

**Forest Heath District Council
St Edmundsbury Borough Council**

**WEST SUFFOLK WASTE
AND STREET SCENE
SERVICES JOINT
COMMITTEE**

22 OCTOBER 2010

JWC10/030

**Report of the Strategic Director (Services) (FHDC)
and the Corporate Director (Economy & Environment)
(SEBC)**

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Synopsis:

This report seeks Member approval for St Edmundsbury to use the Suffolk County Council contractor to collect, on request, hazardous waste from residential properties and recharge the costs of £32 to the applicant.

Commentary:

1. Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, local authorities have a duty to collect household waste presented to them. This includes certain 'hazardous' wastes, which due to their nature, are unable to be placed in the wheeled bin such as paints, pesticides etc. For these wastes, alternative collection arrangements are required but the council can charge residents directly for the service.
2. It is the duty of Suffolk County Council (SCC), as the Waste Disposal Authority, to arrange for the disposal of household waste. They currently contract the collection and disposal of household hazardous waste on behalf of the Suffolk Waste Partnership.
3. Members will recall that Report A33 which was considered by this committee at its meeting of 12 June 2009 outlined proposals by the County Council to procure a revised contract for the collection and disposal of hazardous waste.
4. A further Report A433 considered by this committee at its meeting on 15 January advised that the County Council had let a new contract for the collection and disposal of hazardous waste and that individual Suffolk authorities would be charged £32 for each hazardous waste collection from individual residents.
5. Under a previous arrangement St Edmundsbury collected hazardous waste from individual residents at a charge, stored the waste under licence at the depot and arranged bulk collection by the SCC contractor as necessary.

6. At its meeting in January Members agreed to the revised charging policy for Forest Heath, subject to exploration of an option to offer a collection service similar to St Edmundsbury with waste also being stored at the St Edmundsbury depot.
7. Unfortunately the contractor operating on behalf of SCC has reviewed its charging policy in respect of collecting in bulk from the Council depot which makes the option of St Edmundsbury offering a collection service no longer viable.
8. It is therefore suggested that St Edmundsbury now operate the same policy as Forest Heath and uses the SCC contractor to collect hazardous waste from individual residents and recharge the cost of £32 to the applicant.

Finance/Budget/Resource Implications

9. The service is cost neutral apart from some administrative time in arranging the collections but this is not considered significant.

Environmental Impact and Sustainability

10. The aim of the Joint Contract for Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal is to offer households across Suffolk an accessible service for the disposal of their hazardous waste. The adoption of this contract will ensure we provide Suffolk residents with a value for money service for the disposal of what is a small but often onerous waste stream, which if disposed of incorrectly, can have a damaging effect upon the local environment.

Policy Compliance/Power

11. The current policy within St Edmundsbury is to charge for the collection of hazardous albeit with a range of charges dependent on quantity. The current proposal simply provides a consistent service across the County with all residents within St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath being charged the same amount.

Performance Management Implications

12. Specific performance management requirements were built into the contract specification requiring the contractor to provide councils with the following information on a monthly basis:
 - The quantity in kilograms of each category of waste collected and the source of waste i.e. by WCA area;
 - The quantity in kilograms of waste going to each authorised processing/disposal point;
 - An analysis of collection response rates;
 - An exception report showing collections not completed with an explanation as to why they were not completed.

Legal Implications

13. All legal implications of the joint contract for hazardous waste collection and disposal are managed by SCC as delegated authority for the Suffolk Waste Partnership.

Human Rights Act and Diversity Implications

14. There are no human rights and diversity implications as all residents will be offered the same service.

Crosscutting Implications

15. It is the duty of Suffolk County Council, as the Waste Disposal Authority, to arrange for the disposal of household waste. They currently contract the collection and disposal of household hazardous waste on behalf of the Suffolk Waste Partnership.

Risk Assessment

16. There is a balance to be struck between setting reasonable charges to encourage responsible disposal of household waste against perceived unreasonable charges that may increase the risk of fly tipping or misuse of the wheeled bin service (i.e. residents disposing of hazardous waste via their wheeled bin). The charge is considered reasonable and there is no evidence to suggest that this will lead to widescale illegal practice.

Council Priorities

17. Forest Heath

- Community engagement and communication; and
- Street scene and environment.

St Edmundsbury

- Raise standards and corporate efficiency; and
- Secure a sustainable and attractive environment.

RECOMMENDATION:

18. Members are requested to approve the contracting out the collection of hazardous waste from residents in St Edmundsbury to Suffolk County Council and recharge applicants the cost of collection which is currently £32.

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Strategic Director (Services)
14 October 2010

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14 October 2010

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