

Now Government plans £120 bin tax

Philip Dunne, MP for Ludlow, warned today about latest Government plans to introduce new rubbish taxes, on top of council tax. It has been revealed that Downing Street is actively considering introducing additional 'user charges' for household rubbish collection.

- Under the clandestine plans for new bin taxes, hidden microchips will be used to weigh the contents of each household's rubbish bin and then allow the town hall to levy a weekly or monthly bill based on its weight. Locks would have to be installed on every bin, and wheelie bins would be compulsory.
- New municipal 'bin inspectors' would be employed to police the system, fining those who do not use their wheelie bins or who leave rubbish bags outside the bin.
- The Keep Britain Tidy Campaign has warned that rubbish taxes would cause a surge in fly-tipping, with families being hit the hardest. Such taxes are also expected to cause a surge in 'backyard burning'; in the Republic of Ireland where such controversial taxes have already been introduced, one in ten households now burn their rubbish in their back garden to avoid paying, filling the air with toxic chemicals.

Mr Dunne commented:

"There is already considerable public resentment at the way working families and pensioners are being hit by punitive levels of council tax - thanks to the Labour Government and reckless Councils. Now every household in the Ludlow constituency faces the prospect of new rubbish taxes on top. I fear poorest families will be hit the hardest.

"Such bin taxes threaten to damage the environment locally by causing a surge in fly-tipping and backyard burning in local neighbourhoods. No-one believes that Gordon Brown would cut council taxes if these top-up charges for waste collection were introduced. This threatens to become yet another Labour stealth tax."