
REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

AGENDA ITEM: 13

DATE OF MEETING: 30th MAY 2002

CATEGORY: OPEN

REPORT FROM: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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SUBJECT: INCREASING COSTS OF THE
COLLECTION OF FRIDGES AND
FREEZERS

REF: PE

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

TERMS OF REFERENCE: ES07

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 To seek Members' authorisation to introduce a charge to recover the increasing costs of the collection of fridges and freezers.

2.0 Detail

- 2.1 The Council introduced a charge in April 2000 for the collection of bulky household items which cannot be placed in the normal wheeled bin. Members decided at that time not to introduce a charge for the collection of fridges and freezers.
- 2.2 European Regulations for the recycling of fridges and freezers now require the extraction of CFCs from the insulation linings.
- 2.3 As a consequence, retailers have ceased to provide the " take back " schemes thereby increasing requests to the Council for its free collection service.
- 2.4 Requests have more than trebled since the New Year from a previous average of ten per week to well over thirty. The current projection for a full year is in excess of 1500 items.
- 2.5 Sub-contractors are being used to cope with the extra demand.
- 2.6 It is not known yet when recycling plants with the capability to extract CFCs from the insulation linings will be available.
- 2.7 The issue was brought to Members' attention in last year's budget process but it was decided not to introduce a charge.

3.0 Financial Implications

- 3.1 The sub-contractor costs in the period between January and March are £4,000 and, therefore, if recent demands are maintained, the annual cost will be around £16,000.
- 3.2 A charge of £11.75 (including VAT) per item would have to be raised to recover the additional costs.
- 3.3 The current charge for a "non-CFC" bulky collection is £14.50 (including VAT). Householders are entitled to two collections of up to six items per year. Commercial rates are quoted for any further collections required.
- 3.4 It is known that two Derbyshire Authorities are currently charging for the collection of fridges and freezers. Amber Valley charge £5 per item and Erewash charge £10.
- 3.5 The Government is providing extra money to the disposal authorities for the storage of fridges and freezers but no finance has been made available to the Collection Authorities.

4.0 Community Implications

- 4.1 The provision of a free service for the collection of fridges and freezers is helpful to the community especially now that retailers have ceased to provide "take back" schemes.
- 4.2 Charging for the service may result in an increase in flytipping although there has been no noticeable increase since the introduction of a charge for " non-CFC " bulky collections in April 2000.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 The additional costs being incurred due to the new regulations have not been allowed for in the budget.
- 5.2 A charge could be levied to offset the additional costs and, on past experience, there should be no perceptible ensuing increase in flytipping.