

Transformation, Income, and Saving Proposal No 67

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 (SWP)		
Version	NS-2324-TSIGP-258	Date Completed	05/01/23

Description of what is being impact assessed

Increase in charge for Bulky Waste Collection from £61.80 to £68.00 (10% Increase) per transaction (3 Items)

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

The bulky waste collection service allows any Somerset Resident to arrange for collection of Bulky Household waste items from their property. The scale of the service is relatively small with only around 240 transactions per year. We have reviewed national services provided by the commercial market where prices tend to be higher than the charges we are applying. It should be noted that a free service is provided at HWRCs, though clearly this is only available for those that can access an HWRC. Many of the items we collect through the bulky waste service have the potential to be reused, and SWP signposts people to use these reuse services before booking a bulky waste collection. Such collections are organised by many charities and furniture reuse groups and through forums/websites such as Freegle – and most of these are free. Many electrical (and some other) items are covered by take-back schemes run by various organisations (where they have a responsibility to take back an item for free) and we promote these.

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

No consultations other than with Members have taken place. The price rise is linked to inflation and directly associated to contract costs, meaning that these paid for services are not subsidised by the general council tax payer (in line with the 'producer pays' principle used across much of the waste and resources sector).

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"> Older and younger people might not have access to vehicles to take bulky waste to the recycling centre so may be at a disadvantage if they cannot use one of the other services (often free) that we signpost people to – including furniture reuse, freegle and other services. 	☒	☒	☐
Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This group could be at an increased disadvantage as they are more likely to have less disposable income and more likely to be reliant on this method of disposal. Prior to booking the service we promote other services that encourage reuse of items (many of the items we collect on this service can be reused) and many of these routes are free – charity collections, furniture reuse groups, freegle. 	☒	☒	☐

Gender reassignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having considered gender reassignment we do not foresee any disproportionate positive or negative impact. 	□	□	□
Marriage and civil partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having considered marriage and civil partnership we do not foresee any disproportionate positive or negative impact. 	□	⊗	□
Pregnancy and maternity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having considered pregnancy and maternity we do not foresee any disproportionate positive or negative impact. 	□	⊗	□
Race and ethnicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having considered race and ethnicity we do not foresee any disproportionate positive or negative impact. 	□	⊗	□
Religion or belief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having considered religion and belief we do not foresee any disproportionate positive or negative impact. 	□	⊗	□
Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having considered sex we do not foresee any disproportionate positive or negative impact. 	□	⊗	□
Sexual orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having considered sexual orientation we do not foresee any disproportionate positive or negative impact. 	□	⊗	□

Other, e.g. carers, veterans, homeless, low income, rurality/isolation, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low Income, the inflationary rise may be a barrier to low income families utilising the service. 	<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
Monitor changes in take-up of the service and in fly-tipping so that we can consider whether further mitigations are needed	06/09/2023	Mike Cowdell	Data	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>
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	Select date			<input type="checkbox"/>
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If negative impacts remain, please provide an explanation below.

Completed by:	Mike Cowdell
Date	06/01/2022
Signed off by:	Mickey Green
Date	06/01/2022
Equality Lead/Manager sign off date:	20.01.2023
To be reviewed by: (officer name)	
Review date:	