BULKY WASTE COLLECTION CHARGES

WARDS AFFECTED

All

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

No

1.0 PROPOSED DECISION

1.1 To introduce charges for the collection of all bulky household waste i.e. items that will not fit in a wheelie bin.

1.2 Standard item collections (e.g. table, chairs, wardrobe) – proposal is to charge £15 per appointment for maximum of 3 items, additional items to be charged at an extra £5 each.
White Goods & Electrical Collections (e.g. Fridge, Oven, TV) – Proposal is to charge £10 per item (in practice will usually be one item collected per appointment).

2.0 JUSTIFICATION FOR THE DECISION

2.1 The Budget Strategy approved by Cabinet on 24 June 2015, addresses the key factors identified in the Government’s Budget Deficit Reduction Strategy. Modelling of all known factors introduces a £23m budget gap, this is due to the £19.2m grant reduction, the additional National Insurance contributions and the effects of inflationary pressures within the budget.

2.2 Zero Based Reviews will be used to establish any further areas of efficiency, priority services and improvements in Value for Money. A minimum of £3.305m has been set for the Green, Smart, Sustainable Borough portfolio, which neutralizes the effect of specific grant allocations reduction.

2.3 The savings required of £3.305m will, in part, be delivered by the generation of options; of which this recommendation will contribute to the savings target to the value of £97,500.

2.4 The legislation covering Waste Collection Services does specify that each Collection Authority has to make provision for a collection service for items that are too large to fit in the container provided for landfill. It does not preclude payment for this service. The vast majority of Councils do make a charge. A recent APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence) survey found that over 90% of councils had, or were implementing, a charge for bulky waste collections.
2.5 Six out of the seven neighbouring authorities charge for bulky waste collections.

2.6 Liverpool City Council does operate a Free Collection Service, on a much reduced range of items. This is through a social enterprise. Market testing of this service against the true operational costs of the existing Council arrangements previously identified that it would not offer Best Value to this Council. The in-house service was, at time of tender, (and still is), £200,000 less. It would also still require the excluded items to be collected by the Council. The back office costs of handling calls and arranging the collections is a significant element of the delivery cost and would remain as a residual cost to the Council if transfer to another provider occurred (value of residual being £78,000).

2.7 The service delivery model provided by the social enterprise to Liverpool City Council will have a greater call on the revenue funding, than standard bulky collection, (whereby landfill tax is high, but collection costs low). Swapping to recycling more of the items will reduce landfill tax but will demand significant resources to achieve it.

2.8 Within the Borough are three Household Waste & Recycling Centres (HWRC) where residents can dispose any household bulky waste free of charge. Currently approximately 65% of the items presented to them, are recycled.

2.9 Residents can, as the system stands, use the council’s free service to remove substantial amounts of material from their own property avoiding the inconvenience of taking it to a Household Waste & Recycling Centre themselves.

2.10 The Council currently operates a free of charge service for both standard and white-goods collections. The service has evolved and expanded over the years since it was first introduced to a wide ranging and resource intensive operation, that now costs approximately £170k per annum for the none charged elements.

2.11 A charge of £25.00 was introduced in December 2014 for the collection of special bulky waste e.g. 3 piece suite, double bed and although the service has seen a small reduction in appointments it has proved a popular service with no negative feedback from customers. (Charge was increased to £26.00 in April 2015).

2.12 The utilization of a charge for bulky collections will place a value on the goods and on the waste removal. This will indirectly demonstrate the cost of waste removal and the benefits of recycling.

3.0 FACTS SUPPORTING THE PROPOSED DECISION

3.1 St. Helens Council has operated a bulky waste collection service to St. Helens households for many years as part of its overall environmental service plan to maintain a clean and sustainable living standard for all its residents.

3.2 There are three separate categories of collection based on the size and composition of waste (Standard, White Goods and Specials). These are described in detail in Appendix 1.
3.3 Standard Bulky waste
This will consist of small to medium size house-hold items that are too large to be taken by way of the refuse collection service (wheel-bin). All items in this category are currently collected by a refuse collection vehicle (rcv) using a two man team (driver & loader), over a 4 day period Monday-Thursday.

