load Incidents	229	534	270	115
Tipper Lorry Load Incidents	46	0	49	27
Significant / Multi Loads Incidents	1	0	36	3

Table A1 Number of flytipping incidents by size

	Newark and Sherwood District Council	Nottingham City Council	North Lincolnshire Council	Charnwood Borough Council
Single Black Bag Incidents	12%	47%	2%	2%
Single Item Incidents	13%	23%	10%	21%
Car Boot or Less Incidents	17%	12%	26%	29%
Small Van Load Incidents	38%	10%	37%	30%
Transit Van Load Incidents	17%	7%	18%	13%
Tipper Lorry Load Incidents	3%	0%	3%	3%
Significant / Multi Loads Incidents	0%	0%	2%	0%

Table A2 Incidents by size as a percentage

	Newark and Sherwood District Council	Nottingham City Council	North Lincolnshire Council	Charnwood Borough Council
Household Waste	52%	86%	86%	63%
Other Waste	48%	14%	14%	37%

Table A3 Waste by Percentage Source

	Newark and Sherwood District Council	Nottingham City Council	North Lincolnshire Council	Charnwood Borough Council
Area (Sq Miles)	251.5	28.81	326.80	107.7
Number of flytips per square mile	5.46	272.96	4.55	7.91

Table A4 – Number of flytipping incidents per Sq Mile

	Newark and Sherwood District Council	Nottingham City Council	North Lincolnshire Council	Charnwood Borough Council
Total Incidents	1372	7864	1488	852
Animal Carcass Incidents	1	68	6	0
Green Incidents	123	481	51	86
Vehicle Parts Incidents	21	32	14	13
White Goods Incidents	82	596	71	74
Other Electrical Incidents	6	377	18	10
Tyres Incidents	82	99	33	19
Asbestos Incidents	20	37	2	25
Clinical Incidents	0	0	2	1
Constr / Demol / Excav Incidents	175	66	42	99
Black Bags - Commercial Incidents	10	106	10	2
Black Bags - Household Incidents	157	4567	294	88
Chemical Drums, Oil, Fuel Incidents	16	0	7	16
Other Household Waste Incidents	475	1261	893	361
Other Commercial Waste Incidents	52	0	26	3
Waste Type Measures Other	152	174	19	55

Table A6 Incidents by Type

	Category for Table 3	Newark and Sherwood District Council	Nottingham City Council	North Lincolnshire Council	Charnwood Borough Council
Animal Carcass Incidents	Other Waste	0%	1%	0%	0%
Green Incidents	Other Waste	9%	6%	3%	10%
Vehicle Parts Incidents	Other Waste	2%	0%	1%	2%
White Goods Incidents	Household Waste	6%	8%	5%	9%
Other Electrical Incidents	Household Waste	0%	5%	1%	1%
Tyres Incidents	Other Waste	6%	1%	2%	2%
Asbestos Incidents	Other Waste	1%	0%	0%	3%
Clinical Incidents	Other Waste	0%	0%	0%	0%
Constr / Demol / Excav Incidents	Other Waste	13%	1%	3%	12%
Black Bags - Commercial Incidents	Other Waste	1%	1%	1%	0%
Black Bags - Household Incidents	Household Waste	11%	58%	20%	10%
Chemical Drums, Oil, Fuel Incidents	Other Waste	1%	0%	0%	2%
Other Household Waste Incidents	Household Waste	35%	16%	60%	42%
Other Commercial Waste Incidents	Other Waste	4%	0%	2%	0%
Waste Type Measures Other	Other Waste	11%	2%	1%	6%

Table A5 – Percentage Incidents by Type