

To: Environmental Services Committee		Subject: Disposal of Bonded Asbestos Products
From: Director of Environmental Services		
Date: 16 April 1998	Ref: GB/MC	

PROPOSED DECISION

To agree to the recommendation in this Report to adopt Option 2.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs in a year will depend on the number of disposals requested but no monies have been budgeted for this situation. The Department has experience of one incident where it had to arrange for the removal of asbestos which had been fly tipped in the area and the cost on that occasion from a licensed contractor was £300 + VAT.

BACKGROUND

Bonded asbestos products ie. where the percentage of asbestos is low and the product consist mainly of cement which in the past have not been considered special waste are now defined in the Special Waste Regulations as special waste and cannot now be disposed of in either of the Council's two landfill sites as they are not licensed to take special waste. Until now householders requesting a special uplift to have this type of waste removed or alternatively taking it themselves to a civic amenity site could have it disposed of by the Department quite legally.

REPORT

The problem for the Council now arises in that, Section 45 of The Environmental Protection Act 1990, clearly states that any form of asbestos disposed of by the householder should be treated as domestic waste from a collection point of view ie. it does not require to conform to the Special Waste Notification procedures but that the local authority may charge for its removal. However, the problem arises at the landfill sites in terms of the Special Waste Regulations in that this waste for the purposes of disposal is now considered special waste and as such can only go into a special waste landfill site.

Clearly this presents problems for the Council in providing the existing service for householders and it would appear that the Council have two options:-

- 1) Attempt to have the licences of Auchinlea and Dalmacoultter landfill sites changes so that they can accept this special waste. This would require an application to SEPA to have the licences changed and may not be successful. It would also mean considerable additional expense from additional licensing charges (annual fees for special waste sites are higher than for other categories of waste) and also additional training and certification costs for the landfill site managers as they require higher grades of certificates of technical competence. Additional costs would also arise from Health and Safety implications for employees disposing of the waste.

- 2) Engage a licensed contractor to deal with all such requests from householders with the waste being transferred to sites licensed to receive it. This will obviously be expensive as both the contractor's and disposal fees will be considerable. The Council may however make a charge for this service and may wish to consider a percentage subsidy to be paid by the Council with the householder paying the balance. All arrangements in such a situation would however be made by the Department to ensure that all aspects of the transfer and disposal complied with the legislation.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- Agrees to the establishment of a procedure to deal with the specified waste.
- Agrees to contribute 50% of the approved costs of removal and disposal, from within existing budgets.
- Authorises the submission of a further report during the current financial year, outlining the implications of providing this service.

M. Kenjo L. Hutton

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Director of Environmental Services