**Ref: 22-27/92**

**For use by Democratic Services only**

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| **From:** | **Michael Cowdell, Head of Waste Services** |

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| **Relevant ELT & SLT Director/s:** | **Mickey Green, Executive Director – Climate and Place** |

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| **Date:** | **22 December 2023** |

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| **To:** | **All Members** |

**End to charging for some DIY waste at recycling sites**

In line with recently published new legislation (The Controlled Waste (Amendment) Regulations 2023), from the 1 January 2024 there will be a change to Somerset Council’s approach to charging for the disposal of some domestic DIY waste at its recycling sites.

The affected materials are:

* hardcore and rubble
* asbestos
* plasterboard

We will be raising awareness of these changes in the coming weeks. Please note, the legislative change was confirmed on 22 November 2023.

**Domestic Waste**

Currently, residents have to pay to dispose of these materials through the recycling sites which are managed for the council by Biffa. Deposits of asbestos and plasterboard need to be booked in advance, while hardcore and rubble are paid for on site. Not all sites are able to take asbestos and plasterboard but all 16 take hardcore and rubble.

**The new legislation means that from 1 January residents can dispose of these types of waste – asbestos, plasterboard hardcore/rubble – for free, so long as they have produced the waste through their own DIY.**

There will be a limit on how much of this type of construction and demolition waste can be disposed of each month through our sites.

* **Each household will be able to bring up to eight, 50 litre sacks (or eight 2m sheets of asbestos or plasterboard) to a recycling site each calendar month, free of charge, over a maximum of four visits in a month,** (for example, two visits bringing four bags each time, or a single visit bringing eight bags).

The type of waste in each sack should be kept separate but the eight sack allowance can be made up from a combination of the various waste types. For example three sacks/sheets of asbestos, two sacks/sheets of plasterboard and three sacks of rubble.

* **Householders will need to pre-book their visit if they wish to take asbestos, plasterboard, hardcore and rubble.** From 2 January, an online form will be available on somerset.gov.uk/waste to make bookings. If residents cannot access the online form, they can call Customer Services on: 0300 123 2224.

Residents will need to tell us:

* The amount of material they are disposing (up to eight, 50 litre sacks per month)
* The number of times they need to visit (up to four visits per month) to dispose of the allowance.

The council and Biffa will monitor how often residents are visiting and how much of this type of DIY material they are bringing.

**Please note only the following recycling sites accept asbestos and/or plasterboard:** Bridgwater, Chard (not asbestos), Crewkerne (not asbestos), Dulverton (not asbestos), Frome, Highbridge, Minehead (not plasterboard), Street, Taunton, Wells (not asbestos), Williton (not asbestos), and Yeovil.

Please check online for how to wrap up asbestos that is taken to the recycling site.

Hardcore and rubble is accepted at all 16 sites and from 2 January deposits of this material will also need to be booked in advance. If residents need to dispose of asbestos, plasterboard or hardcore/rubble in excess of their free allowance they can pay for this online through the Somerset Council website somerset.gov.uk/waste

If households need to dispose of asbestos, plasterboard or hardcore/rubble. Before 31 December 2023, they can still do so by paying online here: [Bins, recycling and waste (somerset.gov.uk)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/bins-recycling-and-waste/) and using the ‘Do it online’ section. Hardcore and rubble deposits can also be paid for on site until 31 December.

**Trade waste**

**Construction and demolition waste from trade activity is classified as industrial waste and is not entitled to any free disposal.**

Biffa can accept trade construction and demolition waste (excluding trade asbestos) and a charge is payable to Biffa at the site. Please note not all sites accept plasterboard.

**For more information contact:**

**Name**: David Oaten.

**Title**: Waste Services Contract Manager - Treatment & Infrastructure

**Email:** [david.oaten@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:david.oaten@somerset.gov.uk)