Approx. 9,000 appointments a year collecting 32,000 items – costing approximately £135,000.

3.4 White Goods:
Collected by a two-man team over two days, (Thus & Fri), using a 7.5 tonne cage/box vehicle. Items are picked up over a two day period Thursday-Friday. All items are taken to Huyton waste transfer station, under the direction of Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA). Refrigerators are sent on to be safely degassed, all other white goods items are reprocessed at a scrap-metal recycling facility.

Approx. 4,000 appointments a year collecting 4,200 items – costing approximately £35,000.

3.5 Until December 2014 all types of collections were free of charge. Following a review of the service and in light of the financial reductions in departmental budgets, a proposal to charge for Special Bulky collections was implemented (now a £26.00 fee).

3.6 Almost all standard bulky items are landfilled incurring landfill tax charges of £82.60 a tonne. It is anticipated that following the introduction of a charge demand will drop as residents take items to their local HWRC, which are very efficient with about 65% of all items presented being recycled. The reduction in demand will also free up some staff based resources to facilitate a potential change in collection methods and the capability to recycle more of the collected items. The long term aim will be to simplify the service into perhaps a Collection Service of two categories only, Recyclable and None recyclable. To re-engage with the social enterprise if possible to improve recycling recovery rates of the materials collected. This change of collection has to fit within the overall operating costs of collection.

3.7 Retailers can administer a charge to collect old electrical appliances under the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations (WEEE), or advise the customer of where to safely dispose of it.

3.8 It is anticipated that there will be a reduction in the amount of requests for appointments when the charge is implemented; this has been the case for special bulky waste collections (at a level of 90% of pre-charge figures) and is the experience of other authorities when they have introduced charges for this type of service that demands reduce. Faced with a charge customers may decide to take items to the local household waste disposal and recycling centres themselves.
### Neighbour Councils’ charging policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authority</th>
<th>Charge</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sefton</td>
<td>£10.00 for up to 3 items</td>
<td>Maximum of 3 items only collected... Significant drop in orders following charge implementation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wirral</td>
<td>£26.50 per visit – up to 6 items</td>
<td>Promotes reuse and recycling enterprises, Freecycle, charity shops etc. Encourage people to try these organisations first.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowsley</td>
<td>£15 – 5 items. £30 6-10 items</td>
<td>20 slots available per day 80% capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liverpool</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Partnership with Bulky Bobs. Up to 5 items but exclude Glass items where the glass is damaged; Builders waste, garden waste or domestic waste.; Fixtures and fittings (doors and windows etc.); House clearances; Clothing, fabrics or bags of miscellaneous items; Liquids, hazardous waste or gas cylinders; Sun beds; Sheds; Toys and pianos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halton</td>
<td>£21.50 for up to 3 items; £5.60 per additional item</td>
<td>Maximum of 10 items per collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wigan</td>
<td>£10 3 items per property in a 12 month period</td>
<td>1-2 extra items can be added to the collection at a cost of £5 per item. Extra collections in a 12 month period will cost £79 each.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Lancashire Council</td>
<td>£13.00 1-5 items £25.50 6-10 items</td>
<td>Work in conjunction with social enterprise partner to recycling items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. **RISKS**

4.1 **Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision**

Number of appointments drop but employees will become re-engaged on increased recycling work, with a potential review of service delivery undertaken.

Increased flytipping – Experience from other Authorities that have introduced charging for bulky items does not indicate an increase in flytipping. This will be monitored and there are enforcement protocols in place, which should provide some deterrent from illegal flytipping.

4.2 **Should this Risk be added to the Corporate Risk Register?**

No

5. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

Legal – The Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012 No. 811 allows a collection charge to made for any article of waste which exceeds 25kg in weight; and/or any article of waste which does not fit or cannot be fitted into a household waste receptacle.

Financial – The cost of providing this service is approx £170k per annum. It is anticipated that numbers of appointments for standards may reduce by 50% from 9,000 per annum to 4,500. On this scenario, the income would be £67,500 and White Goods possibly by 25% to 3,000 appointments and £30,000 income.

