

Report to Portfolio Holder for Environment

Subject: Garden Waste Fees and Charges 2025/26

Date: 20th January 2025

Author: Director of Operations

Wards Affected

Borough-wide

Purpose

To seek approval for changes to the fees and charges in respect of garden waste from 1st April 2025.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision

Recommendation

That the Portfolio Holder for Environment:

- a) Approves the Fees and Charges for 2025/26 for garden waste as detailed in the report.

Background

1.1 In April 2024, fees and charges were agreed for garden waste services from 1st April 2025. The fees were fixed a year in advance in order to enable marketing of the garden waste service with new prices to be promoted in the winter of 2024/25. As yet, no marketing of prices for 2025/26 has occurred as the scheme for 2025/26 has not been launched.

1.2 The charge for a garden waste collection in 2025/26 was agreed at £42 with each additional bin at £21. In setting prices for garden waste collection a number of factors were considered including:

- 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.

1.3 Following a review of the waste budget required after overspends in 2023/24 and 2024/25, there have been changes to staffing and processes, procurement of a waste management software system, and the introduction of new processes to garden waste including stickers, to ensure effective and efficient management of the collections. As a result of these changes, including the expansion of the service to include an extra crew to collect the growing number of bins, which has been covered by additional agency staff, there has been a need to undertake a further review of the costs associated with the garden waste service to ensure all costs are accounted for.

1.4 A review of fees and charges has identified that with the increase in customers for 2024/25, the changes in relation to NI contributions, increases in insurance costs and the need for additional permanent resource to support the service, service costs have increased. As such a review of fees set for 2025/26 is required.

Proposal

2.1 It is proposed that the fees for garden waste collection for 2025/26 are revised as follows:

Garden Waste Fees and Charges from 1 April 2025 Garden Waste – £45.00 Additional bin (based on 50% of first bin rounded up) £23.00

2.2 This amount reflects the increases in the cost of the service as detailed in this report. Whilst lower prices of £42 and £21 for an additional bin were previously agreed over six months ago, these charges would not be sufficient to meet increased cost pressures.

Alternative Options

3.1 An alternative price could have been applied. This however would not have been in consideration of the current costs associated with garden waste.

3.2 Not changing the fees for the new financial year and leaving them as originally approved. This however would not cover the increase in service costs.

Financial Implications

4.1 The proposed fees and charges for 2025/26 have been set to ensure that any increases in the cost of delivering garden waste services are reflected in the setting of fees and charges to avoid additional cost pressures on the Council. The increase in charges reflect changes to the service and increases in costs associated with additional permanent resource, employer's national insurance increase and a new waste system implementation.

4.2 Based on the current customer base, a price increase from £42 to £45 for the first bin, will result in additional income of £57,400. In terms of benchmarking against other authorities, this price is not the highest in comparison to other authorities. Prices shared by other authorities are as follows:

- Rushcliffe from £45 to £47,
- Broxtowe from £43 to £45,
- Bassetlaw from £36 to £38

4.3 Estimated Increase in Operational Costs

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Resource Costs | £50,000 |
| Waste System | £10,000 |
| Bin Stickers & Postage | £25,000 |
| Total | £85,000 |

- 4.4 An additional permanently staffed round was added to the service in 2024/25 to accommodate additional customers, these costs were not anticipated when fees for 25/26 were originally agreed. In order to ensure full cost recovery, an increase in price is recommended.

Legal Implications

- 5.1 Powers to charge for the collection of garden waste derive from the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and regulations made thereunder. All charges levied for the collection of garden waste must be reasonable and should cover all costs of provision of the service. Whilst a decision to set fees and charges was made in April 2024, this is over 6 months ago and as such a decision following review can be made to change fee levels if necessary to ensure costs of the service are met.

Equalities Implications

- 6.1 The proposed increase in 'Fees and Charges' will not have any adverse equalities implications. Those who are unable to present their bins can apply for an assisted collection for their garden waste collection.

Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 The collection of garden waste supports the governments Simpler recycling regime and enables separate collection from other household waste. The Council is striving to reduce carbon impact in its waste collection services for example by changing to the use of HVO instead of Diesel to fuel vehicles for collection. Improving efficiency of this service through route optimisation will further contribute to reducing carbon emissions.

Appendices

- 8.1 None

Background Papers

- 9.1 Fees and Charges report 2024 [Decision - Waste Services \(Discretionary\) Fees and Charges for 2024/25](#)

Reasons for Recommendations

10.1 To contribute to the delivery of a balanced budget both in 2025/26 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