



Report Reference Number: PR/21/5

To: Policy Review Committee
Date: 14 September 2021
Status: Non-Key Decision
Ward(s) Affected: All
Author: Aimi Brookes, Contracts Team Leader
Lead Executive Member: Councillor Tim Grogan, Lead Executive Member for Health and Culture
Lead Officer: Keith Cadman, Head of Commissioning, Contracts and Procurement

Title: Bulky Waste Collection Service

Summary:

This report has come to committee to allow Members to review the current bulky waste collection service.

The report sets out the details of the existing service along with benchmarking information from neighbouring authorities.

Recommendations:

That the Policy Review Committee note the contents of this report.

Reasons for recommendation

To allow the Committee to consider current service provision.

1. Introduction and background

1.1 The collection of domestic waste is governed by the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Controlled Waste regulations 1992. Under regulation 4 of the Controlled Waste Regulations, the Council can charge for the collection of certain items of household waste which include:

- Any article of waste which exceeds 25 kilograms in weight.
- Any article of waste which does not fit, or cannot be fitted into: a receptacle for household waste provided in accordance with section 46

1.2 The Council has provided a separate bulky waste collection service for over 20 years. The service has been chargeable since 2005 with a reduced rate payable by those in receipt of certain income related benefits.

1.3 The current collection charge is £50 for up to 5 items, reduced to £37.50 for those in receipt of a Means Tested Benefit. A bed base, mattress and headboard would be classed as a single item as would a three piece suite or dining table and chairs. At the point of booking, residents are given a specific date for collection. This is usually within 10 working days.

1.4 The table below shows the number of collections and income received per year for the last four financial years.

Year	No. of Collections	Income
2020/21	578	£27,850
2019/20	495	£23,825
2018/19	485	£23,100
2017/18	513	£24,843

1.5 It is interesting to note that despite collections being suspended during April and May 2020 due to Covid-19, the total number of collections carried out during the year was 16% higher than the previous year.

2. Bulky Item Reuse and Collection

2.1 As with most WCA's, the Council is not in a position to be able to offer a reuse or recycling service for items of bulky waste and so prior to offering a collection, residents are encouraged to consider reuse options before disposal. The Council's website provides information on local furniture reuse organisations, the Freecycle network and local charity shops prior to providing information about the collection service.

Variable Charging Structures

2.2 In 2018 a review was carried out to consider whether it was feasible to introduce a variable pricing structure. E.g., 1–2 items £X, 3-4 items £Y, 5+ items £Z.

2.3 An analysis of different options using actual data from the previous 12 months identified that a variable pricing structure would have resulted in a loss of income of between £12,000 and £14,500. As the income received would not be sufficient to cover collection costs this would not have met the Councils Corporate Charging Policy and so no further action was taken.

Benchmarking

2.4 Officers regularly carry out benchmarking exercises with neighbouring WCA's to ensure that the service is comparable. The most recent benchmarking data can be found in Appendix A.

2.5 At the time of benchmarking the charge per item amongst the other North Yorkshire district and borough councils ranged from £8 per item to £21 per item. SDC's current charge is £10 per item and so is in the middle of the scale.

3. Alternative Options Considered

N/A

4. Implications

4.1 Legal Implications

The collection of domestic waste is governed by the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Controlled Waste regulations 1992. Under regulation 4 of the Controlled Waste Regulations, the Council can charge for the collection of certain materials which include:

- Any article of waste which exceeds 25 kilograms in weight.
- Any article of waste which does not fit, or cannot be fitted into: a receptacle for household waste provided in accordance with section 46; or
- where no such receptacle is provided, a cylindrical container 750 millimetres in diameter and 1 metre in length.

4.2 Financial Implications

The charges are set in line with the Councils Corporate Charging Policy and the default position of full cost recovery. Any change from this would need to be approved by the Executive.

4.3 Policy and Risk Implications

As 4.2 above.

4.4 Corporate Plan Implications

The bulky waste collection service helps the Council to deliver great value by ensuring that we are providing high quality, effective and efficient waste collection services.

4.5 Resource Implications

N/A

4.6 Other Implications

N/A

4.7 Equalities Impact Assessment

N/A

5. Conclusion

The bulky waste service is well used by residents and at the current charging levels are in line with the Council's Corporate Charging Policy. Charges are also in line with other North Yorkshire Councils.

6. Background Documents

N/A

7. Appendices

Appendix A – Benchmarking Data

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