



Cabinet (Resources) Panel

9 December 2014

Report title	Provision of Additional Garden Waste Bins	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor John Reynolds City Services	
Key decision	No	
In forward plan	No	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Keith Ireland, Delivery	
Originating service	Waste and Recycling, City Services	
Accountable employee(s)	Chris Huddart	Head of Commercial Services
	Tel	01902 55
	Email	Chris.Huddart@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	N/A	

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is recommended to:

approve the introduction of an optional charge of £35.00 during the collection period, to households that wish to have an extra garden waste bin.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 Following feedback from residents the report contains a proposal to introduce an optional service for the supply of additional wheeled bins, to those households with larger gardens that prefer using wheeled bins rather than home composting. An annual service charge would be introduced for any additional garden waste bins per household

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Amey (formally Enterprise) collects garden waste in 240 litre green wheeled bins from 98,000 domestic properties within the City, on a fortnightly basis April-October and monthly November-March. Participation levels for the collection of garden waste are around 75% which equates to 73,500 households. Approximately 80% of the total annual tonnage of garden waste is collected in a seven month period from April to October (21,000 tonnes)
- 2.2 At the Cabinet meeting on 23 October 2013 and the Budget Council on 5 March 2014 the Medium Term Financial Strategy was approved. This included the proposal to cease the winter garden waste collection service from 2014. (saving proposal unique reference 0014). As a result there will not be any garden waste collected from households from December 2014 to March 2015 inclusive.
- 2.3 The Association for Public Sector Excellence (APSE) benchmarking exercise highlights that 50% of the authorities in the same family group as Wolverhampton operate this type of service as well as Dudley and Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council's.
- 2.4 In line with the current policy, should a container go missing or get damaged after collection, a replacement bin is provided. A 240 litre wheeled bin currently costs £17.55. A total of 3,107 were replaced during 2013/14 at a total cost of £54,530 (Source: Amey records).
- 2.5 Amey has confirmed that, historically a total of 307 households, including those with large gardens, have been issued with additional 240 litre wheeled bins.

3.0 Review of other councils operating garden waste collection services.

- 3.1 A desktop review has been undertaken of other local authorities that levy a charge for a second garden waste bin and these included: Solihull BC (£80.60 + £28.50 one off fee for garden waste bin), York City Council (£35.00), North East Lincolnshire Council (£25.00) Warrington BC (£30.00), Newcastle BC (£36.00), Wiltshire Council (£33.90).
- 3.2 Solihull Borough Council provides extra garden waste services. Residents can buy an extra green wheelie bin and pay to have extra collections throughout the normal collection season. Details of the scheme for 2014/15 are as follows:

- one off fee for the garden waste bin - £28.50
- cost of having the bin emptied fortnightly during the normal collection season - £80.60 (inc VAT)
- the additional bin has a brown lid so that crews can easily identify the household is taking part in the scheme
- there is no reduction in price if residents join part way through the scheme

4.0 Proposed Scheme for the Wolverhampton Waste Partnership

- 4.1 In line with other councils it is proposed to continue with standard provision of 1 x 240 litre wheeled bin per household, but to allow the use of additional wheeled bins for households with larger gardens that prefer using multiple wheeled bins rather than home composting.
- 4.2 An annual service charge would be introduced for any additional garden waste bins at £35.00 per bin, subject to annual review. Only garden waste bins issued by Wolverhampton City Council, with payment up to date will be emptied. In addition, those households wishing to purchase more than one x garden waste bin would be reviewed by the service manager in order that an informed decision is made on the optimum number of bins required by the household. The control on the number of additional bins is required because the Waste Partnership would have to pay the disposal costs for all extra garden waste bins.
- 4.3 The additional bins would be clearly identifiable as they would have a brown lid. They would be collected on a fortnightly basis on the same day as other green waste bins.
- 4.4 In all cases, all wheeled bin containers would remain the property of the Council, and be retrieved from any resident who wished not to pay for additional bin service.
- 4.5 The additional garden waste service could be administered in the same way that the Waste Partnership currently manages the bulky items collection service. The service would be advertised through City Direct and the Council's website and all enquiries would be administered through City Direct. Residents would be invoiced on an annual basis for a pre-determined number of collections per annum.
- 4.6 In line with the current policy, should a container go missing or get damaged after collection, an initial replacement would be provided. Subsequent replacements would be investigated and issued at the discretion of the Partnership.
- 4.7 Removing the current practice of collecting additional garden waste bins would also ensure all residents were receiving an equitable, service.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 It is anticipated this scheme will be cost neutral. The additional income that will be generated will be offset by the purchase cost of the additional bin and the related cost of disposal of the waste.

[CH/25112014/W]

6.0 Legal implications

- 6.1 The Council has a duty under section 45 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to arrange for the collection of household waste. Generally no charge can be levied for such a collection but the Controlled Waste Regulations of 2012 permit a charge for the collection of garden waste. Councils can charge for collection but not disposal.

[TS/26112014/D]

7.0 Equalities implications

- 7.1 The proposal outlined in the report has been subject to an equality analysis to ensure that the core equality commitments are met by the service going forward.

8.0 Environmental implications

- 8.1 Collecting additional garden waste will make a positive contribution to the Partnership's recycling targets.

9.0 Human resources implications

- 9.1 There are no human resource implications contained in this report.

10.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 10.1 There are no corporate landlord implications contained in this report.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

- 10.1 None.