

REPORT OF: CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

TO: EXECUTIVE

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**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
CONSIDERATION BY THE EXECUTIVE – REVIEW OF BULKY HOUSEHOLD
WASTE COLLECTION AND REPLACEMENT WASTE CONTAINERS**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is for Executive to consider and respond to Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendations following a scrutiny review of Bulky Household Waste Collection and Replacement Waste Containers.

RECOMMENDATION

That Executive considers and provides a response to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its recommendations in respect of Bulky Household Waste Collection and Replacement Waste Containers.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

Executive receives recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and provides a response accordingly.

ISSUE

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Executive with background information on a scrutiny review undertaken and to consider the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to that review in respect of Bulky Household Waste Collection and Replacement Waste Containers.
2. The Executive is requested to consider the recommendations now presented from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and provide a response thereto.

3. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 29th October, 2024 and made the following recommendations to Executive:

“RESOLVED

- (1) That the Task and Finish Group’s recommendations relating to bulky household waste collection be agreed and the Executive be recommended to approve the following -

- (i) That a stepped charging mechanism for bulky household waste collections be introduced as follows –

Number of Items	Minimum Charge
1 – 4	£13.50
5 – 8	£27.00
9 – 12	£40.50

- (ii) That persons in receipt of housing or council tax benefits be eligible for a discount of 50%.
- (iii) That it be acknowledged that there may be a cost to developing or amending current software solutions to accommodate the introduction of charges for bulky household waste collections, but that this would be outweighed by future savings.
- (iv) That promotion of hubs and charities accepting used household products be increased.

- (2) That the Task and Finish Group’s recommendations relating to replacement waste containers, numbered (i) to (v) below, be agreed, together with the additional condition numbered (vi) below and the Executive be recommended to approve the following -

- (i) That a charge of £25 + VAT be introduced for administration and delivery of all replacement wheeled bins.
- (ii) That an additional charge of £20 + VAT be introduced for the purchase of a grey refuse (non-recycling) bin.
- (iii) That no additional charge be introduced for the purchase of brown, blue and green recycling bins and this message be clearly advertised.
- (iv) That all charges recommended at (i) and (ii) above be discounted by 50% for persons in receipt of housing or council tax benefits.
- (v) That it be accepted that communal bins would not be a viable option and the option not be pursued, but that advice be supplied to new developers where possible.
- (vi) That the potential of placing an identity chip in the bins, containing the allocated address, be explored”.

A copy of the notes of the Task and Finish Group relating to this review is attached as an Appendix to this report.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy:

The policy implications are as set out in this report. The Council's policy would be affected by either a return to charging or the introduction of a limited service

Financial:

The financial implications are as set out in the Overview and Scrutiny report.

Costs shown within the bulky household waste collections report record it is likely that the budget for bulky household collections will be exceeded by £33,000 this financial year, if no actions are taken to mitigate this additional cost the 2025/26 budget will need to be increased to reflect the demand. Increasing the budget will place further pressure on the Medium Term Financial Plan. The report highlights the possible income that could be achieved to support delivery of critical and essential services if charges were reintroduced

Costs shown within the replacement waste container report record it is likely that the budget for purchasing bins will be exceeded by £46,000 this financial year, net costs are estimated to be in the region of £234,329 based on current levels of activity, if no actions are taken to mitigate this additional cost the 2025/26 budget will need to be increased to reflect the demand. This will place further pressure on the Council's MTFP. Paragraph 20 highlights the additional income the introduction of a small charge could generate, based on 2022/23 figures, that could be achieved to offset the increased costs or support delivery of critical and essential services

Legal:

There are no legal implications arising directly from the recommendations of this report.

Risk Management:

The risk management implications are as set out in this report.

It will be argued that a charge will increase the amount of flytipping within the Borough and therefore lead to increased street cleansing costs. We did not find significant increases in flytipping when charges were first introduced. Pendle is listed as being in the top 20 authorities for enforcement activity against flytipping offences. (Flytipping statistics for England 2022 to 2023 updated March 2024) Officers are reported to have commenced 4792 investigations leading to 877 FPN's being issued in the period 2022 – 2023.

Health and Safety:

There are no health and safety issues arising directly from the recommendations of this report.

Climate Change:

Raw material processing and extraction (i.e. fossil energy carriers, non-metallic minerals, metal ores, and biomass) are responsible for around 50% of global greenhouse gas emissions and more than 90% of global water stress and land-use-related biodiversity loss. (Source of information European Environment Agency)

Continued encouragement of disposal and replacement will negatively impact on the environment.

Community Safety:

There are no community safety issues arising directly from the recommendations of this report.

Equality and Diversity:

There are no equality and diversity issues arising directly from the recommendations of this report.

APPENDICES: Task and Finish Group notes – meeting held 3rd October, 2024

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS