

ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 8
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Report of the Commercial Services Director

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REVIEW OF THE IMPACT OF THE CHARGE FOR BULKY WASTE COLLECTION

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 Peterborough City Council withdrew its free bulky waste collection service following a decision taken by Members in February 2010, and a new chargeable service was introduced on 1 April 2010. This report is designed to give an update on the progress of the new scheme and the effects it has had on the service to the public, the service budget and on the general environment.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To scrutinise the impact of the charge for bulky waste collection, including the benefits that are being achieved in respect of the diversion from landfill together with the reduction in the tonnage of flytipping over the last 6 months.
- 2.2 To indicate whether or not any further reports are required in respect of this service.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 The bulky collection service contributes to the Council's strategic priority of creating the UK's environment capital in that the new system is enabling the Council to more effectively sort and recycle items being collected from domestic premises. As shown later in the report the amount of bulky items going to landfill has reduced.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The service has traditionally been split into two distinct parts, due to legislation which demands separate treatment of waste electrical equipment (referred to as White Goods) and general waste (referred to as Bulky Waste). These two streams have therefore been collected in different vehicles and are subject to the following separate reports showing the numbers collected over the past 31 months, January 2008 until the end of September 2010.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 The old bulky waste collection scheme allowed residents to have one collection per financial year of up to five items, but did not include builder's waste or hazardous waste, although quotes could be given for such materials. The new scheme allows residents to have an unlimited amount of items which were previously free, collected for a one off price of £23.50. Any items which did not qualify for the old free collection service will be removed after a quote has been given by the City Council.
- 5.2 Numbers of requested bulky collections has fallen sharply since the introduction of the new chargeable service, as shown in the tables below:

Bulky collections (Non electrical)

Month	2008	2009	2010
January	754	709	605
February	816	684	802
March	831	1039	1065
April	1300	1144	393*
May	1046	976	188*
June	908	1007	189*
July	933	933	181*
August	841	864	202*
September	852	909	200 *
October	881	799	
November	749	707	
December	634	704	

Totals: 10545 10475 3825
Since 1st April 1353*

White Bulky collections

Month	2008	2009	2010
January	608	612	493
February	601	579	553
March	656	837	805
April	911	917	247*
May	814	709	122*
June	658	784	117*
July	742	732	118*
August	560	630	122*
September	656	628	115 *
October	591	549	
November	520	489	
December	465	474	

Totals: 7782 7940 2692
Since 1st April 841*

- 5.3 Due to the substantial fall in collections, we have been able to redeploy an HGV driver back to the main fleet, and we now use a 7.5 tonne vehicle to carry out the service, with some of the white goods requests being picked up by our WEEE facility collection vehicle.
- 5.4 As individuals now ask for collections of white goods and other household waste only a single charge is levied although for collection records this is separated. The income for the period 1 April to end of September 2010 from bulky collections is £31,834.
- 5.5 One significant benefit of introducing a charging regime for bulky collections is that prior to charges being levied a significant proportion of waste was not presented for collection. Across a year 23% of requests for bulky collections resulted in wasted journeys. The Council wasted time, money and fuel on these non-collections and the numbers have now fallen to 6% and in total this is 50 non-collections as opposed to 881 in the four month period for the previous year.

Landfill and Flytipping

- 5.6 The tonnages of bulky items going to landfill, has also decreased substantially, both due to the obvious decrease in collections as well as the new system whereby the collections made are automatically sorted for recycling and reuse rather than going straight to the landfill site. The tonnages for April and May 2010 include some other work not related to the bulky collection service, so figures from June onwards are more accurate for the purpose of comparison.

	Bulky collections - tonnes		
	2009	2010	Difference
April	76.26	60.56	-20.59%
May	65.4	60.52	-7.46%
June	66.48	46.5	-30.05%
July	42.44	12.36	-70.88%
August	64.58	24.5	-62.06%
September	69.48	30.92	-55.50%
October	50.02		
November	41.94		
December	44.84		
January	47.42		
February	49.84		
March	91.12		

- 5.7 Contrary to popular belief there has not been a simultaneous increase in fly tipping tonnages collected in the Authority, as substantiated by figures shown in the table below:

	Flytipping Tonnages		
	2009	2010	Difference
April	150.1	29.21	-80.54%
May	70.86	21.02	-70.34%
June	119.48	18.24	-84.73%
July	105.84	42.6	-59.75%
August	89.62	49.6	-44.66%
September	88.39	45.62	-48.39%
October	28.34		
November	16.48		
December	28.02		
January	83.84		
February	90.16		
March	17.46		

Fly tipping Incidents

	2009	2010
April	849	695
May	678	647
June	758	841
July	635	638
August	591	725
September	691	743
October	620	
November	633	
December	531	
January	645	
February	583	
March	771	
Total	7985	

- 5.8 Over the first six months there has been an increase of 87 reported incidents of fly-tipping. However, many of these reports were of individual items such as bags and the total number of incidents that have had to be investigated, i.e. significant fly-tips, is down to 591 compared with 626 in 2009/10. This is borne out by the reduction in weight of fly-tipped material which has gone down from 534 tonnes to 206 tonnes in the first six months of this year.

Bulky Prices

- 5.9 There is a great variation in the charges made for bulky collections nationally and include below some examples for information:

<u>Authority A</u>	1 item = £20 2 or 3 = £26 4 to 6 = £30 7 to 10 = £40 Fridge = £20
<u>Authority B</u>	Up to 3=£20 Fridge = £20
<u>Authority C</u>	Up to 4 = £21.65 Each item over 4 = £10 Fridge = £15
<u>Authority D</u>	Up to 8 bags =£ 5 Each bulky item = £10
<u>Authority E</u>	Up to 5 = £20.10 Fridge = £30
<u>Authority F</u>	Up to 3 = £34.50 4 to 7 = £45.20
<u>Authority G</u>	1 item = £10.50 2 to 5 = £16 6 to 15 = £23
<u>Authority H</u>	Up to 8 items collected on an order. You can place up to 4 orders in one year. Each order costs £21.63 or you may be eligible for a discounted service cost of £5.41 if you are in receipt of a qualifying benefit.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The bulky collection service as amended has been implemented city wide.

7. NEXT STEPS

- 7.1 Members of the Committee are asked to note the contents of this report and the benefits that are being achieved in respect of the diversion from landfill together with the reduction in the tonnage of flytipping over the last 6 months and to indicate whether or not any further reports are required in respect of this service.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 9.1 None