Human Resources – If number of appointments reduced staff would be available for other recycling duties.

Land and Property (Asset) - None

Anti-Poverty – Proposed charge is substantially lower than the commercial charges for skips and/or van hire.

Effects on existing Council Policy – Supports the reduction of waste.

Effects on other Council Activities - None

Human Rights - None

Equalities -

A Community Impact Assessment is attached to this report.

The assessment has raised the following positive or negative impact for staff or service users as outlined below:

- Race (Ethnicity)
- Disability and Carers
- Gender
- Gender Reassignment
- Age
Sexual Orientation
Marriage and Civil Partnership
Pregnancy and Maternity
Religion

See Community Impact Assessment attached to this report at Appendix 3.

Asset Management - None

Health – The increased recycling will divert significant tonnage away from landfill. It will reduce CO$_2$ in creation of replacement resources. The total CO$_2$ for transport of goods to Waste Reception Centres should be neutral, when compared to the current collection arrangements.

6. PREVIOUS APPROVAL/CONSULTATION

None

7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS AND IMPLICATIONS THEREOF

Continue provision of free collection service which provides a budget pressure and precludes balancing any of the austerity impact of the Government budget reduction.

8. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Bulky Waste Collection Policy
Appendix 2 Bulky Waste Collection – Comparison with other authorities
Appendix 3 Community Impact Assessment

Paul Sanderson
Director of Environmental Protection

The Contact Officer for this report is Paul Sanderson, Director of Environmental Protection, Wesley House, Corporation Street, St Helens, WA10 1HF. Tel: 01744 676383.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following list of documents was used to complete this report and they are available for public inspection for four years from the date of the meeting, from the Contact Officer named above:

None
APPENDIX 1

BULKY WASTE COLLECTION

Standard Collections : Proposal £15 for 3 items, £5 for each item thereafter.

Bathroom Equipment
- Basin - Pedestal Ceramic
- Basin - Sink Ceramic
- Bath - Not Metal
- Bath panel - plastic or wooden
- Cistern
- Shower equipment
- Shower Tray
- WC - Toilet

Carpet / Textiles
- Carpet - rolled up.
- Carpet pieces (Small pieces only in bags)
- Carpet underlay
- Lino
- Rug

Electrical and Gas Equipment
- Aerial
- Fan - Electric
- Fire - Bottled Gas
- Fire - Large electric
- Fire - Small electric
- Heater - Large electric
- Heater - Patio
- Heater - Small electric
- Hoover - Vacuum cleaner
- Satellite Dish
- Television - TV (Not suitable for re-use)

Furniture
- Bed - bunk beds NO metal dismantled
- Bed - Double base NO metal in 2 halves
- Bed - Double base NO metal in one piece
- Bed - King size base NO metal in 2 halves.
- Bed - King size base NO metal in one piece
- Bed - Single base NO metal
- Bookcase - in one piece
- Box - Bedding
- Cabinet - bedside
- Cabinet - dismantled and tied in bundles.
- Cabinet - in one piece
- Chair - Rocking
- Chairs
  - Chest of Drawers
  - Corner unit
  - Cupboard - General
  - Desk
  - Drawers - loose
  - Dressing Table
  - Footstool
  - Headboard - Double bed NO Metal
  - Headboard - King size bed NO Metal
  - Headboard - Single bed NO Metal
  - High chair - baby
  - Mattress - Double
  - Mattress - King size
  - Mattress - Single
  - Mirror - large in frame or on back board - less than 5 feet high
  - Ottoman
  - Pouffe
  - Sideboard
  - Sofa Bed - wooden frame / some metal
  - Stool - Wood
  - Table - Dining
  - Table - Other large
  - Table - Other small
  - TV Cabinet
  - TV Stand - wood or metal
  - Wall Unit
  - Wardrobe - Free standing double-dismantled and tied in bundles
  - Wardrobe - Free standing Double - in one piece
  - Wardrobe - Free standing single-dismantled and tied in bundles
  - Wardrobe - Free standing Single - in one piece

