

**ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet Member for Streetpride</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>15 February 2010</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Bulky Items and Special Collections: Price Review 2010/11</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Programme Area:</b>	<b>Environment and Development Services</b>

**5. Summary**

- 5.1** This report outlines the prices to be charged to customers for the collection and disposal of bulky items and special collections from households with effect from 1<sup>st</sup>. April 2010.

**6. Recommendations**

**6.1 CABINET MEMBER FOR STREETPRIDE IS REQUESTED TO APPROVE:**

- A). THE HOLDING OF PRICES CHARGED FOR THE STANDARD COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF BULKY ITEMS FROM HOUSEHOLDS IN FINANCIAL YEAR 2010/11 AT THE 2006/07 LEVEL.**
  
- B). THE PROPOSED PRICE CHANGES FOR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2010.**

## 7. Proposals and Details

- 7.1 The Council has a statutory duty to collect household waste and if requested by the occupier of a premise to do so, may make a reasonable charge for the collection of bulky items. This price review takes account of the costs to be incurred by the Council during the review period, including the effect of inflation and the Government's announced increase in Landfill Tax by a further £8 per tonne to £48 per tonne.
- 7.2 In the 2006/07 price settlement, the 50% price subsidy previously given was removed and customers were asked, for the first time, to pay the full cost of standard collections. The removal of the subsidy was in consideration of meeting the corporate budget requirements for 2006/07.
- 7.3 The removal of the 50% price subsidy resulted in a reduced demand for the service during 2006/07 which has continued through subsequent years. The number of payments received for the collection of bulky items of household waste continues to be around 25% below the level prior to the removal of the 50% price subsidy.
- 7.4 In setting our prices for 2010/11 it is important that we do not further suppress demand for the service.
- 7.5 All "white goods" and "cathode ray tubes (CRT's)", collected on the service (including fridges, cookers, televisions and computer monitors) are segregated and taken to our Household Waste Recycling Centres for processing and recycling
- 7.6 The full implementation of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations on 1 July 2007 has increased the number of items which can no longer be sent to landfill. The requirement to segregate more waste adds to collection costs, but the implementation of the WEEE Directive and the "producer pays" principle reduces our processing costs. All our Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC's) are now registered as Designated Collection Facilities (DCF's) for WEEE. An agreement has been made with a Producer Compliance Scheme (PCS) which now meets the processing costs for fridges and televisions previously paid for by the Council.
- 7.7 The savings accrued on processing WEEE allows the additional costs incurred through extra segregation of items, the Landfill Tax Escalator and general inflation to be absorbed for standard collections of household bulky waste. **It is, therefore, proposed that the price charged to the customer for the standard collection of a bulky items of household waste is again held at 2006/07 levels.** Full details of these charges are included in Appendix 1.
- 7.8 The WEEE savings do not extend to Special Collections (DIY waste, House Clearances, etc.). Inflation and Landfill Tax increases in the subsequent years means it is no longer financially viable to continue to hold these prices at the

2006/07 level. **It is, therefore, proposed that the price charged to the customer for Special Collections be increased by 10% with effect from 1 April 2010.** Full details of these charges are included in Appendix 1.

- 7.9** It is recognised that specific members of our community may still find the charges difficult to bear. Therefore, a discounted price will continue to be offered to Rothercard holders at 50% of the normal rate.

## **8. Finance**

- 8.1** The revised charges made to customers are intended to continue to meet the full costs incurred by the Council in providing the service.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

- 9.1** The list of waste items requiring separate collection is likely to increase in the future. The Bulky Items Collection Service provides the opportunity to segregate such waste items at source and contribute towards achieving our targets for landfill avoidance.
- 9.2** Demand for the Bulky Items Collection Service is price sensitive. A too high charge for the service may lead to some individuals considering alternative ways of dealing with their bulky items of waste, which at worst, may include illegal methods of disposal. Such illegal methods may include fly tipping. An increase in the incidence of fly tipping would undermine our aim to work with the community to maintain and improve the street scene to a standard which promotes civic pride and community responsibility.

## **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

- 10.1** The Bulky Items Collection Service provides a convenient means by which householders without their own transport (and not able to access our Household Waste Recycling Centres) are able to dispose of their bulky items of waste. A discounted price is offered through Rothercard to assist those with less resource. This follows the Corporate Cross Cutting Theme of “Fairness” by providing open and accessible services.
- 10.2** The collection of bulky items contributes towards providing clean, green and well maintained neighbourhoods and is complementary to the Corporate Priority Theme “Rotherham Safe”.
- 10.3** All “white goods” and “cathode ray tubes (CRT’s)”, collected on the service (including fridges, cookers, televisions and computer monitors) are segregated and taken to our Household Waste Recycling Centres for processing and recycling. This reduces input to landfill, recycles more and is a positive development in achieving sustainable methods of waste management.

**10.4** All household items collected and segregated for recycling count towards our recycling targets and contribute towards increasing our rating for *BVPI 82a* “*Percentage of Household Waste Recycled.*”

**11.1** APPENDIX 1 – Proposed Scale of Charges for Bulky Items and Special Collections of Household Waste – 2010/11

**11.2** APPENDIX 2 – Bulky Items Collection Service – Benchmarking Information.

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