

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	10 November 2005
Subject:	Waste Management Service
Responsible Officer:	Acting Executive Director (Urban Living)
Contact Officer:	Andrew Baker
Portfolio Holder:	Environment and Transport
Key Decision:	Yes
Status:	Part 1

## **Section 1: Summary**

### **Decision Required**

To agree the proposed price increases and admissions policy set out in section 2.1.

### **Reason for report**

To propose an increase in the charges for both collected trade waste and trade waste deposited at the Civic Amenity (CA) Site and to tighten procedures at the CA site to reduce the misuse of the free service offered to residents.

### **Benefits**

The council will increase its income and reduce its future liabilities under the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme.

### **Cost of Proposals**

There are no costs associated with this proposal.

### **Risks**

Reduced income.  
Failure to meet the Landfill Directive targets, for the diversion of biodegradable waste from landfill, could expose the council to significant financial liabilities under the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme.

### **Implications if recommendations rejected**

The risks identified above will occur.

## **Section 2: Report**

### **2. Background**

The introduction of the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) in April 2005 means that the council and the WLWA are required to reduce the amount of biodegradable waste being sent to landfill. LATS will also increase the cost of disposal for un-segregated waste as will the £3 per tonne per year increase in Landfill Tax. To reflect these increased costs WLWA and the six councils agreed to increase their trade prices (for both collected waste and at the CA Site) in the current year to reflect higher disposal costs due to LATS and also to divert trade waste into the private sector - thereby reducing WLWA costs and, ultimately, the levy. This policy has been particularly effective at our CA Site and will help to reduce future levies.

From April 1<sup>st</sup>, the six authorities have charges £80 per tonne for collected trade waste (excl VAT) and £100 per tonne for trade waste delivered to civic amenity sites (inclusive of VAT).

The increase of £30 per tonne at the civic amenity site represented an increase of 42% over the previous year. It was anticipated that this increase would lead to a reduction in trade waste delivered to the site as traders found private sector sites, which can offer cheaper tipping facilities. (Private sector waste disposal companies are not subject to LATS). The income budget was not increased to reflect the higher charge as it was assumed that the net position would not be affected. However, income is approx. £100k below budget.

There is a growing problem of residents accompanying builders to site and claiming free tips for trade waste that should properly be paid for. Site staff have attempted to control this practice but, in the absence of clear guidelines) this has led to conflict, threats and verbal abuse.

It is anticipated that the charge for deposit of trade waste at civic amenity sites will increase to £120 per tonne (inclusive of VAT) from April 2006. The disposal element of collected trade waste is also expected to increase to £100 per tonne (exclusive of VAT) in April 2006.

#### **2.1. Recommended changes**

1. The minimum charge at the CA site is currently £20. It is proposed to increase this to £25 from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005. This would raise an anticipated £15k in the current financial year.

As part of the budget process the charge for trade waste will be increased to £120 per tonne from April 1<sup>st</sup> and the minimum charge increased to £30.

2. To address the problem of residents accompanying builders to site (and claiming free tips) it is proposed to introduce the following formal admission policy to alleviate the problem. The proposal is similar to policies adopted by Hounslow and Richmond.
  - Introduce a limit of three free tips per van per 12 months. Hire vans will be excluded from this arrangement
  - All people requiring a free tip must provide a current Harrow Council Tax bill and photographic evidence of identity (e.g. photo driving license, passport etc.)
  - Van drivers from outside Harrow will be required to pay
  - Residents using cars, to tip, will not be affectedThis proposal would give site staff clear guidelines to help prevent fraud.

3. Increase Trade refuse charges. WLWA is expected to recommend that collected trade waste charges be increased to £100 a tonne from April. It is proposed to anticipate this increase and introduce the increased charge from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2005. This would raise an anticipated £25k in the current financial year and help offset the loss of income at the civic amenity site.

**2.2 Consultation**

None.

**2.3 Financial Implications**

These changes will help towards the delivery of our income targets as well as the Landfill directive targets. Failure to achieve targets will expose the council to significant financial liabilities under the Landfill allowance Trading Scheme.

**2.4 Legal Implications**

The civic amenity site is provided under the Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978.

Section 1 (1) of Chapter 3 states “It shall be the duty of a local authority to provide places where refuse, other than refuse falling to be disposed of in the course of business, may be deposited at all reasonable times free of charge by persons resident in the area of the authority and, on payment of such charges (if any) as the authority think fit, by other persons.”

The proposed admission and charging policy for vans does not prevent residents from depositing waste (in excess of three van loads) from doing so, but any such waste would have to be delivered by for example car. The proposal seeks to limit the deposit of waste using vans as a control measure to reduce the free deposit of trade waste.

**2.5 Equalities Impact**

The limit of three free van tips per year may adversely affect people who only have access to a van for transport. However, the provision of three free tips per 12 months should mean that any adverse effect is minimal.

Fraudulent deposit of waste transfers the cost of the waste disposal from trade operator to Council Tax. This proposal aims to minimise this transfer.

**Section 3: Supporting Information/Background Papers**

None.