Garden
- Barbeque - charcoal
- Barbeque - gas
- Bench - Garden Plastic
- Bench - Garden Wooden
- Chairs - conservatory
- Chairs - Garden folding
- Chairs - Garden plastic
- Chairs - Garden stackable
- Chairs - Garden Wooden
- Glass - unbroken panels boxed
- Lounger - Garden
Mower
Parasol
Rotary Drier
Settee - conservatory
Slide
Storage box - small metal
Storage box - small plastic
Storage box - small wooden
Strimmer
Table - Garden Plastic
Table - Garden Wooden
Wheelbarrow

**Household Items**
Baby walker
Bike - adult
Bike - child's
Bin - swing bin
Child's Car Seat
Child Safety Gate
Clothes airer - maiden
Cot
Fire surround - wooden
Fireguard
Fish Tank - less than 3 feet long
Heater - Paraffin
Ironing Board
Lamp - floor standing
Lamp - table or desk
Laundry basket
Pasting table
Pushchair - Pram
Scooter - Childs toy
Shopping trolley or bag
Suitcase
Sunbed - Lounger
Sunbed - Tanning
Toys
Window Blind

**Kitchen Equipment**
Extractor Fan

**Very large items**
Water Tank - Plastic

**Wood**
Cupboard - Kitchen
Curtain Pole - Wood
Doors - Wood
Gates - Small wooden garden
Shelves - Wood
Window Frames - Wood
Wood bundles
Worktop - Kitchen
Special Collections : £26 current charge level up to 3 items
Door - uPVC
Electric Keyboard
Garage Door
Gates - large wooden

Bathroom Equipment
Basin - Sink Metal
Bath - Heavy cast iron
Bath - Metal
Shower screen

Electrical and Gas Equipment
Fire - Mains Gas

Furniture
Armchair
Bed - bunk beds metal dismantled
Bed - Double base metal in 2 halves
Bed - Double base metal in one piece
Bed - King size base metal in 2 halves
Bed - King size base metal in one piece
Bed - Single base metal.
Bed Frame - all metal
Filing Cabinet - metal
Headboard - Double bed Metal
Headboard - King size bed Metal
Headboard - Single bed Metal
Mattress - Memory Foam - Double
Mattress - Memory foam - King size
Mattress - Memory foam - Single
Settee
Shelves - Metal
Sofa Bed - all metal frame
Stool - metal
Wardrobe - Built in wardrobe doors
Wardrobe - Built in wardrobe panels

Garden
Bench - Garden - Cast or Wrought Iron
Bench - Garden Metal
Chairs - Garden - Cast or Wrought Iron
Chairs - Garden Metal
Swing
Table - Garden - Cast or Wrought Iron
Table - Garden Metal
Trampoline

Household Items
Exercise bike
Fish Tank - more than 3 feet long
Radiator

Kitchen Equipment
Sink - Kitchen metal

Very large items
Boiler
White Goods & Electrical Collections: £10 proposed charge level, in practice will usually be one item collected

Computer Equipment
Hard Drive
Keyboard
Monitor
Printer
Scanner

Electrical and Gas Equipment
Hi-Fi
Radio
Speakers
Stereo
Television - TV (Suitable for re-use)
Video

Household Items
Air conditioning unit - freestanding

Kitchen Equipment
Cooker - Electric
Cooker - Gas
Dishwasher
Freezer
Fridge
Fridge / Freezer
Hob - Electric
Hob - Gas
Microwave
Oven - Electric
Oven - Gas
Spin Dryer
Tumble Dryer
Washing Machine
# APPENDIX 2

