

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change**Garden Waste Subscription fees 2026/27****1. Purpose of Report**

To seek approval for the 2026/27 garden waste subscription fees.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that:

- 1. The subscription fee for the first garden waste bin remains at £45.**
- 2. The subscription fee for each additional garden waste bin be increased by £2 to £28.**
- 3. From 1 October 2026, the subscription fee for the first garden waste bin be reduced to £27 and any other additional bins be discounted by 50%.**

3. Detail

The collection of garden waste is a non-statutory recycling service. The aim of the garden waste subscription fee is to assist the Council in the delivery of this service to those residents who choose to subscribe.

On 23 October 2023, the Department for Food, Environment & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) provided an update on the anticipated waste reforms stemming from the 'Our Waste Our Resources: A Strategy for England', published in December 2018. In the update, DEFRA confirmed that local authorities could continue to charge for garden waste collections.

An income target of £1,080,000 was set for the 2025/26 garden waste subscription period. As of 1 November 2025, 21,777 properties have subscribed to the current season generating an income of £1,057,000, just below target. Compared to the previous financial year, the number of subscribers has decreased by 2.85% (640).

The options relating to the proposed fees for the 2026/27 garden waste collection service are outlined in the **Appendix**.

4. Key Decision

This report is a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 as it effects communities living or working in an area comprising two or more Wards or electoral divisions in the Council's area.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not applicable

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Interim Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer were as follows:

The garden waste scheme has seen a slight downturn in subscribers in recent years. The Business Strategy, approved by Cabinet on 4 November 2026, recognised that additional income will be generated by increasing service users with the price of the first bin being frozen at £45 per annum. This price is still within a mid-range across Nottinghamshire and is far lower than in other parts of the region. Further income of around £6,000 could be generated by increasing the annual price of each additional bin from £26 to £28 with no further attrition. This would contribute positively to the overall financial sustainability of the service, helping to offset rising operational costs. By maintaining the current price of the first bin, subscriber numbers should stabilise, and the risk of further attrition will be reduced. This balanced approach aims to protect the core customer base while ensuring the service continues to offer good value for money to residents.

7. Legal Implications

The comments from the 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 fee 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 fees 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 fee for the collection of household garden waste.

8. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

9. Union Comments

Not applicable.

10. Climate Change Implications

The garden waste collection scheme encourages appropriate diversion of waste away from the black-lidded bin, thus helping to mitigate against additional carbon emissions.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

13. Background Papers

Nil.