

REPORT TO THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY		Report No.9
Date of Meeting	28 February 2007	
Title of Report	BULKY WASTE COLLECTION	
Link to Corporate Priorities	Customer Focus	
Public Report	Yes	

<p>Summary of Report</p> <p>Overview & Scrutiny at its meeting on 13 December 2007 requested a position report from Cleansing & Amenities in relation to the introduction of bulky waste collection charges and the impact in the level of fly tipping following introduction.</p>
<p>Officer Recommendations</p> <p>1. To note the contents of the report and the improvements, which are being implemented as part of the Cleansing & Amenities Improvement Plan to improve performance and management of the service.</p>

Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.				
Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
Yes	None	None	None	None

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council introduced a charge for bulky waste collections in 2001 to encourage households to recycling bulky waste themselves by using a number of the recycling centres around the District or by donating their unwanted items to appropriate charities to be reused by others.

2. Background Information

2.1 Income from Bulky Waste

- 2.1.1. This service is designed for the collection of large items, normally furniture and white goods that cannot be re-used. The authority encourages members of the public to arrange collection of serviceable items via 'Waste-not-Want-not', a registered charity that supplies items to families and individuals on low income benefit or to use the recycling centres around the District. Those who do not wish to take advantage of these services can pay the Council to collect the items on their behalf.
- 2.1.2. Collection is arranged via telephone or website and paid for in advance. Charges range from £20 for white goods, £7 per item for electrical items and non electrical item. However, there is a minimum charge of £20.

2.2 Fly-tipping of Bulky Waste

- 2.2.1. Fly-tipping incidents are now recorded on Defra's national database called 'Flycapture' on to which authorities are legally required to submit data. This system has only been running for a couple of years and as a consequence assessing data recorded on this system with previous information should come with a 'health warning'. Going forward this system should provide a more rigorous procedure for recording and comparing performance.
- 2.2.2. Nationally, the 'flycapture' results for April 06 to March 07 show more flytipping incidents are being reported and more action is being taken to tackle them. In 06/07 over 2.6 million incidents of fly-tipping were reported throughout the Country (although it should be pointed out that half of these came from Liverpool alone) and that 88% of incidents take place in predominantly urban areas.
- 2.2.3. In North Wilts Fly-tipping incidents during 06/07 totalled 473, of which 50 were classified as 'white goods' and 176 were classified as 'other household' (usually furniture). The balance of incidents included green waste, building waste, asbestos, commercial waste and bagged household waste.
- 2.2.4. Charging for bulky waste began in 2001, but our systems for recording incidents was not very accurate, until the introduction of flycapture. As a consequence it is not possible to assess the impact of charging against the amount of fly-tipping to see if it has a positive or negative impact on the level of flytipping.
- 2.2.5. Fly-tipping over the last two years North Wiltshire is still fairly low in terms of number of incidents compared with our nearest neighbours within the Daventry Group who have a similar population and spread of urban and rural communities.. The number of incidents, estimated cost and ranking can be seen in the table below.

2006/07 flytipping data for Wiltshire	Number of incidents	Estimated Clearance Cost £	Ranking
Kennet District Council	261	£12,736	
North Wiltshire District Council	473	£25,195	
Salisbury District Council	628	£77,090	
West Wiltshire District Council	180	£9,287	
Wiltshire County Council	No data	No data	
Swindon Borough Council	2137	£132,935	

Source: www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localenv/flytipping/flycapture.htm

2006/07 flytipping data for 'Nearest Neighbours within the Daventry Group	Number of incidents	Estimated Clearance Cost £	Ranking
Test Valley Borough Council	1065	£45,494	5
North Wiltshire District Council	473	£25,195	12
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council	802	£35,649	8
Mid Bedfordshire District Council	758	£29,221	10
East Hampshire District Council	437	£34,734	13
Huntingdonshire District Council	1043	£59,905	6
Daventry District Council	815	£39,797	7
South Northamptonshire Council	301	£19,521	15
Vale Royal Borough Council	1338	£60,424	3
West Oxfordshire District Council	736	£42,092	11
Stroud District Council	787	£39,747	9
Mendip District Council	1239	£60,344	4
Harborough District Council	312	£17,180	14
West Wiltshire District Council	180	£9,287	16
Ashford Borough Council	1450	£75,003	2
Braintree District Council	2438	£130,911	1

Source: www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localenv/flytipping/flycapture.htm

- 2.2.6. Performance on fly-tipping is also recorded under the Best Value Performance Indicator BVPI 199d. Performance for North Wilts in 06/07 was third quartile. In order to improve our level of performance, a number of initiatives are either underway or planned as part of the review of Cleansing & Amenities.
- 2.2.7. Enforcement action only began during 2007/08. The impact of this will be assessed as figures become available. To date the Council has instigated Court Action against 1 business, which has not yet been heard, issued Formal Cautions against 2 Individuals, In addition to this we have sent out over 250 letters to individuals and businesses following on site investigations, either warning them of future action or offering advice on the correct management of rubbish.
- 2.2.8 Under the new Cleansing & Amenities structure, enforcement now sits within Operations with the aim of improving communications between the functions and speed of response on the ground.
- 2.2.9. A new enforcement strategy is currently being written as part of the Cleaning & Amenities Improvement plan. This will seek to build a highly focused strategy that targets the areas of greatest impact. A key to reducing the number of flytipping incidents is to have an effect enforcement regime linked to an effective communication strategy, which demonstrates that the Council takes flytipping seriously and will take all steps to prosecute offenders.

2.2.10. A new communications strategy is being written that will work hand in hand with both enforcement and operations. Enforcement will work closely with the communications team to reinforce and promote the 'message' of recycling and that those who flytip will be prosecuted.

2.2.11. Under the Cleansing & Amenities Improvement Plan schedules and resources are being revised to tackle the problems encountered currently within Street-scene, both in terms of preventative work and quick response in dealing with problems related to litter and flytipping.

3. Financial Implications

3.1. Income from the collection of Bulky Waste in 2006/07 was £32,992. Income to date in 2007/08 is currently £23,015 with a full year forecast expected to be similar to last year.

3.2. The estimated costs for collecting of flytipping in 2006/07 was £25,195 with a similar cost expected in 2007/08.

3.3. The collection of bulky waste is a discretionary service.

Appendices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DEFRA Statistics

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference