

Agenda Item	19
Report No	EDI 35/19

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Environment, Development and Infrastructure

Date: 16 May 2019

Report Title: Changes to Council Policy on Categories of Waste Received at Household Waste Recycling Centres

Report By: Director of Community Services

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 On 14 February 2019, the Council agreed to introduce restrictions on construction and demolition waste brought to our Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC), limiting quantities to small amounts generated through minor DIY activities.
- 1.2 The aim of this proposal was to reduce the amount of this type of waste that the Council manages at its HWRCs, and deliver savings of £0.3m over the next 2 Financial Years. The operational changes were to be introduced on 1 October 2019
- 1.3 The proposal also identified that the Bulky Uplift Policy would need to be amended to allow the Council to accept requests for the uplift of small amounts of DIY material.

The purpose of this paper is to

- a. outline the proposed changes to the HWRC and Bulky Uplift policies as detailed in **Appendix 1**;
- b. explain how they will be implemented; and
- c. seek approval for their implementation

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are invited to approve the proposed changes to the Council's Policies on the types and quantities of waste it receives at its Household Waste Recycling Centres, and through its Bulky Uplift Service.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Highland Council operates Recycling Centres at 21 locations throughout the Highlands. These facilities are provided to allow householders to dispose of bulky items (e.g. furniture) and similar household wastes.
- 3.2 Access is not permitted at these centres for waste from commercial or trade sources (e.g. shop waste or builders waste). In addition, site users delivering waste in vans, pick-up trucks or trailers are required to complete a Household Waste Declaration Form confirming that the waste is from household, not commercial sources.
- 3.3 The Highland Council manages 22% more waste per person than the Scottish average. This equates to an additional 24,000 tonnes of waste per year, costing up to £2.4m in handling and treatment costs.
- 3.4 On 14 February 2019, the Council agreed to introduce restrictions on construction and demolition waste brought to our Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC), limiting quantities to small amounts generated through minor DIY activities.
- 3.5 The aim of this proposal was to reduce the quantities of this type of waste that the Council manages at its HWRCs, and deliver savings of £0.3m over the next 2 Financial Years. The operational changes were to be introduced on 1 October 2019

4. Changes proposed

- 4.1 The principal changes proposed are as follows

4.1.2 Household Waste Recycling Centres

- a. The following vehicles will not be permitted entry to a Recycling Centre with any waste:
 - i. trailers with more than one axle or greater than 2.4 metres (8 feet) in length;
 - ii. vans with a gross vehicle weight of 3.5 tonnes or greater;
 - iii. tippers and flat-bed trucks;
 - iv. Luton vans; or
 - v. horse boxes or trailers designed for transporting animals.
- b. Householders will be permitted entry to the site with small quantities of construction and demolition wastes from household sources. The following restrictions on quantity will apply:
 - i. the total volume of construction and demolition waste accepted in a single visit must not exceed that which can be contained within three standard rubble bags (up to a maximum of 53.5 x 82cm when laid flat);
 - ii. individual items of sanitary ware (e.g. toilet pan, cistern, basin, pedestal) will each count as the equivalent of a single rubble bag; and
 - iii. individual kitchen units will each count as the equivalent of a single rubble bag.
- c. Householders delivering small quantities of construction and demolition wastes from household sources will be limited to a maximum of one visit per day.

4.1.3 Bulky Uplift Service

- a. The Highland Council operates a chargeable collection service for bulky

household items (e.g. furniture) and similar household wastes. The service is available to householders only (not commercial or trade waste producers).

- b. A number of items previously excluded from the service are now to be permitted. They include:
 - i. bathroom suites and sanitaryware (e.g. toilet pan, cistern, basin, pedestal, bath, shower cubicle, shower tray);
 - ii. bicycles;
 - iii. car wheels and tyres;
 - iv. doors;
 - v. gates (up to 2.4 metres in length);
 - vi. kitchen units (assembled) and worktops (up to 2.4 metres in length);
 - vii. kitchen sinks;
 - viii. lawnmowers and garden tools; and
 - ix. window frames (with glass removed).

- c. The charges relating to the Bulky Uplift services are as follows
 - i. £22.69 (1 to 3 items)
 - ii. £45.37 (4 to 6 items)

5. Implications

- 5.1 Resource – the proposals will allow the Council to deliver saving CS21, which is aimed at delivering £0.3m savings over the next 2 years
- 5.2 Legal – there are no known legal implications at this time
- 5.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) – there are potential Rural implications as follows:

In some rural areas (Sutherland and Skye), the Council operates skip hire for householders, so we will be able to offer a chargeable skip service for C&D waste in these areas. Furthermore, in Wester Ross, Sutherland, Skye, Caithness and Badenoch & Strathspey we have Transfer Stations and/or landfills where we will be able to accept direct deliveries of commercial and demolition waste for a charge. In areas where we do not have our own facilities, there are adequate private sector alternatives (skip hire and/or private transfer facilities). In addition, the proposed changes to our bulky uplift service will give further choice to households.
- 5.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever – there are no known Climate Change / Carbon Clever implications at this time
- 5.5 Risk – there are no known Risk implications at this time
- 5.6 Gaelic – there are no known Gaelic implications at this time

Designation: Director of Community Services

Date: 17 April 2019

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Appendix 1

Recycling Centre Restrictions – Policy Clarifications and Revisions 2019

The Highland Council operates Recycling Centres at locations throughout Highland. These facilities are provided to allow householders to dispose of bulky items (e.g. furniture) and similar household wastes.

Access is **not** permitted for waste from commercial or trade sources (e.g. shop waste or builders waste). Site users delivering waste in vans, pick-up trucks or trailers are required to complete a Household Waste Declaration Form confirming that the waste is from household, not commercial sources.

