

## **COMMERCIAL CLINICAL WASTE COLLECTION**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 New Forest District Council collects clinical waste from approximately 300 local residents who are receiving treatment in the community. This clinical waste is either infectious clinical waste (such as soiled dressings) which is collected in yellow sacks, or clinical sharps (such as syringes and needles) which are collected in sharps boxes. These collections are free of charge to NHS patients receiving treatment in the community.
- 1.2 In addition to the NHS collections the Council collects commercial clinical waste from a small number of customers in the New Forest, such as Doctors, Dentists and Veterinary Surgeries. The Council currently charges £4.70 per sack for collections of yellow clinical waste sacks containing commercial clinical waste and has a range of charges for commercial sharps boxes.
- 1.3 The number of local surgeries etc using New Forest District Council to collect their commercial clinical waste has fallen sharply in recent years. This is mostly because of the high waste disposal charges for clinical waste levied by Hampshire County Council. The current disposal charge for commercial clinical waste is in excess of £800 per tonne. New Forest District Council has about 90 commercial clinical waste customers.

### **2. HAZARDOUS WASTE REGULATIONS**

- 2.1 New Hazardous Waste Regulations introduced by the Government in 2005 will have serious implications for the Council's Commercial Clinical Waste Service. A three part consignment note must now be completed for each individual collection of commercial clinical waste. The consignment note gives details of the place and date of collection, a description of the waste, details of the collection contractor and details of the disposal point. The first part of the consignment note must be retained by the customer, the second part of the consignment note must be retained by the collection contractor and the third part of the consignment note must be retained at the disposal point. For each three part consignment note, the Environment Agency make a charge of £8.00. This charge must be paid to the Environment Agency by the clinical waste collector. The clinical waste collector will then pass on the consignment note charge to the customer.
- 2.2 For New Forest District Council the requirement for three part consignment notes for commercial clinical waste will have two effects:
  - 2.2.1 There will be a significant increase in the administration cost for commercial clinical waste.
  - 2.2.2 The Council will have to increase the charge for commercial clinical waste sacks from £4.70 to at least £20 per sack and this could reduce still further the number of customers.

- 2.3 Taking into consideration the effect of the new hazardous waste consignment notes, the Council intends to cease collection of commercial clinical waste with effect from 1 April 2006. The Council has no legal duty to provide a commercial clinical waste collection and there are a number of private contractors who provide a commercial clinical waste collection service in the New Forest.
- 2.4 The decision to cease collection of commercial clinical waste does not effect the collection of household clinical waste from NHS patients. These collections will continue and will continue to be free of charge. By stopping collections of commercial clinical waste, the Council will be able to reduce the number of clinical waste collection vehicles from 2 to 1. This vehicle can be retained for other duties but there will be a net saving to the Council as it will not be replaced when the vehicle lease expires in April 2007. One clinical waste collection operative will be transferred to other duties and there will be no redundancies as a result of this decision.

### 3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

- 3.1 If the Council decided to continue to collect commercial clinical waste, administrative procedures would have to be introduced to generate and audit Hazardous Waste consignment notes and to collect the £8 consignment note fee on behalf of the Environment Agency. This means that the Council would have to substantially increase charges and would result in a further loss of customers.

### 4. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED

- 4.1 None.

### 5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Environment Portfolio Holder proposes to cease collection of commercial clinical waste with effect from 1 April 2006.

SIGNED: .....  
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DATE: .....  
16-02-06

**Cllr M Thierry, Environment Portfolio Holder**

Date on which notice given of this Decision – 16 February 2006

Last date for call-in – 23 February 2006