## BULKY WASTE COLLECTION – COMPARISON WITH OTHER AUTHORITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Charge</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowsley</td>
<td>£15, £30</td>
<td>5 Items, 6-10 Items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wirral</td>
<td>£26.50</td>
<td>6 Items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liverpool</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Partnership with Bulky Bobs, Up to 5 items but exclude Glass items where the glass is damaged. Builders waste, garden waste or domestic waste.; Fixtures and fittings (doors and windows etc.); House clearances; Clothing, fabrics or bags of miscellaneous items; Liquids, hazardous waste or gas cylinders; Sun beds; Sheds; Toys and pianos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sefton</td>
<td>£10.00</td>
<td>3 Items (masses of restrictions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wigan</td>
<td>£10, £5 per item, £79 each</td>
<td>One collection of up to 3 items in 12 months, 1 or 2 extra items, Extra collections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warrington</td>
<td>White goods free, £20, £6.67</td>
<td>Up to 3 items, Extra items (max of 5 items per collection)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halton</td>
<td>£21.50, £5.60 additional for each</td>
<td>1-3 items, 4 + items, Maximum 10 items per collection (Lots of restrictions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Helens</td>
<td>£10</td>
<td>White Goods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£15</td>
<td>Standard Bulky Collection (3 items)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£26</td>
<td>Special items, mainly large clearances (up to 3 items)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF RELEVANT POLICIES, DECISIONS OR FUNCTIONS

1. **Title of Decision:** Bulky Waste Collection Charges  
   **Service:** Cleansing  
   **Department:** Environmental Protection  
   **Responsible Officer:** Paul Sanderson  
   **Date Completed:** 21 July 2014

**Aims:** Please identify the main aims of the policy, decision or function?

For Council to approve charging for Bulky Waste Collection

2. **Impact upon different sections of the Community / Staff Groups:** It is essential that policies, decisions, services and functions promote equality of opportunity and good relations within the community, and do not leave the Council vulnerable to discrimination claims. Please indicate in the table below how the needs of different community or staff groups were identified and taken into account in relation to the policy, decision, service or function.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equality Strand</th>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>How will this be taken into account?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Issues</td>
<td>Fair Employment</td>
<td>Unions will be consulted in relation to the development of service delivery options. There are no staffing implications but should they arise the Council’s employment, redundancy and TUPE policies will be adhered to.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioning</td>
<td></td>
<td>Any subsequent service delivery commissioning will use Equality Impact Assessments to inform the specification of service level agreements or contracts. This will ensure that equality issues relevant to each function will be taken into account within the tender process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procurement</td>
<td></td>
<td>If the procurement of services is required, then any subsequent procurement exercise will use the Procurement Equality Standard to assess potential Providers’ Equality Policies. Only Providers that can demonstrate they meet the requirements of the Procurement Equality Standard will be considered. If an organisation so wishes, it can adopt a template business equality policy developed by the Council’s Procurement Team, which is compliant with the Procurement Equality Standard. Under the Standard, all successful providers will also be required to submit an equality profile of their workforce as part of the equality monitoring requirements within service level agreements or contracts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equality Strand</td>
<td>Issue</td>
<td>How will this be taken into account?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Access</td>
<td>Where appropriate, statements will be added to any subsequent Service Level Agreements or Contract Specifications to ensure that Providers will take all reasonable steps to keep alley entrances, driveways, footpaths, pavements and public highways clear and accessible during the discharge of their duty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Accessibility</td>
<td>By the very nature of this service it is delivered directly at the Customers property and is therefore accessible to all residents including those of disabled and elderly customers and customers with limiting illnesses or frail health.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Charges</td>
<td>A comparison of other Council charging policies indicates that exemptions are the exception rather than the rule but</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Increased Recycling</td>
<td>There is an opportunity that metals and wood collected could be recycled but wait for change if implemented to settle down.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liveable Environment Improve employment and skills</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainability Land and Water Contamination Waste minimisation, reuse, recycling</td>
<td>Reduced landfill requirement Increased recycling</td>
<td>A greater percentage of the waste currently possible could be recycled than is possible for the Council. A greater percentage of the waste currently possible could be recycled than is possible for the Council. Fewer collections would mean lower emissions and fuel use.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. **Indirect discrimination**

**Are there any rules or requirements in the policy / decision that:**

- a Can be met by a considerably smaller proportion of people from a particular section of the community?
- b Is to the disadvantage of that group?
- c Cannot be justified by the aims and importance of the policy?

If all three conditions apply then there may be evidence of indirect discrimination.

No

4. **Publishing the results of the assessment:**
Decisions This Community Impact Assessment Report must be used to inform the Decision. The Equality Impact Assessment must be attached to the Proposal within Delegated Decision Database, or attached as an appendix to an Executive or Chief Officer Group Report.