

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SPECIAL COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 23rd FEBRUARY 2005

INTRODUCTION OF CHARGES FOR THE UPLIFT OF WHITE GOODS

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To invite the Committee to consider the introduction of charges for the uplift of white goods.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council has for a number of years provided a special uplift service for “white” goods (fridges, freezers, washing machines, tumble driers etc). These items have had to be uplifted separately from the normal special uplift service.
- 2.2 Until a few years ago, most of the electrical retailers were prepared to take back white goods when new appliances were purchased but the impact of the EU Regulation on the destruction of fridges, freezers etc meant their introducing charges. This had the affect of increasing the number of units required to be collected by the Cleansing Service.
- 2.3 The number of units uplifted each year has grown steadily and the Cleansing Service has been faced with increasing costs accordingly. There is now a case for considering the introduction of charges for uplifting these items.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The Waste Electrical, Electronic Equipment Directive (WEEE) places a requirement of the manufacturers of electrical goods to secure specified recycling targets but the legislation places no direct responsibilities on the Council for achieving these targets.
- 3.2 At the present time it is not clear whether Scotland’s Councils might be invited to participate in the WEEE Recycling Network but so far, it has been made clear that such participation would require additional financial resources (which are expected to be forthcoming from the electrical manufacturing industry).

3.3 There is therefore scope for the introduction of charges at the present time to meet some of the funding gaps now faced by the Cleansing Service in the ongoing provision of this service.

3.4 It is suggested that a pre-payable charge of £15 per item be introduced, but this charge be waived where all adults in the home are over 65 years old.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Environmental Protection Act 1990 makes provision for Councils introducing charges for special uplifts.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 It is suggested that a charge of £15.00 per unit be introduced from 1st April 2005, but the charge be waived for any household where the adults are over 65 years of age.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The proposal to introduce charges is in accord with the Community Plan's aspirations in terms of improving the environment.

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 As a result of a number of external pressures, the Cleansing Service is facing increasing costs resulting from the provision of a separate uplift service for "white" goods.

7.2 It is felt that the introduction of a modest charge would go some way to meeting the additional charges falling to the Cleansing Service.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Committee is invited to:-

- (i) approve the introduction of a charge of £15.00 per unit for every (white) good uplifted as part of the special uplift service;
- (ii) authorise the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to waive the charge for any household where the occupants are over 65 years of age; and
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

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Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JFC/RRS

1st February 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

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