

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel

**DATE:** 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018

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**WARD(S):** All

### **PART I** **FOR INFORMATION**

#### **BULKY WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE**

1. **Purpose of Report**

To provide the Neighbourhoods and Community Services (NCS) Scrutiny Panel with information regarding the bulky waste collection service, and any potential changes which could be made to it.

2. **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

The NCS Scrutiny Panel is requested to accept the recommendation that the charges for Bulk Waste Collection are changed:-

- From: £30.75 for up to 5 items
- To: £5.00 per item with a minimum charge of £15 and a maximum of 7 items per collection

The NCS Scrutiny Panel is requested to accept the recommendation that the charge for bulky waste collection be reviewed on 30 September 2018, 31 December 2018, 31 March 2019 and annually thereafter on 31 March

3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

3a. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

The provision of the bulky waste collection service, as part of Slough Borough Council's (SBC) wider Environmental Services provision, supports the following Five Year Plan outcome:

- Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and stay

4. **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

The purpose of the change is to discourage fly tipping.

Providing that any increase in requests for bulky waste collection is from individuals who would otherwise have fly-tipped then there will be no overall financial implication.

(b) Risk Management

We don't wish to take market share from independent collectors of waste (man and a van) or undermine re-turn of old goods to retailers who offer to take away redundant items which customers have replaced with new.

If we get the price point wrong then we risk undermining and losing existing third party systems, becoming overwhelmed with requests and incurring unsupported costs for a subsidised service.

The bulky waste collection service and the volume of fly-tips will be monitored on an on-going basis with recommendations brought to members to adjust the price of bulky waste collections should there become a need to respond to unintended consequences.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

Local authorities have a legal duty to provide waste collection services under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

This report does not require the completion of an Equalities Impact Assessment.

5. Supporting Information

**Background**

5.1 At its meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018, NCS Scrutiny Panel discussed an agenda item on fly tipping. This investigated the extent of fly tipping in Slough, the current regime in place to prosecute offenders and the powers open to local authorities.

5.2 During the resulting debate, members asked if one potential method for reducing fly tipping (especially in cases involving private individuals) could be to increase usage of the bulky waste collection. In addition, NCS Scrutiny Panel requested information if there were other incentives which could be offered by Environmental Services to deter the practice.

**Bulky Waste Collection Service – Current Provision**

5.3 We currently charge £30.75 inc VAT for a bulky waste collection and this includes up to 5 items. This is free (twice a year) to pensioners or registered disabled. Collections are arranged in advance via Environmental Services and paid for in advance. These payments are in cash or by cheque. We are currently working on providing payment by card over the phone but this is not yet in place.

In the four months 1 December 2017 to 31 March 2018 there were 591 requests for bulky waste collection of which 197 were chargeable (33%) and 394 were non-chargeable 66%.

In the same period there were 343 requests to remove fly-tips.

**Other Possible Methods**

5.4 There are a number of alternatives available to householders wishing to dispose of bulky waste including:-

- a. They can bring the items to the Chalvey HWRC
- b. They can pay an independent collector of waste such as a “man and a van”
- c. Many retailers offer disposal of redundant items which customers have replaced with new.

6. **Comments of Other Committees**

This report has not been considered by any other SBC committees.

7. **Conclusion**

The NCS Scrutiny Panel is asked to note the content of this report in the context of its previous discussion of fly tipping, and consider the extent to which the bulky waste collection service can be used to deter this criminal activity.

8. **Appendices Attached**

None

9. **Background Papers**

Agenda Papers and Minutes, NCS Scrutiny Panel (4<sup>th</sup> April 2018).