

ANGUS COUNCIL

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE – 2 JUNE 2009

WASTE MANAGEMENT AT OUTDOOR EVENTS

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

ABSTRACT:

This report addresses the need for a policy on providing waste management services at open air events.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee agree:-

- (I) To note the report.
- (II) Approve the proposals in this report as the basis for the provision of waste management services to outdoor events as detailed in section 4 of this report.
- (iii) Note the financial implications of these proposals and agree the level of charges as set out in section 5 of this report applicable in respect of commercial or business events; and
- (iv) Remit the Director of Neighbourhood Services to adapt the policy proposals contained within this report into a policy document for use in conjunction with the event information pack.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 The Council has developed an events pack for the purposes of giving advice to community groups and organisations on how to organise a safe and legal outdoor event. The pack contains a wide range of guidance and information including services that are available from the local authority.

2.2 One such area of assistance available to event organisers is the provision of waste management services. It is widely acknowledged that due to an increase in the number and scale of events, that waste management services have not been geared to meeting the needs of an event as regards litter bins, recycling, waste collection and disposal.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 In recent years there have been increasingly high profile events in Angus that have looked to the council to provide support in a variety of areas. With regard to waste management there has often been the expectation that the Council will automatically deal with any waste generated by an event.

3.2 The provision of litter bins for larger events, transportation of bins to and from an event, set up on site and collection and disposal of waste, can require a significant amount of Council resources, and is usually only possible at the expense of other core waste services including street cleaning.

- 3.3 In addition, poor waste management at an event can lead to scavenging by vermin and unsightly litter issues which reflects badly on the event and invariably reported in the press as being the fault of the council.
- 3.4 It is therefore time to clearly document what services the Council can and cannot provide, and the responsibility an event organiser must take for managing the waste generated as a result of their event.

4. PROPOSED BASIS FOR WASTE SERVICES OUTDOOR EVENTS POLICY

- 4.1 The proposed arrangements to standardise waste management services available from the Council and the basis by which such facilities are made available to the organisers of outdoor events, are as follows:-
- 4.1.1 Small scale community group and charity type events – in most events of this nature few bins are requested, generally less than 10. A maximum of 10 bins represents the number feasible in one journey, utilising minimal resources in vehicle and manpower. *It is therefore recommended that upon a request, community groups or charities be supplied with a loan of up to 10 x 140Lt two wheeled bins transported to and from the site of the event and emptied at the end of the event without fee.*
- 4.1.2 Larger scale community and charity type events – such events require a larger number of bins and with transportation can involve more use of Council resources. Generally these events are run on non commercial lines for the purpose of enhancing and promoting community life for residents and visitors alike. *It is recommended that upon a request, a community organisation that holds Registered charity status should be supplied with a loan of 11 or more 140Lt two wheeled bins (up to a maximum of 30 such bins) and / or 1280Lt four wheeled litter containers (maximum of 4 units) including the transportation to and from the site of the event and emptied at the end of the event without fee.*
- 4.1.3 Events run for business or commercial purposes – the Council can provide events in this category with a loan of 140Lt two wheeled bins (up to a maximum of 30 such bins) and / or 1280Lt four wheeled litter containers, including the transportation of bins to and from the site. It is proposed that given the commercial nature of these events that any event in this category, regardless of the number of bins requested, incurs an hourly charge. The proposed charge for financial year 2009/10, which will recover the costs of manpower, vehicles utilised in service delivery and administrative costs, is £38 per hour. The charge levied will be based on the total time required per event to deliver and uplift the required number of bins. Thereafter, the charge will be determined annually as part of the budget setting process.
- 4.1.4 Alternatively, an event organiser could collect and return litter bins to the Council's depot without fee. In this situation, the event organiser would be responsible for arranging waste disposal.
- 4.1.5 The collection and disposal of the waste by the Council from commercial style events will be charged to the event organiser at the current commercial waste collection rates as determined by the Council annually (Report 1161/08 refers)
- 4.1.6 An event organiser will be responsible for the bins during the loan period and must ensure that the correct number of bins are returned. Missing or damaged bins will incur a charge in line with the cost of repairing or replacing the bin or container.
- 4.1.7 For health and safety reasons the Council will not service litter bins on an event site while the event is taking place. The event organiser is responsible for monitoring and managing the waste produced during the event and dealing with litter bins that require emptying during the course of the day.

- 4.1.8 The event organiser is responsible for the containment of any waste produced as a result of the event. In order to prevent scavenging and /or wind-blown litter. All such waste must be securely contained until the agreed collection time, which can often be the morning following the event.
- 4.1.9 Recycling bins, with clear guidance on their use can be supplied without fee for positioning prominently on site.
- 4.1.10 The event organiser will require to monitor the recycling bins to prevent contamination by waste and locate a litter bin beside each recycling point.
- 4.1.11 Event organisers are encouraged to take responsibility for clearing litter from site during and after the event. (Where the site is Council owned this forms part of the agreement of let)
- 4.1.12 Any request to litter-pick at a site or where a Council owned site is found littered following an event will incur a charge. The charge will be based on an hourly rate which will recover the cost of manpower and vehicles utilised. The proposed charge for financial year 2009/10 is £38 per hour, with the charge being determined annually thereafter as part of the budget setting process.
- 4.1.13 Event organisers may loan litter-picking equipment from the Council, subject to availability.
- 4.1.14 Event organisers will require to give the Council minimum notice of two weeks when requesting waste services.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 It is difficult to assess the financial implications of the measures outlined in this report for the standardisation of arrangements to provide waste services to outdoor events.
- 5.2 The proposal to introduce a charge of £38 per hour for this service in appropriate situations will generate nominal additional income estimated to be in the region of £150 per annum based on 2 commercial events. The hourly rate charge represents the cost of two operatives, vehicle related costs required to deliver the service and administrative costs. This charge will enable the Council to recover its costs associated with the provision of this service to commercial type events and for litter picking.
- 5.3 In recognition of the contribution community and charity groups bring to the Angus way of life it is proposed that no fee is charged to these groups provided it can be demonstrated that the event is not run for business or commercial purposes and that in the case of the larger community events the organising group is a charity registered in Scotland by OSCR. The small number of such events currently seeking Council assistance do not put an undue burden on the resources of the waste management service and any costs associated with servicing these types of events, estimated to be in the order of £830 can be contained within existing resources.
- 5.4 There is no cost outlay to the Council with regard to establishing a supply of bins as the Council currently has a sufficient number of second life bins removed from service following the implementation of the current kerbside recycling arrangements that can be utilised in delivering this service.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The issues dealt with in this report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective (as required by legislation). An [equalities impact assessment](#) is not required.

7. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

8. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

- Resources are used effectively.

9. CONSULTATION

9.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services, Director of Neighbourhood Services, Head of Law and Administration and Head of Finance have been consulted on the contents of this report.

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Director of Infrastructure Services

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

E&CP/IW/GK
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