

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the Coat of Arms of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The crest includes a crown with four maple leaves, a shield divided into four quadrants (top-left: gear, top-right: deer head, bottom-left: ship, bottom-right: eagle), and a banner at the bottom with the text 'A NE FOR A'.

AGENDA ITEM

7

Impact of Special Uplifts Charge

Falkirk Council

Title: Impact of Special Uplifts Charge
Meeting: Scrutiny Committee
Date: 2 February 2017
Submitted By: Director of Development Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report provides information on the impact of the special uplifts charge including information on contaminated bins (and housing estate management) as requested by Committee in June 2016.

2. Recommendation

The Scrutiny Committee is requested to note the contents of this report.

3. Background

- 3.1 The special uplift collection service (or bulky uplift) is for any article of waste which does not fit, or cannot be fitted into a receptacle for household waste provided in accordance with section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. This being the case, Regulation 4 and Schedule 2 to the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992 specify types of household waste for which a charge for collection may be made and includes items that do not fit into a household waste container.
- 3.2 At the Council budget setting meeting of 11 February 2015, Members agreed to introduce a charge for special uplifts from 1st April 2015 of £15.00 per household per uplift (maximum of 5 qualifying items per uplift).
- 3.3 Prior to this decision, the Council provided 2 free uplifts per household per annum (with a charge thereafter of £22.00 per uplift).

4. Considerations

- 4.1 The information on the impact of the special uplift charge has been considered in terms of the impact on the special uplift collection, fly-tipping incidents and rapid response lines.
- 4.2 Since the introduction of the charge, the number of special uplift requests has decreased however the income received has increased and is tabulated as follows:

Period	Number of Requests	Income Received
2014/15	16,926	£1,010
2015/16	6,172	£92,580
2016/17*	6,792	£101,880

* Projected figures

- 4.3 The local authority is required to provide fly-tipping information to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) via the statutory waste data reporting tool 'Waste Data Flow.' The tool requires an answer to the question "how many reported fly-tipping incidents were there in your local authority?" The information provided to SEPA since 2009 (which is based on a calendar year) is tabulated below:

Period	Number of fly-tipping incidents
2009	1,126
2010	1,492
2011	1,120
2012	1,600
2013	1,753
2014	1,795
2015	1,915
2016*	1,705

* Figures to be verified and submitted to SEPA by February 2017

In summary, the number of fly-tipping incidents increased slightly in 2015 however has remained relatively consistent in years 2013, 2014 and 2016.

- 4.4 The council also provides a rapid response collection via street cleansing to collect material stored outwith containers as notified by colleagues in Housing Services. The historical number of requested lines and recharge cost by the service via Housing is as follows:

Period	Number of Lines	Recharge Cost
2014/15	3,314	£113,288
2015/16	3,595	£136,641
2016/17*	3,798	£136,206

* Projected figures

- 4.5 In summary, the number of requested lines and recharge cost between 2014/15 and 2015/16 has increased slightly however the projected recharge cost is relatively consistent to 2016/17.
- 4.6 In addition to this cost, any request from other Council Services or from the private sector for rapid response is also recharged accordingly.

- 4.7 At the time of the introduction of the special uplift charge, the Council adopted the use of the National Re-use Line which was placed on the website and for those contacting the Council (the National Re-use Line works with community based re-use organisations to provide the public with a free collection service for donating unwanted reusable items).
- 4.8 The latest Council National Re-use Line report is attached as Appendix 1. This shows certain items that may have previously been recycled or disposed of which have been reused instead (in line with the principles of the waste hierarchy). It also highlights the charitable organisations that are benefitting from the donations of reusable items e.g. the Falkirk Homeless Project.
- 4.9 The special uplift charge was initially set to enable the recovery of part of the cost associated with the providing the service i.e. the provision of a vehicle, staff and disposal cost. It has been noted however that £15.00 per uplift does not cover the full cost of providing the service therefore is still considered to be a subsidised service. In order to cover the full cost to provide the special uplift service, it is proposed to charge £30.00 per uplift from 2017/18 (as per Executive report '2017/18 Budget/Initial Savings Options' of 18 October 2016).
- 4.10 Information provided by waste and resource management colleagues in other Scottish local authorities (as at November 2016) indicates:
- 26 of 32 authorities charge for special uplifts
 - Of these 26 authorities, the average charge per uplift is approx. £25.00
- 4.11 With respect to the contamination of bins, this is considered to be a separate issue to the charging of special uplifts as the items appropriate for a special uplift are too large to fit within a wheeled bin as defined in paragraph 3.1.
- 4.12 The number of lines for collection of contaminated bins and the recharge cost (which in 2016/17 includes approximately 96% related to Housing Services with private landlords and schools the remainder) is tabulated below:

