

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 28 MARCH 2007

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT DIRECTIVE 2002/96/EC

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide the Community Services Committee with an update on the implementation of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive 2002/96/EC.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The purpose of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive is to promote the separate collection and storage of unwanted household electrical items, which are now considered to be hazardous waste, from other recyclates and residual wastes for reuse or recycling.
- 2.2 A survey conducted by the Scottish Executive in 2000 suggested that waste electrical and electronic equipment arisings in Scotland would amount to 71,000 tonnes per annum by 2007.
- 2.3 The Council's Cleansing Services section presently uplift a range of redundant electrical and electronic items including fridges, freezers, washing machines, cookers and microwaves from the kerbside. In addition to this service, there are currently 2 civic amenity sites where fridges and freezers are stored separately prior to transport and re-processing. Both sites also have designated areas for washing machines, cookers and other white metal goods which are processed as scrap metal.
- 2.4 The service at civic amenity sites has recently been extended to include appropriate storage receptacles for the collection of televisions and computer equipment.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 To fully implement the Directive on a national level, the Scottish Executive is looking to establish a network of designated collection facilities to which householders can take their redundant electrical items.

- 3.2 An alternative disposal outlet to the designated collection facilities would be retailers of electrical equipment providing a take back system. However, consultative exercises conducted by the Scottish Executive, has not identified this to be a realistically achievable option.
- 3.3 The Scottish Executive recognise that the majority of local authorities currently operate or have use of civic amenity sites with separate storage facilities for several categories of unwanted electrical items and view these sites as appropriate designated collection facilities.
- 3.4 Valpak Retail WEEE Services Limited have been appointed by the Department for Trade and Industry to act as operator of the scheme and will manage a budget of £10m funded by retailers of electrical equipment for the establishment of the collection facility network.
- 3.5 Local authorities wishing to upgrade their civic amenity site(s) to designated collection facilities have been advised to register their intent by the end of March 2007 to be eligible for funding.
- 3.6 The Scottish Executive have stated that local authorities can expect funding of up to £9,000 per site, depending on individual site requirements. In addition, each designated site will be supplied with appropriate container provision and local authorities are not expected to meet subsequent transport, treatment, recovery, recycling or disposal costs of separated household waste electrical and electronic equipment.
- 3.7 Local authorities that have not registered their civic amenity site(s) as designated collection facilities will continue to meet associated storage, transport and recovery costs of unwanted household electrical and electronic equipment.
- 3.8 Agreement to the proposed offer has been reached, through a consultative process, between the Scottish Executive and CoSLA.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive 2002/96/EC is consistent with the objectives of the Community Plan: Improving Environment, Aim 3 – Increase the amount of waste that is recycled and reused.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Nil

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Scottish Executive have stated up to £9,000 has been identified for each designated collection facility. If councils do not register interest in upgrading their civic amenity site(s) to a designated collection facility they will be subject to associated storage, transport and recovery costs.

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The aim of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive 2002/96/EC is to minimise the quantity of redundant electrical equipment entering landfill.
- 7.2 Through a consultative approach the Scottish Executive have concluded that the most appropriate method of separating unwanted electrical equipment from landfill is to establish a national network of designated collection facilities.
- 7.3 The Department for Trade and Industry have appointed Valpak Retail WEEE Services Ltd as operator of the scheme with a budget of £10m, collected from electrical retailers, in order to establish the designated collection facility network.
- 7.4 The Scottish Executive is promoting the use of local authority civic amenity sites and inviting Councils to apply for limited funding of up to £9,000 per site for upgrading by late March 2007.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Community Services Committee is invited to:
- i) approve that an application for funding should be made to upgrade the current Council operated civic amenity site to designated collection facility; and
 - ii) note the content of the report.

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Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

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WS/MT/DG

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS - Nil

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