

RESIDENTS' & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE REVIEW: DISPOSAL OF CHARITY WASTE THROUGH NEW YEARS GREEN LANE CIVIC AMENITY SITE

Cabinet Member	Councillor Keith Burrows
Cabinet Portfolio	Planning, Transportation and Recycling
Officer Contact	Khalid Ahmed, Administration Directorate
Papers with report	Residents' & Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee review on the Disposal OF Charity Waste Through New Years Green Lane Civic Amenity Site

HEADLINE INFORMATION

Purpose of report	To receive the Residents' & Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee review on the Disposal OF Charity Waste Through New Years Green Lane Civic Amenity Site and give consideration to the recommendations of the review.
Putting our Residents First	This report supports the following Council objectives of: <i>Our Natural Environment; Financial Management</i>
Financial Cost	There is potential for additional revenue from trade waste if recommendations to charge are accepted. The amount collected will depend on tonnages deposited and on the application of the proposed ten tonne allowance for in-Borough charities
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents' & Environmental Services
Ward(s) affected	Harefield

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

1. Welcomes the Committee's findings from their review on the disposal charity waste through New Years Green Lane Civic Amenity Site and agree the recommendations overleaf;
2. Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Director of Residents Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Planning, Recycling and Transportation, to agree the implementation of the recommendations and the date effective for the proposed charge.

Policy Overview Committee Recommendations

- (i) That charities based within the Borough be given an annual free waste allowance of 10 tonnes for all non-recyclable waste disposed of at New Years Green Lane Civic Amenity site.**
- (ii) That charities based within the Borough that exceed the annual free waste allowance of 10 tonnes, be liable to be charged for the deposit of any additional non-recyclable waste, at the trade waste rate of £160 per tonne.**
- (iii) That charities based outside the Borough be liable for a charge of £160 per tonne for the deposit of any non-recyclable waste in line with the trade waste rate.**
- (iv) That Cabinet be asked to include this in the Fees and Charges schedule for Residents Services.**
- (v) That Charities be given guidance on the options which are available in terms of disposing of charity waste at New Years Green Lane Civic Amenity site.**

Reasons for recommendations

The recommendations of the review will enable the Council to control the increasing volume of charity shop waste which is being disposed of at New Years Green Lane Civic Amenity Site, with a notable volume of it being from outside of the Borough. The disposal of current mixed waste from charities costs this Council £130 per tonne to dispose of.

Alternative options considered / risk management

The Cabinet could decide to reject some or all of the Committee's recommendations.

Supporting Information

1. The aim of the Committee's review was to investigate the growing amounts of charity shop waste being disposed of by the Council, free of charge, and to explain the legislative background relating to this type of waste disposal.
2. The disposal of mixed waste currently costs the Council £130 per tonne to dispose of and so charity shop waste disposal has an appreciable financial impact for the authority. Whilst there are local charities that benefit from this, there are also charities from outside the Borough who use the Council's Civic Amenity Site at New Years Green Lane.
3. The review took into consideration the beneficial nature of the work carried out by many charities and balanced this against the proposed recommendations of the review which were aimed at the larger charities.

4. The Terms of Reference of the review were:

- (i) To examine fluctuations in the tonnages of waste disposed of through New Years Green Lane over the past 3-4 years and how this has changed;
- (ii) To examine the current and predicted future disposal costs to the Council;
- (iii) The activities of the various charities bringing waste to New Years Green Lane, for disposal, where these charities operate in the main and what beneficial work is done by the charities in the Borough;
- (iv) To look at options available, in terms of allowing disposal and ways of mitigating costs if appropriate and report to Cabinet as appropriate.

5. Whilst the attached report from the Committee sets out the review in more detail, key considerations by the Committee leading to the proposed recommendations are set out below:-

Recommendations (i) and (ii)

The Committee found that generally the smaller charities within the Borough did not dispose of annual waste which totalled more than 10 tonnes. This included the charity shops within the Borough and the uniformed charities such as Boy Scouts and Girl Guides etc... The suggested recommendation will not impact on these charities that provide support to residents of the Borough.

Recommendation (ii) would only come into effect if a Borough based charity exceeded the yearly allowance of 10 tonnes of non-recyclable waste. From the evidence received during the review from waste management officers and from local charities based in the Borough, this would have very little impact on small local charities within the Borough.

Recommendation (iii)

Evidence from Waste Management suggested that the bigger charities, from outside the Borough, generated non-recyclable waste of over 10 tonnes per year. These charities provided the service of house clearances and items which they did not re-sell or use, and were often taken to civic amenity sites to dispose of.

As detailed in the review's final report, the cost to the Council of disposing of such waste is £130 per tonne and for the 2015/16 financial year, it was estimated that the total waste delivered by various charities into New Years Green Lane, totalled over 200 tonnes. This cost the Council over £34,000 to dispose of and in theory if this had been treated as trade waste, which was charged at £160 per tonne, revenue would have been brought into the Council of over £41,000.

Recommendation (iv)

Subject to approval of the proposed charges, Cabinet are requested to add this new charge to the Fees and Charges schedule for Residents Services and delegated authority to agree an appropriate effective date.

Recommendation (v)

It is suggested that subject to approval of the proposals, local and other charities be given guidance on these new charges, together with information on the various options available for charities to dispose of non-recyclable waste.

Financial Implications

Currently, charitable organisations are not charged for depositing non-recyclable trade waste at civic amenity sites in the Borough. Based on data for 2015/16, the cost to the Council of disposing of this waste was over £34k. The introduction of a charge of £160 per tonne of waste would help reduce down this cost to the Council.

The total revenue raised would be dependent on the quantum of waste deposited by charities from inside and outside the Borough, as charities inside the Borough would benefit from a ten tonne allowance, before paying £160 per tonne for waste above this allowance. Charities outside the Borough would pay the charge on all waste deposited.

In 2015/16, the maximum amount of waste that would not have been subject to the charge amounted to 54.26 tonnes, or 21% of the total trade waste deposited by charitable organisations.

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendations?

To offset some of the costs to the Council of disposing of non-recyclable charity waste and to enable charities to reassess their waste strategies.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

The review involved consultation with some charities.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed the report and concurs with the financial implications set out above, noting that any additional income would contribute to reducing the cost to the Council of disposing of this waste.

Legal

The Borough Solicitor confirms that there are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL