



17th March 2010

Dear Business,

Westminster City Council is changing its commercial waste enforcement policy and this will affect you.

Unpaid business waste in Westminster causes a serious problem and affects the council's ability to keep the streets clean. As we move towards the 2012 Olympics the council must ensure that the streets are clean and presentable. Many businesses in the City do all they can to cooperate and comply with waste duty of care guidelines. If you are one of those businesses then we would like to take this opportunity to thank you.

We would however, like to remind everyone of their duty of care and bring attention to a new change in policy that will ensure all businesses do their part.

You have a duty of care.

As a business that produces commercial waste, you have a legal duty to ensure that you use either the council's commercial waste service or that of another licensed waste carrier to collect and dispose of your waste. Your business rates do not pay for your waste and recycling to be collected.

If for any reason your waste remains uncollected for more than two and a half hours, you should remove it from the street and store it in your premises until the next collection. **Please notify your waste collector immediately that your waste wasn't collected.** Details of the council's waste collection times can be found at www.westminster.gov.uk/env/streetsearch.cfm. If you use a private collector, check your collection times with them.

From 1st April 2010, businesses that fail to comply with duty of care guidelines will now be fined straight away without warning if found to be dumping waste on the street illegally without a current Waste Transfer Note.

Previously City Inspectors have fined businesses after several warnings if waste is dumped on street and the business does not have a Waste Transfer Note from their commercial waste collector as proof of service. However, the problem remains, and the council will now take action against anyone who illegally dumps commercial waste on the street. Penalties vary from Fixed Penalty Notices of £80 to a maximum fine of £50,000 or imprisonment for a maximum term of 12 months or both.

If you run a business in Westminster help us by ensuring that you have the right arrangements in place to dispose of your waste.

For more information on this change of enforcement practice and how it affects you, please contact Westminster's Street Management Team on **020 7641 1487** or email wastemanagement@westminster.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Leith Penny,
Strategic Director – City Management