

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change

GARDEN WASTE SUBSCRIPTION FEES 2023/241. Purpose of Report

To seek approval for the 2023/24 garden waste subscription fees.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that:

- 1. The price for the first bin for 2023/24 be increased by £1**
- 2. The price for additional bins for 2023/24 be increased by £1.**

3. Detail

An income target of £884,000 was set for the 2022/23 subscription period. As of 1 October 2022, 21,847 properties have subscribed to the service generating an income of £859,771.

The number of subscribers in 2022/23 has decreased from those in 2021/22. This is likely to be as a result of the dry weather experienced during the season, resulting in vegetation not growing as much therefore reducing demand for the service. The current cost of living crisis may also have affected the subscription numbers. The challenge for the 2023/24 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 2023/24.

4. Financial Implications

The comments of the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

The proposed £1 increase in the price for the first bin and also for any additional bins is estimated to generate additional income in the region of £24,000. The revised Business Strategy approved by Cabinet on 4 October 2022 included an additional £30,000 in Garden Waste Income from an expected increase in subscriptions during 2022/23 and 2023/24. In order to meet the anticipated budget gap in 2023/24, it is important that the price increase is supported and ongoing marketing continues to drive forward and increase the volume of subscriptions.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

The Council is the waste collection authority for the Borough with a duty to collect specified forms of waste. Section 45(3) of the Environmental Protection

Act 1990 states “no charge shall be made for the collection of household waste except in cases prescribed in regulations made by the Secretary of State”. Section 4 of Schedule 1 of the Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012 states that charges may be made for the collection of household garden waste. Additionally, Section 45(3) (b) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 requires that collection authorities make a reasonable charge for the collection of household garden waste.

6. Human Resources Implications

The comments from the Human Resources Manager were as follows:

Nil.

7. Union Comments

The Union comments were as follows:

Not Applicable.

8. Data Protection Compliance Implications

Not applicable

9. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable

10. Background Papers

Nil.

APPENDIX 1

Charges for 2022/231. 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 (2022/23)	Additional bin price (2022/23)	Service Provision
Broxtowe Borough Council	£37	£23	Fortnightly March to November, monthly December through to February. Discount is offered to those signing up from 1 October (£32 for the first bin and then £11.50 for the second bin)
Ashfield District Council	£28	£14	Fortnightly March to December
Bassetlaw District Council	£33	£33	Fortnightly March to November
Gedling Borough Council	£38	£20	Fortnightly April to March – no service January and February
Mansfield District Council	£31	£18	Fortnightly March to November, one in December and no collections in January and February
Newark and Sherwood	£35	£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 £37 for the first bin is slightly above the average price of £34.57 across all the Nottinghamshire districts. There are significant differences in the prices charged for additional bins. The current charge for an additional bin is £23 with the average price across the Nottinghamshire districts being £24.00

By October 2022, 2287 subscribers have paid for the use of additional bins.

2. Charging mechanism

Residents can currently subscribe to the service in two ways:

- Online
- By telephone

Approximately 88.5% 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 £0.09p per transaction.

3. Options for charges

Different proposed charges for 2023/24 are shown in the tables below. The figures used in the tables are based on 21,847 subscribers (the number as at October 2022).

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

Number of bins	Number of subscribers	£37 (Current price)	£38 (Increase £1)	£39 (Increase £2)	£40 (Increase £3)	£41 (Increase £4)
1	21,847	£808,339	£830,186	£852,033	£873,880	£895,727
Potential Additional Income		£808,339	£21,847	£43,694	£65,541	£87,388

		Projected income from additional bins				
Number of additional bins	Number of subscribers	£23 (current price)	£24 (Increase £1)	£25 (Increase £2)	£26 (Increase £3)	£27 (Increase £4)
1	2021	£46,483	£48,504	£50,525	£52,546	£54,567
2	203	£4,669	£4,872	£5,075	£5,278	£5,481
3	42	£966	£1,008	£1,050	£1,092	£1,134
4	4	£92	£96	£100	£104	£108
5	12	£276	£288	£300	£312	£324
6	1	£23	£24	£25	£26	£27
7	2	£46	£48	£50	£52	£54
9	1	£23	£24	£25	£26	£27
10	1	£23	£24	£25	£26	£27
Total	2287	£52,578	£54,864	£57,150	£59,436	£61,722
Potential Additional Income		0	£2,286	£4,572	£6,858	£9,144

4. Risks

The challenge for the 2023/24 season will be to maintain the existing customer base. Increasing the price may increase the risk that customers do not subscribe the service. However, this needs to be balanced against the significant increase in the cost of providing the service. In addition to the increase resource costs there has been around a 31% increase in the price of DERV in 2022/23, with no signs that the costs are likely to reduce in the immediate future.

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 £21,847.

It is envisaged that the price increase for the additional bin will generate additional income in the region of £2,287.

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