

Report to: Executive Board 22nd July 2002–

REINTRODUCTION OF FREE COLLECTION OF BULKY ITEMS

<p>Report of: Strategic Director – Isobel Garner</p>	<p>WARDS AFFECTED</p> <p>ALL</p>
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<p>Lead Member Responsible: Environment Portfolio Holder</p>	
<p>Overview and Scrutiny Committee Responsibility: Environment</p>	
<p>Key Decision: Yes SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS</p>	
<p>A report was presented to the Executive Board of 26 February 2002 setting out the impact of charging for Bulky items and the options available to the Council. This report proposes the reintroduction of a free domestic refuse collection service of large items in Oxford on August 1st 2002.</p>	
<p>The report supports the Council's strategic aim of improving the physical environment by reducing the number of fly tipping incidents in Oxford.</p>	
<p>The staffing implications in relation to this proposal will be the equivalent of 1 full time post within the City Works trading account</p>	
<p>The Executive Board is RECOMMENDED to;</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the reintroduction of a free bulky items collection service; • Approve the methodology & operational strategy for introducing the service; • Approve the expenditure set out in the financial summary of section 3 of the report; • Approve the annual budget -£60,500 in 2002-03 and £62,000 for 2003-04 onwards, of which £22,000 is from the Area Committee special bulky items collection budget; and • Recommend the scheme to Council. 	

Methodology

Initial Introduction Implications.

- 1 The reintroduction of this service will require a three week "Lead In" period to enable completion of our existing obligations. In order to minimise the risk of incurring refunds to people who have already requested collection of items the earliest possible implementation date is August 1st 2002.

Managing the initial heavy demands when the policy is first changed.

- 2 A very heavy demand for the service is anticipated within the first 2 months. To ensure a manageable service level there will initially be a requirement for the short term hire of an additional vehicle. So that the service can operate on six days a week there will be a need to increase the number of staff operating the vehicles.

Staffing implications.

- 3 There will be a short fall in the number of Cleansing staff until additional staff can be recruited and in the short term Agency employees will be needed . In the long term, due to the increase in daily demand, the number of existing Cleansing staff will need to be increased by the equivalent of one full time, at a cost of £20,000 p.a., including employment costs.

Long term needs & implications

- 4 The restoration of a free collection service will require additional resources based on the demand patterns established in 2000/1, the last period when this free service was available.
- 5 There will be an increase in the number of collections due to the introduction of a free service. For this reason and also to ensure that servicing and other operational requirements are met, an ongoing additional vehicle's time will be required to support the refuse fleet. The most efficient method of achieving this is to use existing vehicles, coupled with the spot hiring of additional refuse vehicle resources when necessary. The additional vehicle time cost is estimated to be approx. £22500 per year.
- 6 There will be an additional fuel cost of £4500 as a result of the supplementary mileage involved, due to increased vehicle use and additional trips to landfill sites. If there is a major escalation in demand for the Free Bulky Service, after the initial period of 2 months, the situation will

need to be carefully monitored. The results of this monitoring may have implications when planning the budgets for 2003/4.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Short term needs start up costs to clear backlog

- 7 The short term requirement of resources to meet the backlog for August - September is in addition to the main service costs. The costs for additional resources during the first 2 months only is as follows:

Vehicle hire time:	£ 8,000	Weekly hire £1000 x 8 weeks
Staffing implications:	£ 8,160	Daily rate £85 x 2 = £170 per day including overtime
Additional fuel costs:	£ 3,072	Daily rate £64x 6. Days = £384 per week.

Total additional finance required: £19,232 *This additional budget is required for August to September start up this year only.*

Budget implications this year for 2002/3 Aug - March

- 8 Assuming a start date of August 2002, the additional funding required this year would be 8/12 of the ongoing annual sum plus the initial start up costs.

Aug – Sept start up costs	£19232 as per 3.1	=£19,232
Base running costs (8/12 of £47,000)		=£31,333
Less income to base budget (8/12 of £15000 charges)		=£10,000.

Total additional finance required to base budget this year =£60,565.

Full year ongoing cost implications from 1st April 2003

- 9 Cancellation of the fees for the collection of Bulky items will mean a shortfall in the existing City Works base Budget of £15000 and extra costs of resources will be £47000. The ongoing costs of additional resources for the introduction of a free bulky refuse collection service are as detailed:

Vehicle hire time:	£22,500	Spot hiring additional vehicle time
Staffing implications	£20,000	1 full time equivalent
Additional fuel costs	£4,500	Estimated additional mileage.
Shortfall in CW budget	£15,000	Cancellation of fees in base budget 02/03.

Total additional finance required £62,000 in a full year ongoing.

FUNDING PROPOSALS

- 10 A budget of £22,000 was allocated to the Area Committees at Council of 4 March 2003 to undertake special Bulky Item Collections throughout the City. It would seem appropriate that this sum of money is now used to finance the start up costs of the new free collection scheme, as previously stated in 7 and on an ongoing basis as in 9.
- 11 As part of the new Administration's spending priorities, £50,000 has been identified for the removal of charges for bulky items. The Executive Board of the 8 July 2002 approved the funding of these priorities and £40,000 is required for the free removal of bulky items.

Background papers: None

THIS REPORT HAS BEEN SEEN AND APPROVED BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR CITY WORKS AND THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT BUSINESS MANAGER

Minute extracts from Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
15th July 2002

33. BULKY ITEMS COLLECTION

Philip Dunsdon (City Works) presented this report (previously circulated as urgent business). Councillor Clarkson attended as portfolio holder.

The Committee discussed issues around the eventual disposal of the waste, the additional costs incurred in disposal and possibilities of recycling goods, and the responsibilities of disposal. They also discussed concerns over the increase in fly-tipping and items awaiting collection. Councillor Clarkson commented on discussions with OCVA about reusing suitable items.

The Committee agreed to RECOMMEND the Executive Board to undertake further work on how to deal with recycling and reuse of bulky items, public education about waste reduction, and public education about the bulky waste collection service.