Period	Number of Lines	Recharge Cost
2014/15	422	£21,776
2015/16	595	£39,671
2016/17*	757	£52,630

* Projected figures

- 4.13 In summary, the number of lines has increased alongside the recharge cost.
- 4.14 It is noted that the majority of the contaminated bin lines are in areas that remain on a fortnightly green bin collection e.g. around 40% of the contaminated bin lines in 2016/17 are for Grangemouth which has a high proportion of flatted properties.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The proposal to introduce charges was included in the consultation exercise on proposals for budget savings for 2015/16.

6. Implications

Financial

- 6.1 The projected income of c£100,000 for 2016/17 for special uplifts is included in revenue budget income projections. The cost of providing the current service is £180k per annum, leaving a shortfall as described earlier. The previous eligibility of two free uplifts per annum for each household in our area would cost £300k per annum.

Resources

- 6.2 No other resources implications arise from this report.

Legal

- 6.3 No legal implications arise from the report.

Risk

- 6.4 No risk implications arise from the report.

Equalities

- 6.5 An equality and poverty impact assessment was required at the time of the proposal in 2015 and is noted as a background paper.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

- 6.6 No sustainability/environmental impact from the report other than those already mentioned above in relation to increased reuse of bulky items which is in line with the principles of the waste hierarchy.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The income received for the special uplift collection is projected to be c£100,000 in 2016/17. The charge of £15.00 per uplift remains below the cost to cover service provision and is noted as below the average charge per uplift for Scottish local authorities therefore is considered a subsidised service.
- 7.2 The previous entitlement to 2 free uplifts per household per annum would place a significant additional burden on the General Services Revenue account as described above.
- 7.3 The number of fly-tipping incidents is relatively consistent in years 2013, 2014, and 2016.

- 7.4 Householders are encouraged to donate unwanted reusable bulky items free of charge through the National Re-use Line to charitable organisations. This has enabled the reuse of around 22 tonnes of material for other purposes.
- 7.5 The contamination of bins is not considered to be linked to the special uplift charge as the charge only applies to items that cannot be fitted into a receptacle for household waste.

pp

Director of Development Services

Author – Ross Fenwick, Waste Strategy Co-ordinator –
01324 590434, ross.fenwick@falkirk.gov.uk

Date: 23 January 2017

Appendices

1. Appendix 1 – National Re-use Line Report (July to December 2016)

List of Background Papers:

The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:

- EPIA for budget proposal for introduction of special uplift charge

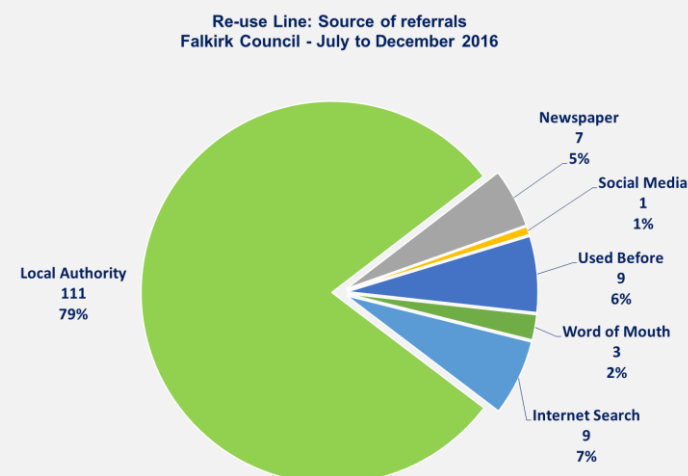
Re-use Line: Falkirk Council Report

January to December 2016

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	12 months
Referrals	37	33	30	35	26	16	11	32	34	26	21	16	317
Tonnage	2.66	2.55	1.83	1.94	1.78	1.07	0.87	2.87	2.82	1.92	1.37	0.92	22.6

