

Report of the Executive Director

GARDEN WASTE SUBSCRIPTION CHARGES FOR 2022/231. Purpose of report

To seek approval for the 2022/23 garden waste subscription fees.

2. Background

An income target of £750,000 was set for the 2021/22 subscription period. As of 1 October 2021, 22,100 properties have subscribed to the service generating an income of £859,203.

The number of subscribers in 2021/22 has increased from those in 2020/21 suggesting that the service represents good value for money. The challenge for the 2022/23 season will be to maintain the customer base.

Outlined in the appendix are options relating to the charges for the garden waste collection service for 2022/23.

3. Financial implications

The financial implications of each option are shown in the appendix.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to RECOMMEND to the Finance and Resources Committee that:

1. The price for the first bin for 2022/23 be increased by £1.00

2. The price for additional bins for 2022/23 be increased by £1.00

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX

Charges for 2021/221. Comparison of charges

The table below shows the charges for the kerbside garden waste collection service for all district councils within Nottinghamshire.

Local Authority	First bin price (2021/22)	Additional bin price (2021/22)	Service Provision
Broxtowe Borough Council	£36	£22	Fortnightly March to November, monthly December through to February
Ashfield District Council	£28	£14	Fortnightly March to December
Bassetlaw District Council	£32	£32	Fortnightly March to November
Gedling Borough Council	£38	£20	Fortnightly April to March – no service January and February
Mansfield District Council	£30	£15.50	Fortnightly March to November, one in December and no collections in January and February
Newark and Sherwood	£30 (reduced by £5 to take account of collection issues in 2020/21)	£35	Fortnightly March to November, monthly December through to February
Rushcliffe Borough Council	£40	£25	Fortnightly but no collections over the Christmas and New Year period

The current fee of £36 for the first bin is slightly above the average price of £33.42 across the Nottinghamshire districts. There are significant differences in the prices charged for additional bins. The current charge for an additional bin is £22 with the average price across the Nottinghamshire districts being £23.35

By October 2021 2,448 subscribers have paid for the use of additional bins.

2. Charging mechanism

Residents can currently subscribe to the service in three ways:

- Online
- By telephone

- By using the kiosk (located in Beeston Council Offices)

Approximately 88.1% of Broxtowe subscribers use the online payment system. Online subscription is by far the cheapest and easiest payment method and equates to a cost of £0.15p per transaction.

3. Options for charges

Different proposed charges for 2022/23 are shown in the tables below. The figures used in the tables are based on 22,100 subscribers (the number as at October 2021).

The different options illustrate the projected income based on different prices for the first and additional bins.

Number of bins	Number of subscribers	Projected income from first bins				
		£36 (Current price)	£37 (Increase £1)	£38 (Increase £2)	£39 (Increase £3)	£40 (Increase £4)
1	22,100	£795,600	£817,700	£839,800	£861,900	£884,000
Potential Additional Income		0	£22,100	£44,200	£66,300	£88,400

Number of additional bins	Number of subscribers	Projected income from additional bins				
		£22 (current price)	£23 (Increase £1)	£24 (Increase £2)	£25 (Increase £3)	£26 (Increase £4)
1	2150	£47,300	£49,450	£51,600	£53,750	£55,900
2	223	£9,812	£10,258	£10,704	£11,150	£11,596
3	54	£3,564	£3,726	£3,888	£4,050	£4,212
4	8	£704	£736	£768	£800	£832
5	7	£770	£805	£840	£875	£910
6	1	£132	£138	£144	£150	£156
7	4	£616	£644	£672	£700	£732
9	1	£198	£207	£216	£225	£234
Total		£63,096	£65,964	£68,832	£71,700	£74,572
Potential Additional Income		0	£2,868	£5,736	£8,604	£11,476

4. Risks

Increasing the price may increase the risk that customers do not re-subscribe. The overall number of subscribers has increased by around 650 (October 2021) from the previous year. The challenge for the 2022/23 season will be to maintain the existing customer base.

Another issue which has been experienced in 2021/22 is the disruption to collections due to both COVID-19 and the national shortage of HGV drivers. From July 2021 through to September 2021 not all collections were completed on the schedule day. Unfortunately, the collections scheduled for the week commencing 19 July 2021 were cancelled in order for resources to be deployed on the priority residual and recycling services. However, it is intended that an additional collection is scheduled for February 2022 to ensure customers receive their 23 planned collections per year.

5. Recommendations

The following charges are proposed:

- The price for the first bin is increased by £1.00
- The price for additional bins is increased by £1.00

It is envisaged that the price increase on the first bin will generate additional income in the region of £22,100.

It is envisaged that the price increase for the additional bin will generate additional income in the region of £2,868.

The price increases will ensure that the provision of the garden waste collection service is in line with neighbouring authorities.