

## **Cabinet – 11 May 2005**

### **Permits for Skips and Materials placed on the Public Highway**

**Portfolio:** Councillor M Longhi - Environment

**Service Area:** Built Environment

**Wards:** All

**Forward Plan:** Yes

#### **Summary of Report**

This report proposes a charge for the issue of permits which enable traders and residents to place a skip or materials on the public highway.

At present there are no charges for permits. West Midlands Highway Authorities have individual charging regimes in place for the issue of skip and materials permits and Walsall MBC will now be brought in line with these other Highway Authorities. This charging system will encourage a quicker clear up rate on the highway and thus reduce the duration of occupation of the highway, thereby increasing the capacity of the highway network.

Planning and Transportation Services will operate and police the skips and materials on site.

#### **Recommendations**

Cabinet agree the proposed charges for skip and materials permits and that these charges will take effect as of 1 August 2005.

#### **Resource and Legal Considerations**

The proposed skip permit charges are set out in the table below.

<b>Table 1</b>		
<b>Duration Skip on the Highway</b>	<b>Licence Charge</b>	<b>Location</b>
Up to one week	£5 per day	Non-traffic sensitive street
Over one week – up to two weeks	£10 per day	Non-traffic sensitive street
Over two weeks – one month max	£20 per day	Non-traffic sensitive street
Up to one week	£10 per day	Traffic sensitive street
Over one week – up to two weeks	£20 per day	Traffic sensitive street
Over two weeks – one month max	£25 per day	Traffic sensitive street
Any extensions	£50 per day	All streets

The proposed material permit charges are as follows:-

<b>Table 2</b>		
<b>Depositing Materials on the Public Highway</b>	<b>Licence Charge</b>	<b>Location</b>
Up to one month duration	£150.00	Non-traffic sensitive street
Over one months duration	£175.00	Non traffic sensitive street
Up to one month duration	£200.00	Traffic sensitive street
Over one months duration	£250.00	Traffic sensitive street

The charge rates proposed will be a temporary measure pending the implementation of the Traffic Management Act 2004. The scope and implications of this Act were covered in a report to Cabinet on 2 March 2005. One of the key components of the new Act will be the introduction of a formal permit scheme, whereby local authorities can, subject to approval by the Secretary of State, charge for skips and materials placed on the highway. These new powers are expected to take effect in 2006 and a further report will be brought to Cabinet at the appropriate time.

The administrative costs and highway inspectors costs are being met by the Council and are required to ensure that the terms and conditions stated in the permits are adhered to on site.

A daily charge is proposed to encourage a quick clear up of sites. Higher fees will apply to locations where there are traffic sensitive situations. Different rates would apply for skips and other materials. The proposed charging scheme is shown in Tables 1 and 2. Applying these charges to the number of permits issued in 2003/04 would generate in the region of £100,000. However, the introduction of charges is likely to result in an impact on the number of permits issued with a corresponding impact on the total level of income likely to be generated.

These charges will become effective as of 1 August 2005 thus giving the Council time to notify the necessary companies and the public of the forthcoming charges.

## **Citizen Impact**

- Keeping the highway clear
- Increased value for money
- Sustainable service
- Improving the appearance of the environment by ensuring that skips and materials are cleared away promptly with reduced duration of occupation of the highway.

## **Community Safety**

Increased number of inspections to ensure that skips and materials are set up safely and thereby assist with road safety initiatives.

## **Environmental Impact**

Improving the built environment by ensuring that waste is removed promptly and that skips and materials are placed on the highway for a minimum period.

## **Performance and Risk Management Issues**

There is a risk that introducing charges will result in citizens not applying for skip or materials permits, however we will ensure that action is taken to pursue any illegal positioning of skips or materials on the highway and that any potential revenue is sought.

## **Equality Implications**

Everyone will be part of the access to information on skips and materials and will appreciate the impact of clearer highway networks. Control of skips and materials under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 will place more emphasis on the ease of use of the highway for the disabled. Safety and locations and the disabled will become a major factor when deciding on the place to locate the skip or materials.

## **Consultation**

None.

## Vision 2008

- Easier for people to get around the Borough by ensuring that skips and materials are removed promptly and by agreed deadlines.
- Safe and secure by increasing the number of highway inspections and emphasising safety in the positioning, signing, lighting and guarding of skips and materials on the highway.
- Proud of our Borough by ensuring that Walsall's appearance and reputation for highway management is improved.
- Adopting a charging system and ensuring that inspections increase will provide better performance thus resulting in a quicker clear up of the highway and higher targets for actual inspections of works will be accomplished, this will ensure that Walsall is working towards 'excellent' authority status by 2008.

## Background Papers

1. Traffic Management Act 2004 and Draft Codes of Practice
2. New Roads and Street Works Act 1991
3. Highways Act 1980

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Signed:



Executive Director: K Stone

Date: 29 April 2005

Signed:



Councillor T Ansell, on behalf of:  
Portfolio Holder: Councillor M Longhi

Date: 3 May 2005