



Somerset Equality Impact Assessment

Before completing this EIA please ensure you have read the EIA guidance notes – available from your Equality Officer

Organisation prepared for	Somerset Waste Partnership		
Version	V1.0	Date Completed	16/09/19

Description of what is being impact assessed

Proposed changes to fees and charges for 2020 – 2021

Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs) are empowered by the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and by regulations to charge for the collection of certain types of household waste, including bulky items and household garden wastes. The authorities are also empowered to charge for the provision of waste containers. Waste Disposal Authorities (WDA) are empowered by the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and by regulation to charge for the disposal of certain wastes. All these powers have been delegated to the Somerset Waste Board (SWB).

As set out in appendix A, a number of changes are proposed to fees and charges for 2020-21. These charges are either increasing by inflation, being removed (charges for Community Recycling Centres, bin delivery) or being reduced (garden waste). Charges for bulky waste collection services are increasing by more than inflation, and it is the impact of this proposed changes that this impact focuses on. Bulky waste collection services provide a way of residents of Somerset to have bulky items collected from their home/kerbside – items that cannot be disposed of with their household waste, and for those people that cannot transport those items to a Household Waste Recycling Centre for free disposal.

SWP has procured a new collection contractor (SUEZ) who will commence delivering services at the end of March 2020. Whilst the new collection contract is expected to save over £2m overall, the costs of the bulky waste service, in isolation, are higher than those under the current contract (noting that the current contractor has previously indicated that the service is loss making). However, there also will be considerable service improvements – offering bookable timed slots rather than simply a collection day, an improved approach to reuse, a more consistent approach to offering collections from within the home. In order to cover the costs of the service and the administrative costs of delivering the service, it is proposed to increase the costs of the service from £44.50 for up to 3 items to £60, with each additional item up to a maximum of 5 items costing an extra £15. This will cover the costs of the service, with £11k to cover the District Council costs of administering the service (e.g. customer call centre costs). This is in line with the Board's repeated commitment to not offering a subsidy for such services. Free alternatives to SWP's bulky waste service

include using local recycling centres (for example via a friend or family), offering goods for sale/reuse locally e.g. on social media, contacting local furniture reuse organisations or other organisations such as repair cafes or Men's Sheds who may take the item away for free to repair or reuse it (details of these are available on SWP's website), and there are many reputable firms that also undertake bulky waste collections for a fee.

Evidence

What data/information have you used to assess how this policy/service might impact on protected groups? Sources such as the [Office of National Statistics](#), [Somerset Intelligence Partnership](#), [Somerset's Joint Strategic Needs Analysis \(JSNA\)](#), Staff and/ or [area profiles](#), should be detailed here

- Somerset Waste Partnership "Proposed Scale of Fees and Charges 2020-2021" paper.
- Data on current users
- Demographic data about Somerset residents (from Somerset Intelligence Partnership)
- Data from SUEZ bid (i.e. setting out how the service will be delivered)

Who have you consulted with to assess possible impact on protected groups? If you have not consulted other people, please explain why?

- Feedback from staff who liaise with current users
- Discussion with future service provider

Analysis of impact on protected groups

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires us to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations with protected groups. Consider how this policy/service will achieve these aims. In the table below, using the evidence outlined above and your own understanding, detail what considerations and potential impacts against each of the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty. Based on this information, make an assessment of the likely outcome, before you have implemented any mitigation.

Protected group	Summary of impact	Negative outcome	Neutral outcome	Positive outcome
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of impacts is focussed on changes to bulky waste service charges as other charges are being removed, reduced or only increasing in line with inflation. Increase in bulky waste charges may have a negative impact on older people as they may be less able to transport bulky waste items to their local Household Waste Recycling Centre for free disposal. 	☒	☐	☐
Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of impacts is focussed on changes to bulky waste service charges as other charges are being removed, reduced or only increasing in line with inflation. Increase in bulky waste charges may have a negative impact on people with disabilities as they may be less able to transport bulky waste items to their local Household Waste Recycling Centre for free disposal. 	☒	☐	☐
Gender reassignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is not considered that there will be any differential impacts on people with this protected characteristic. 	☐	☒	☐

Marriage and civil partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is not considered that there will be any differential impacts on people with this protected characteristic. 	□	⊗	□
Pregnancy and maternity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of impacts is focussed on changes to bulky waste service charges as other charges are being removed, reduced or only increasing in line with inflation. Increase in bulky waste charges may have a negative impact on people who are pregnant as they may be less able to transport bulky waste items to their local Household Waste Recycling Centre for free disposal. 	⊗	□	□
Race and ethnicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is not considered that there will be any differential impacts on people with this protected characteristic. 	□	⊗	□
Religion or belief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is not considered that there will be any differential impacts on people with this protected characteristic. 	□	⊗	□
Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is not considered that there will be any differential impacts on people with this protected characteristic. 	□	⊗	□
Sexual orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is not considered that there will be any differential impacts on people with this protected characteristic. 	□	⊗	□

<p>Other, e.g. carers, veterans, homeless, low income, rurality/isolation, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of impacts is focussed on changes to bulky waste service charges as other charges are being removed, reduced or only increasing in line with inflation. • Increase in bulky waste charges may have a negative impact on people in rural areas/who are isolated as they may be less able to transport bulky waste items to their local Household Waste Recycling Centre for free disposal. Increased charges may also have a disproportionate impact on those on low incomes. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Negative outcomes action plan

Where you have ascertained that there will potentially be negative outcomes, you are required to mitigate the impact of these. Please detail below the actions that you intend to take.

Action taken/to be taken	Date	Person responsible	How will it be monitored?	Action complete
Promote free and lower cost alternatives to bulky waste collection service on SWP and District Council websites	31/03/2020	Mike Cowdell	Customer feedback	<input type="checkbox"/>
Review take-up of bulky waste service to identify changes in demand based on changes to charges	31/08/2020	Colin Mercer	Management team review	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure up to date details of free and low-cost alternatives are easily accessible and that this forms part of the call centre discussion with potential users of the service	31/03/2020	Mike Cowdell	Customer feedback	<input type="checkbox"/>
Engage with more reuse and repair groups to add to our database of organisations across the County that are offering alternatives to the bulky waste service	31/03/2020	Nick Cater	Scale of database review	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brief our team of experienced waste officers so that they can provide bespoke support to the most vulnerable	31/03/2020	Colin Mercer	Line management	<input type="checkbox"/>

			monitoring	
If negative impacts remain, please provide an explanation below.				
Completed by:	Colin Mercer			
Date	16/09/2019			
Signed off by:	Mickey Green			
Date	16/09/2019			
Equality Lead/Manager sign off date:	Tom Rutland 16/09/2019			
To be reviewed by: (officer name)				
Review date:				