From 1st October 2019, the following additional rules will apply:

1. Size Restriction for Vehicles and Trailers.

To ensure the facilities provided on site are accessible for all householders to use as required, and the available capacity is not taken up by a small number of large users, the Council has always operated a restriction on large vehicles and loads tipping at the sites. To assist site operatives and members of the public understand the restrictions in place, the following clarifications are provided:

- The following vehicles will **not** be permitted entry to a Recycling Centre with **any** waste:
 - Trailers with more than one axle or greater than 2.4 metres (8 feet) in length
 - Vans with a gross vehicle weight of 3.5 tonnes or greater
 - Tippers and flat-bed trucks
 - Luton vans
 - Horse boxes or trailers designed for transporting animals

2. Restrictions on Construction and Demolition Wastes from Household Sources

The Council has no legal requirement to accept construction and demolition waste (e.g. rubble, plasterboard) at its Recycling Centres, even if it is produced by householders undertaking DIY projects. To date, the Council has operated its Recycling Centres with only limited restrictions on these types of waste, other than ascertaining that the source of the waste is not commercial in nature.

The following new restrictions will apply:

Householders will be permitted entry to the site with small quantities of construction and demolition wastes from household sources. The following restrictions on quantity will apply:

- The total volume of construction and demolition waste accepted in a single visit must not exceed that which can be contained within three standard rubble bags (up to a maximum of 53.5 x 82cm when laid flat).
- Individual items of sanitary ware (e.g. toilet pan, cistern, basin, pedestal) will each count as the equivalent of a single rubble bag.
- Individual kitchen units will each count as the equivalent of a single rubble bag.

Householders delivering construction and demolition wastes from household sources will be limited to a maximum of one visit per day.

- The following wastes will be regarded as being construction and demolition waste affected by the above restrictions:
 - Soil, stone, rubble, brick, concrete, tiles and similar wastes
 - Plasterboard (no whole sheets accepted, only small offcuts)
 - Sanitary ware, baths, shower cubicles and associated fittings
 - Kitchen units, worktops and associated fittings
 - Doors, windows and associated fittings
 - Construction timber
 - Building insulation and similar materials
 - Water pipework, drainage pipe, gutters and similar materials
 - Other similar wastes arising from household improvements

Appendix 2

Bulky Household Waste Collection Policy – Revisions 2019

The Highland Council operates a chargeable collection service for bulky household items (e.g. furniture) and similar household wastes.

The service is available to householders only (not commercial or trade waste producers). The charges for 2019/20 are as follows:

- £22.69 (1 to 3 items)
- £45.37 (4 to 6 items)

Service requests are made either via the Council's website, Service Centre (telephone) or Service Point network, with payment being made in advance.

The list of items accepted is based on their ability to be safely handled and disposed by the Council. Following a review of the service restrictions, a number of items previously excluded from the service are now to be permitted. They include:

- Bathroom suites and sanitary ware (e.g. toilet pan, cistern, basin, pedestal, bath, shower cubicle, shower tray)
- Bicycles
- Car wheels and tyres
- Doors
- Gates (up to 2.4 metres in length)
- Kitchen units (assembled) and worktops (up to 2.4 metres in length)
- Kitchen sinks
- Lawnmowers and garden tools
- Window frames (with glass removed)

Clarification is provided that the following items are excluded from the service:

- Oil tanks
- Items over 50kg in weight and/or greater than 2.4 metres (8 feet) in length

A list of permitted and excluded items is available on the Council's website, and is attached here as Appendix 2a.

Appendix 2a

Items we will collect through the Bulky Uplift Service

- Beds (a bed is 2 items: bed base with headboard, and mattress)
- Cookers
- Cupboards
- Freezers and fridges (doors should be taped up or stored with the door up against a wall, interior must be clean and shelves and trays removed)
- Furniture or goods which do not fit into wheelie bins
- Gas heaters (bottle must be removed)
- Rotary driers (concrete base and rope must be removed)
- Storage heaters (bricks must be removed)
- Tables
- Television
- Washing machines
- Car tyres and rims (a tyre and rim is one item)
- Bathroom suites and sanitary ware (e.g. toilet pan, cistern, basin, pedestal, bath, shower cubicle, shower tray)
- Bicycles
- Doors
- Gates (up to 2.4 metres in length)
- Kitchen units (assembled) and worktops (up to 2.4 metres in length)
- Kitchen sinks
- Lawnmowers and garden tools
- Window frames (with glass removed)

Items we will not collect through the Bulky Uplift Service

- Aga cooker and cast iron cookers
- Asbestos
- Bagged waste
- Barbed wire
- Batteries
- Branches
- Breeze blocks
- Bricks
- Car parts and scrap metals
- Cement and concrete
- Chemical and liquid waste (including pesticides)
- Clothes pole
- Commercial waste
- Coal bunker
- Corrugated iron
- Dead animals
- DIY householders materials arising from the enlargement, construction and improvement of property
- Fencing
- Fireplace
- Fluorescent tubes
- Garage doors
- Gas canisters and gas bottles
- Gas heaters with bottles inside
- Gates (greater than 2.4 metres in length)

- Glass
- Heating appliance and boiler
- Oil
- Paint and paint pots
- Pianos
- Plasterboard
- Radiators
- Rayburn cooker and cast iron cookers
- Roofing
- Rotary driers with concrete base and rope attached
- Rubble
- Sheds
- Shower units
- Soil
- Stones
- Storage heaters with bricks still inside
- Tarmac
- Tree stumps
- Water tanks
- Weed killer
- Windows and window frames with glass still in
- Wire
- Wood – unless smaller than 2 by 2 by 4 foot that cannot fit into a wheeled bin