

(vi) Mrs I MacKenzie

To the Chair of the Communities & Place Committee

“Residents who want to dispose of DIY generated building materials can do so if they use a private car but they are not allowed to do this using a van or a trailer. It recently took a resident far longer to load concrete blocks into his car and then carefully extract them at the recycling centre than it would take to make the same drop off using his trailer. Do you recognise that if we make it difficult for residents to dispose of building waste we will see an increase in fly-tipping?”

There is no legal requirement for the Council to accept construction and demolition waste from households. Waste disposal costs for the Council are high at around £11m per annum including land fill tax. Costs continue to rise, and Members agreed at the budget meeting in February 2019 to reduce the waste budget by introducing restrictions on DIY waste brought to our Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs). The saving was to be achieved by limiting quantities to small amounts generated through minor DIY activities. Subsequently, an amended policy for our HWRCs was agreed at the Strategic Committee on the 12th of March 2020.

Vehicles with a maximum gross weight of 3.5 tonnes or greater are not permitted entry to our recycling centres. Householders can use a trailer or a van (under 3.5 tonnes) for the disposal of domestic waste such as furniture, electrical appliances and garden waste. DIY waste generated by a householder is accepted in cars.

Vehicle restrictions enable controls on the quantities of DIY waste and significantly reduce the risk of commercial waste being brought to our sites (which is unlawful). They also help reduce vehicle queuing in and around our busy sites for householders and reduce the risk to our staff at centres from frustrated customers.

The Council does need to control waste it has no statutory role to collect because:

- *this brings significant cost to the Council – our costs are higher than the Scottish average per premises, they amount in total o £11m per annum and are rising;*
- *we manage 22% more waste per person than the Scottish average;*
- *we have the 2nd highest amount of household waste per person sent to landfill of all Scottish Councils;*
- *our landfilled waste in 2019/20 created 297808 tonnes of CO₂, placing us 5th highest for carbon impact per person, with 1.26 tonnes of CO₂ emitted per person.*

Responsible householders unable to comply with the Council’s rules on accepting limited quantities and small amounts of waste generated through minor DIY activities can make alternative arrangements with external providers to dispose of their waste or use the Council’s bulky uplift service if available for the materials they seek to dispose of. The Council’s bulky uplift service has expanded to now include bathroom suites and sanitaryware, doors, kitchen units, work tops and sinks.

No-one should fly-tip; that is the illegal dumping of waste. We can issue fines from £200 to £20,000 or the offender can receive 6 months in prison and up to 5 years if hazardous waste is dumped.