

## **Report to Portfolio Holder for Environment**

**Subject:** Waste Services Fees and Charges 2023/24

**Date:** 31 March 2023

**Author:** Business Development and Support Manager

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### **Wards Affected**

Borough-wide

### **Purpose**

To seek approval for the Fees and Charges for Waste Services for 2023/24 including garden waste charges for 2024/25.

### **Key Decision**

This is not a Key Decision

### **Recommendation**

#### **That the Portfolio Holder for Environment:**

- a) Approves the Fees and Charges for 2023/24 as detailed in Appendices A and B, including Garden Waste fees for 2024/25 which have to be confirmed early to accommodate for the invoicing period.
- b) Approves the introduction of new fees as detailed in this report and shown in Appendix A.

### **Background**

1.1 With Portfolio Holder and relevant Corporate Director approval, discretion can be made to apply varying percentage increases or freezes to relevant Fees and Charges as long as the overall cash amount for that area are met. This allows consideration to be made for factors that influence the rate at which fees and charges are set.

1.2 These factors include:

- The Borough's priorities.
- The comparative price of neighbouring authorities.
- The effect an increase in price would have on the activity, including customer resistance.
- The statutory requirement to break even.

- Increasing operating costs.
- The cost benefit of the service.

## **Proposal**

- 2.1 It is proposed that the Waste Fees and Charges are revised as detailed in Appendix A & B. It should be noted that there is a proposed increase to garden waste fees for 2024/25 of £1 for the first bin only. The approval for 2024/25 enables timely invoicing for customers on the scheme. This increase is not the 5% increase applied to other discretionary fees but has been set taking into account benchmarking from other authorities and the impact a significant increase would have on customers. The price of garden waste collection ranges from £34 to £40 amongst neighbouring authorities and the proposed £40 charge is within these parameters.
- 2.2 It is proposed to introduce a fee for the disposal of waste from 'one-off events', such as annual firework displays and village fairs where waste provisions are required for the duration of the event only. Whilst a fee for delivery and collection of receptacles is already applied, there are fees associated with disposal of this commercial waste which are not currently accounted for. This fee is deemed necessary to ensure our disposal costs are covered in terms of vehicle use and labour. The costs of disposal will vary depending on the number and size of waste receptacles provided for an event, the prices for disposal will reflect trade waste disposal costs and will be provided to customers on a case by case basis.
- 2.3 Excluding garden waste, prices for Waste have been set to achieve as a minimum the agreed discretionary income 5% increase in accordance with the Cabinet agreed inflation increase, and in consideration of the aforementioned factors. The fees have been rounded up in some instances and fees have been benchmarked against other authorities. In relation to trade waste figures at exempt appendix 2, they are increased at the 5% inflationary level having taken into account inflationary increases in costs and where possible comparison with other authorities providing trade waste services.

## **Alternative Options**

- 3.1 An alternative price increase for inflation could have been applied. This however would not have been in consideration of the proposed Medium Term Financial Plan or current CPI inflation measures.
- 3.2 Not changing the fees for the new financial year. This however would not cover the increase in service costs.
- 3.3 Not introduce new fees as detailed in this report and Appendix A. However, again service costs would not be met if this option was taken.

## **Financial Implications**

- 4.1 Discretionary Services are those which an authority has the power to but is not obliged to provide, in line with legislation an authority can levy a charge for these service which must be "reasonable". Fees and charges for discretionary services are expected to recover the cost of providing the service from the user, rather than being subsidised by the general tax payer.

- 4.2 The proposed fees and charges for 2023/24 have been set to ensure that any increases in the cost of delivering discretionary services are reflected in the setting of fees and charges to avoid additional cost pressures on the Council.
- 4.3 Included in the report above is a recommendation to introduce a new element to the existing fees for one off events to cover the cost of disposal, which is not currently part of the existing fee to customers. This additional fee will cover the disposal cost of the waste to ensure that the service is operating at full cost recovery.
- 4.4 The proposed fees and charges for 2023/24 are set out in Appendix A for Bulky and Garden Waste and Appendix B for Trade Waste (exempt).

### **Legal Implications**

- 5.1 Powers to charge for the collection of garden, bulky, commercial and industrial waste and the provision of new bins derive from the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and regulations made thereunder. All charges levied must be reasonable.

### **Equalities Implications**

- 6.1 The proposed increase in 'Fees and Charges' will not have any adverse equalities implications. Vulnerable residents can apply for and assisted collection for their domestic bins, and apply for a additional waste collection capacity if they have a medical condition that results in excess waste.

### **Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications**

- 7.1 The proposed increase in 'Fees And Charges' will not impact on the Council's Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability targets.

### **Appendices**

- 8.1 Appendices A – Waste Fees and Charges 2023/24 and garden waste 2024/25.  
Appendix B – Trade Waste Fees and Charges 2023/24(Exempt)

### **Background Papers**

- 9.1. None identified.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

- 10.1 To contribute to the delivery of a balanced budget both in 2022/23 and in the medium term, and satisfy statutory requirements.

#### **Statutory Officer approval**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

**On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

**On behalf of the Monitoring Officer**