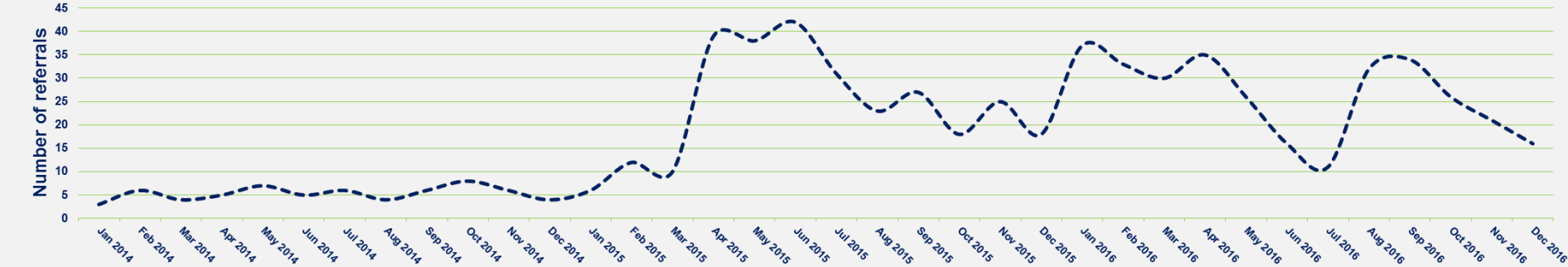
Referrals by organisation	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	12 months
ACE	21	20	11	22	11	7	8	23	21	15	16	10	185
Falkirk Homeless Project	15	10	13	10	12	9	2	9	10	10	3	5	108
British Heart Foundation		2	1	1			1		2	1	2	1	11
Edinburgh Furniture Initiative	1	1	3	2	2				1				10
Recyke-a-bike			2		1								3
	37	33	30	35	26	16	11	32	34	26	21	16	317

Items	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Hard Furniture	9	40	61	46	21	5	182
Soft Furniture	12	23	17	13	15	10	90
WEEE - Cooling Appliances	2	7	9	3	3	5	29
WEEE - Large Household Appliances	1	9	4	4	3	3	24
WEEE - Lighting Equipment	0	0	4	1	0	0	5
WEEE - Small Household Appliances	0	3	0	0	0	1	4
Leisure	0	1	1	0	1	0	3
Home office furniture	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
WEEE - Electrical & Electronic Tools	1	0	0	1	0	0	2

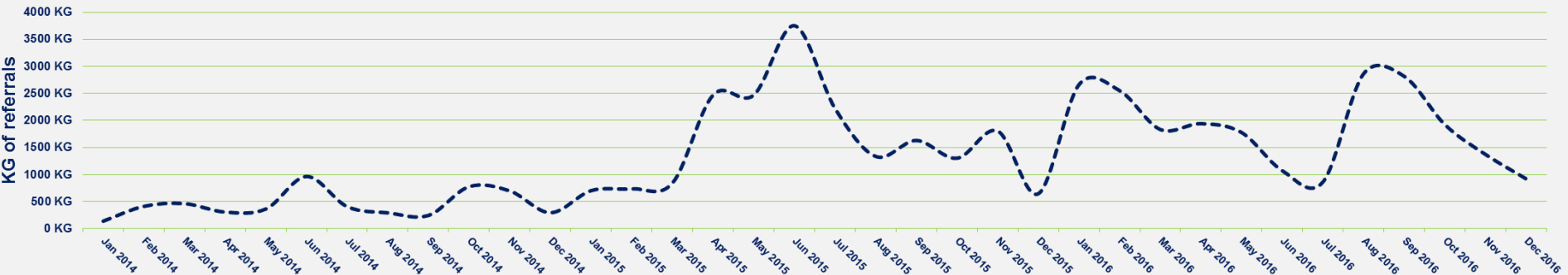


Re-use Line: Falkirk Council Report

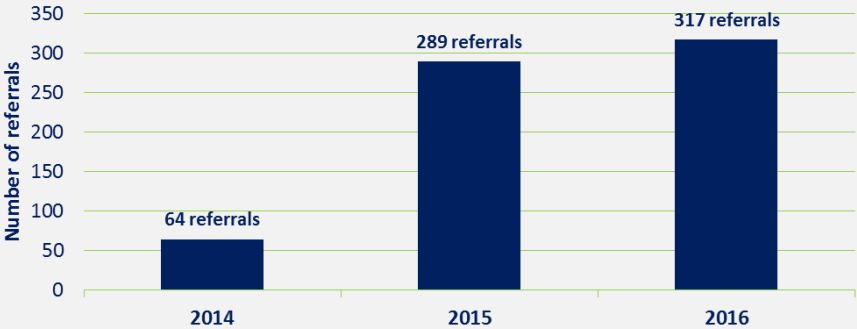
Re-use Line: Number of referrals
Falkirk Council - Jan 2014 to current



Re-use Line: KG of referrals
Falkirk Council - Jan 2014 to current



Re-use Line: Number of referrals
Falkirk Council - Jan 2014 to current



Re-use Line: Tonnes by referral
Falkirk Council - Jan 2014 to current

