

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 10TH APRIL 2002

DISPOSAL OF REFRIGERATORS – PROGRESS REPORT

Report by the Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of an intimation of financial assistance to allow the Council to comply with new Legislation.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Committee on 14th November 2001, it was noted that the Council would require to comply with new legislation concerning the removal ozone depleting substances (including those trapped in insulating foams) from refrigeration equipment before such appliances are scrapped. The requirement applies to domestic appliances from 1st January 2002.
- 2.2 It was reported that the new legislation effectively prevented the contractor, who normally recycled white goods on behalf of the Council, from accepting domestic fridges and freezers either collected by the Council as part of the domestic refuse collection service or brought to the two Civic Amenity Sites.
- 2.3 A Working Group of officers looking at the problem considered that the most appropriate solution to the problem was to offer a contract inviting tenders for the storage, collection, treatment and disposal of all fridges and freezers collected by and deposited with the Council.
- 2.4 The process is covered by EU Procurement Legislation and some six companies capable of undertaking the work registered an interest. Tenders were subsequently sent out and were due to be returned by 28th March 2002.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The selected solution to the problem seems to be in the best interest of the Council as a number of national and international companies have now been able to offer collection, storage, treatment and disposal facilities. None of the disposal facilities identified so far are in Scotland.
- 3.2 The additional costs arising from the exercise have been recognised by the Scottish Executive who have confirmed that funding has been allocated to the Council for 2001/02.

3.3 The funding can only be applied towards the additional costs of disposing of discarded domestic refrigerating equipment which falls within the category affected by EC Regulation 2037/2000 (on substances that deplete the ozone layer).

3.4 The additional monies cannot be used to cover the Council's existing costs of treatment e.g. de-gassing and, where applicable, the cost of uplifting appliances from households.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 EC Regulation 2037/2000.

4.2 The Environmental Protection Act 1990.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Scottish Executive has intimated that the Council has been allocated £39,802 for covering the additional costs arising from dealing with domestic refrigerators and freezers collected since 1st January 2002.

5.2 On the best information available, it would appear that the Scottish Executive grant will largely cater for the increased number of fridges which are anticipated to be handled by the Council from 1st January to 31st March 2002.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Council is committed to complying with all environmental Legislation.

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 At the meeting of Community Services Committee held on 14th November 2001 it was noted that the Council would require to comply with an EC Regulation affecting the disposal of domestic refrigerators and freezers from 1st January 2002. It was noted that compliance would result in additional costs.

7.2 The Scottish Executive has recognised the additional financial burdens falling to the Council and has allocated a grant of £39,802 towards the cost of disposing of domestic refrigeration equipment from 1st January to 31st March 2002.

7.3 The grant can only be applied towards the additional costs of disposing of discarded domestic refrigeration equipment containing ozone depleting substances which the authority has incurred, or will occur, in complying with EC Regulation 2037/2000 on substances that deplete the ozone layer.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Committee is invited to:-

- (i) note that the additional costs falling to the Department from 1st January 2002 have been recognised by the Scottish Executive and a grant of £39,802 has been awarded;
- (ii) otherwise note the report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

22nd March 2002

WS/JFC/RRS

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Letter from the Scottish Executive dated 14th September 2001.
2. Report to Community Services Committee "New Control on Ozone Depleting Substances: Disposal of Refrigerators" dated 28th September 2001.
3. Letter from the Scottish Executive dated 11th March 2002.

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AGENDA