

Report of the Strategic Director

CLEAN AND GREEN BULKY WASTE COLLECTION1. Purpose of report

To seek approval from Members to use funding from the Clean and Green initiative to reduce the lead time for the bulky waste collection service.

2. Background

Due to Covid-19 restrictions it has not been possible to safely undertake any Waste Day Events throughout the summer. The free collections scheduled for one week in December 2020 and one week in January and February 2021 will still be able to take place as these can be delivered with Covid-19 measures in place.

The Councils bulky waste service was suspended for 8 weeks between March and July 2020. Following the reintroduction of the service the demand has increased and at the time of writing this report the lead time for a collection on the residual bulky waste service is around 6 weeks. Appointments for an electrical collection are generally available on the next scheduled collection day.

Within the scope of the Clean & Green initiative there is a budget allocation of £15,500 for the provision of bulky waste collections through Waste Day and/or the free kerbside collection. Currently no budget has been spent.

It is therefore proposed to use the Clean and Green budget to fund resources to reduce the lead time for the bulky waste collection service. This will provide a better service for residents as well as enabling residents to use the Councils service rather than having to potentially consider other collectors who may not be licenced to collect waste.

Further information is shown in the appendix.

3. Financial implications

Any financial implications can be contained within budgets.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that where required the funding allocated to the Clean and Green budget be used reduce the lead time of the bulky waste service.

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX 1

1. Bulky Waste Service

The bulky waste collection service was temporarily suspended at the onset of COVID-19. However, the service was reintroduced prior to and in support of the reopening of Nottinghamshire County Council's Household Waste and Recycling Centre's.

Whilst there was an initial influx in calls received upon recommencing the service in July 2020 the extended lead time is a more recent situation. The exact reason why there has been an increase in demand is not known but it is not unique to our borough with other Nottinghamshire District Councils reporting a similar experience.

2. Reducing the lead time

It is not currently possible to accommodate additional collection days within the working week as all resources are allocated on the provision of the mainstream services. Therefore, should the current level of demand continue it will be difficult to bring the lead time for the bulky waste service down until December 2020 when the free week will be implemented.

A reduced lead time can only be achieved by undertaking additional collections on a Saturday when vehicles and staff are available. Based on a 7.5 hour day the figures in Table 1 below shows the approximate staffing cost per team to deliver a bulky waste collection service on a Saturday.

Table 1: Staffing cost per bulky waste team

Staff Member	Overtime Rate per hour (£)	Total On Cost (31.8%) (£)	Total Cost for the day per team (£)
Team leader	16.57	21.83	163.72
Loader	14.34	18.90	141.75
Total			305.47

There are also additional fuel costs but these would be difficult to project as it would be dependent upon where bookings were made in the Borough

In budgetary terms around £7500 is allocated to the provision of the free weeks in December 2020, January 2021 and February 2021. Therefore, there are ample funds available to be used to reduce the lead time on the bulky waste service.

Should it become apparent that Waste Day events can be safely provided before the end of March 2021 then any remaining budget could be allocated to the provision of these events.

A further benefit to providing additional Saturday collections is that this can be programmed in to the existing processes so does not require any additional back office support.

3. Benefits of reducing the lead time

There is no evidence to correlate the lead time in the bulky waste service with an increase in fly tipping. However, logic suggests that where a resident can book an appointment, sooner rather than later, they are less likely to consider other options for the removal of their items which may result in waste being collected by an unlicensed waste carrier and the waste being fly tipped.

Operatives that receive the calls for the bulky waste service have reported that residents have declined the service when informed of the lead time and indicated that they will make alternative arrangements for the disposal of their items.

4. Recommendation

Members are asked to approve the use of the Clean and Green budget to reduce the lead time on the bulky waste service.