

Prosperity and Policy Development Group – 21 October 2009

REVIEW OF WASTE CHARGES 2009/10

Report of the Head of Environment Services

Statutory Powers: Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Financial Implications: Estimated to generate an additional £24,400 (3%) of income.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to set out the level of charges for the collection and management of commercial waste and household waste for which a charge may be made.

Priorities and Targets:

CP2: Create the conditions for the growth and maintenance of quality economic activity.

CP5: Working with others to improve access to key services.

CP6: Improve core service performance in a cost effective way.

Recommendations

That the Group RECOMMEND that the Executive RECOMMEND to Council that:

- a. The charges for Trade Waste services as set out in appendix A are adopted for 20010/11
- b. The charges for Household Waste services as set out in appendix B are adopted for 20010/11

Background

- 1) The Environmental Protection Act 1990 Section 45 places an obligation on the District Council to put in place arrangements for the collection of waste from domestic households and commercial premises if so requested. The purpose of this report is to make recommendations on the level of charges for 2010/11.

The Way Forward

Trade Waste

- 2) This year has again been a challenge. We have seen competition from a number of companies. The economical climate has also played a part on the amount of waste that has been collected. We have however managed to retrieve some previous lost business.
- 3) It is useful to remember that the Environment Protection Act 1990 sets out the following duties upon a collection authority such as South Hams District Council.
 - Section 45 (1) (b) if requested by the occupier of premises in its area to collect any commercial waste from premises, to arrange for the collection of the waste.
- 4) Some councils chose not to operate their own collection service for commercial waste but direct request's to third parties The success of this strategy depends on if there are actually waste carriers in place that are willing to collect from the businesses that make the requests. Members had previously made the comment that the district council should deliver a service to all businesses who request it no matter where they are located within the district. This has in some part compromised our ability to operate a cost effective service. We do however try to mitigate this by only offering a frequency of service which will falls in line with our own arrangements.
- 5) The increases for trade waste are limited to 3.5%. The increase includes a 10% rise in waste disposal costs, and a 1% increase on other operational costs. In addition Zone 3 (most expensive) has been removed, and those customers in this zone will be transferred to Zone 2 charges. This action is required to remain competitive in the market, and as to not deter local economies in rural locations.

Household Waste

- 6) There are a number of types of waste that are classified as household waste for which a charge may be made. The level of charges are described in Appendix B. The increases have been limited to the estimated level of inflation of 3%.

Risk Assessment

| Risk Identified | Mitigating Action |
|--|--|
| Not all the recommended increases in charges are adopted | The Council will have to find income from other sources. |

Human Rights Act

- 7) There are no significant Human Rights Act implications that we are aware of in this report.

Conclusion

- 8) There are a number of influences that can affect the estimated income. It is important that this is recognised when committing the projected income into the overall budget.

Chris Lucas
Head of Environment Services

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