

Scrutiny Commission

Tuesday 10th June 2008

Report of the Director of Leisure & Environment

Item: Bulky Waste

Purpose of the Report

To update Scrutiny on the implementation and impact of the free bulky waste collection service that was introduced in June 2007.

Policy Context

This helps to deliver the Council's Strategic aim – 'To be an Excellent Council' and supports the ongoing work as part of the Cleaner Greener agenda.

Background

Following a review of the bulky waste collection service Charnwood Borough Council agreed to introduce a free service to all residents of the Borough in June 2007. This took account of Charnwood's Zero Waste Strategy which recognises the need to ensure our services are accessible to all residents in the Borough. This key area includes issues such as ethnicity, mobility or income. In addition, the Strategy also recognises the need to increase recycling and composting whilst minimising the amount of waste generated by households in Charnwood.

Charging

Prior to June 2007 Charnwood Borough Council collected bulky household waste on a request service that attracted a charge on the resident. This charge was introduced in May 2004 and was £11 for up to three items. With the move to a free of charge service a limit of three free collections within any 12 month period was introduced for all households.

Recycling

In addition, information has been available to any resident requesting the service on options for recycling or re-using the items. The availability of re-use or recycling schemes is limited on most items due to the difficulty in recycling such items. However, electrical items covered by the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (WEEE) have been collected separately since August 2007. This includes most electrical items such as cookers, microwaves, lawn mowers, washing machines and tumble dryers. These items have been recycled by the County Council's contractor that is used at the Recycling Household Waste Sites (RHWS).

Impact on Service

Figures in the table below give an indication on the number of requests for the service received in the last four years.

Table 1 – Bulky Waste Request for Service

Year	Approx. Number of Collections
2003/04	10,000
2004/05	5,090
2005/06	4,636
2006/07	5,338
2007/08	9,668
2008/09 estimate	12,000

Of the collections made approximately 150 tonnes of WEEE items have been re-used or recycled since August 2007. These items make up approximately 45% of the requests for collections made and include the following number of items:

Table 2 – WEEE Item Request 2007/08

	Fridges	Electrical Items
TOTAL	1,247	2,214

The overall tonnage of waste collected via the bulky waste collection service is difficult to estimate as the items are collected using a normal refuse collection vehicle (RCV) which may also collect general 'bin' waste. Recorded tonnages are therefore difficult to identify specific to bulky waste.

Fly-tipping

Fly-tipping has been recorded for a number of years as a national indicator. Figures in recent years are shown in the table below:

Table 3 – Fly-tipping Reports

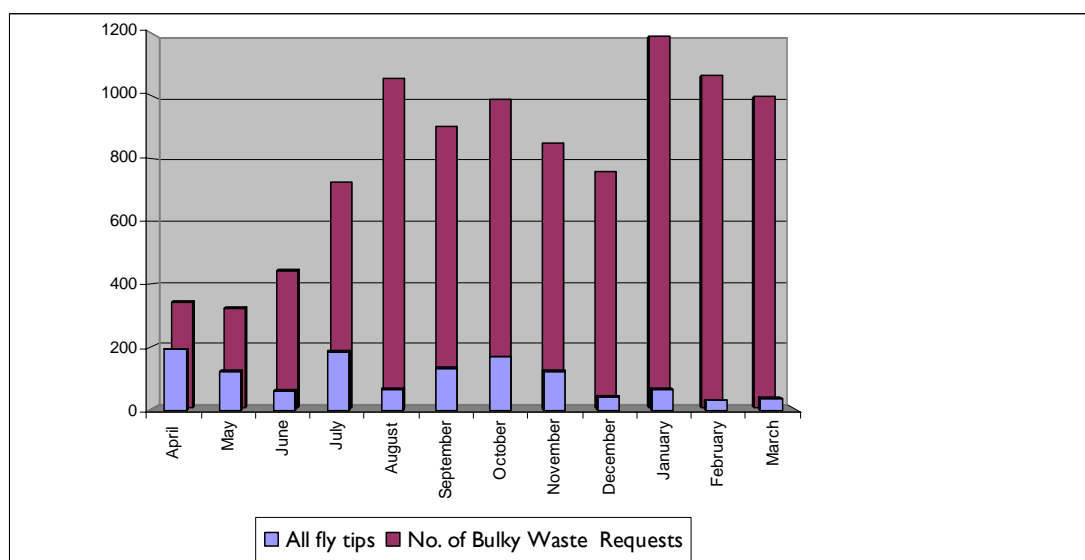
Year	Approx. Number of Reports in Charnwood	Approx. Number of Reports Nationally
2004/05	4,900	922,000
2005/06	2,500	2,500,000
2006/07	2,200	2,600,000
2007/08	1,240	N/A

The decrease in fly-tipping is seen as a result of a number of factors including the move to a free bulky waste service, better more effective enforcement action, and increased awareness of enviro-crime as a result of Charnwood's communication and

promotional activities over the last few years. This is against a National trend for increased fly-tipping.

The following graph illustrates the relationship between fly-tipping and bulky waste collection service in Charnwood (the FOC service was introduced in June 2007):

Table 4 – Chart to Record Fly-tipping Against Bulky Waste Requests



Conclusions

Since the introduction of a free bulky waste collection service in June 2007 the volume of requests has risen sharply. This will inevitably result in more waste being collected. Whilst some measures have been undertaken to help improve the level of recycling of this waste, the overall impact is that more waste will have been landfilled. Additional measures are being planned for 2008/09 as part of the Council's Zero Waste Strategy Action Plan to help improve the recycling or re-use of this waste.

Reports of fly-tipping have fallen in the last twelve months. This is recognised as being the result of a number of initiatives including the introduction of the FOC bulky waste collection service.

Background Papers:
Report to Cabinet 24th May 2007
Zero Waste Strategy Action Plan 2008/09

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