

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**NEIGHBOURHOODS
CABINET MEMBER**

DISPOSAL OF HOUSEHOLD ASBESTOS

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the options for providing disposal facilities for household asbestos.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Asbestos is classed as hazardous waste. As such, its handling requires strict control. The council has a legal duty to provide an asbestos disposal service for residents. We provide a disposal facility at the Scunthorpe Household Recycling Centre (HRC) site.
- 2.2 When introducing this service, the intention was to provide residents with the opportunity to dispose of small quantities of white bonded asbestos that they may have in their own homes. Examples include the heat proof mat fitted in the end of an old ironing board, a small quantity of asbestos vinyl floor tiles or an old piece of asbestos cement drain pipe.
- 2.3 This aligns with the principle of domestic waste coming from within the household dwelling and excluding construction and demolition waste. This is classed as waste which we can charge for when receiving and disposing.
- 2.4 Currently there is no approved policy on the amount of asbestos a single household can bring into the site. Householders are bringing in large volumes of asbestos, including whole sheds and garage roofs. This was not what the service was originally designed for.
- 2.5 These large scale quantities are legally classed as construction and demolition waste. As such individual households have the responsibility to arrange for its proper disposal and pay all the associated costs.
- 2.6 Our current policy is to provide two bags to residents to assist them to safely dispose of asbestos. The asbestos goes in the red bag and this then goes in the clear bag. This is in accordance with recommended health and safety procedures that asbestos is double bagged to protect

the people who handle it. We do not accept loose asbestos but will accept larger asbestos items if they are securely wrapped in plastic sheeting.

- 2.7 In 2014, Lincolnshire County Council implemented restrictions to the amount of asbestos waste each household can dispose of. These were the supply of the same bags as we use on no more than two occasions per year. It is recommended that this council adopt a similar scheme to avoid the risk of cross border disposal.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 **Option 1:-** To continue with current arrangements allowing households to dispose of unlimited amounts of asbestos at the Scunthorpe HRC site.
- 3.2 **Option 2:-** To implement a new policy restricting the amounts of asbestos that can be disposed and not allow the disposal of asbestos arising from construction and demolition work.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

Option 1:- no change

- 4.1 The council will continue to bear the cost burden for disposing of asbestos from construction and demolition projects. This is not in accordance with providing a service only for asbestos waste arising from households. Other wastes received at the HRC sites which arise from construction and demolition projects are charged for as these are not considered as household waste. These include rubble, hardcore, soil and plasterboard.

Option 2:- restrict the disposal of asbestos

- 4.2 The new policy will allow for the disposal of genuine household asbestos but would not provide enough capacity for the disposal of asbestos from construction and demolition projects.
- 4.3 Residents will be able to dispose of small quantities of bonded asbestos originating from their own primary residence. The total amount of asbestos to be disposed of must fit into the smaller red bag provided. This in turn must fit into the second larger clear bag. By using bags this restricts capacity and will prevent the disposal of sheds and garage roofs. Residents can make up to two requests each year with a limit of 20 kgs per request.

- 4.4 The bags will be provided on request to a household. This will prevent contractors bringing in asbestos and claiming it has come from a household.
- 4.5 The only type of asbestos we can accept is bonded white asbestos (chrysotile).
- 4.6 The council will offer advice to residents to assist them in disposing of larger quantities of asbestos waste. This will include providing information on suitable service providers licensed to deal with the collection and safe disposal of asbestos based products.
- 4.7 If approved we would like to implement the new policy with effect from 1 August 2015.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 Fifty one tonnes of asbestos was deposited at Scunthorpe HRC in 2014/15. The total cost for disposal amounted to £11,457.
- 5.2 Whilst the reduced cost for disposal will not be known until the changed policy is implemented, not accepting asbestos from construction and demolition projects should achieve a reduction in tonnage and therefore cost.
- 5.3 If large asbestos sheets are broken up to fit into the bags there is the potential for dust to be created. This is a serious health and safety risk for the staff working at the HRC site. If the capacity is reduced so only small items can be bagged this will reduce the risk to our employees in the event the bags split.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

- 6.1 The IIA shows that no individual or identified groups will be affected by the change. The proposal applies to every household in the borough.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

- 7.1 Officers in the Corporate Health and Safety team support the recommendation. Lincolnshire County Council provided feedback following their implementation of a similar scheme.
- 7.2 Lincolnshire County Council introduced similar restrictions relating to the disposal of asbestos in 2014. They tell us that these have operated successfully since they were introduced. They were concerned that they might see an increase in illegal fly-tipping of asbestos waste. However, they report that so far these concerns have proven unfounded and that in fact no increase in fly-tipping has occurred since the restrictions came into effect.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the Cabinet Member approves Option 2 and the new policy becomes effective from 1 August 2015.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: None