

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 30 JANUARY 2017
REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES ENVIRONMENT &
CULTURAL SERVICES

GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION REPORT

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 On the 9th January 2017, Cabinet agreed to introduce a charge for garden waste collections. It is proposed that the scheme will be introduced in the next financial year.
- 1.2 This report sets out some key information about how the service will operate. In addition to this, the Frequently Asked Questions are provided in Appendix 2 which will be continually reviewed and updated throughout the implementation and roll-out of the scheme.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 The Committee note the contents of the report and Appendices.

3 Explanation

Payments

- 3.1 Initially, residents will be able to make a payment for the garden waste subscription service online or by telephone to the Contact Centre, using a direct debit or credit card. It is anticipated that, eventually, residents will be able to sign up to the subscription scheme using direct debit payment method.
- 3.2 Those who do not join the subscription service will not have their garden waste collected.

Data Management System

- 3.3 Once a subscription payment has been made, the property address will be added to an electronic database system, which will enable collection crews, the Contact Centre and council officers to identify which properties have subscribed to the service.

Communications

- 3.4 Information about the scheme will be communicated to residents through leaflet deliveries, the Council's website and social media channels.

- 3.5 In addition to this, a confirmation letter will also be sent to residents who take up the service, providing further information about the scheme, along with a set of visual 'subscription stickers' for the brown bin(s).
- 3.6 The subscription fee covers a 12 month period from 1st April – 31st March. Residents can sign up anytime throughout the year, however, the full fee will still apply.
- 3.7 Subscriptions will be subject to the terms and conditions provided in Appendix 1.

Collections

- 3.8 When the scheme commences, collection days will remain the same as they currently are. Once the scheme is established, collection days may change as collection rounds are reviewed and optimised for efficiency. Residents will be contacted by letter or leaflet to advise them of any collection day change.
- 3.9 Residents will be able to purchase a subscription for a second brown bin and present up to two brown bins on their collection day.
- 3.10 Information will be provided to residents about what items can be put in each bin; however it is important to note the key changes:
- Residents will not be able to present garden waste in the black refuse bin; if this does happen, the bin will be deemed as contaminated by crews and will not be collected.
 - Residents will not be able to present kitchen food waste in the brown bin; if this does happen, the bin will be deemed as contaminated by crews and will not be collected.
 - Residents will not be able to present shredded paper in the brown bin. Residents will be advised to place this in the inner paper box of the blue lidded bin for recycling.

Garden Waste Sacks

- 3.11 Once the subscription charge commences, the garden sack scheme will be phased out over the Summer. During this period, sacks presented will only be collected if a resident has subscribed to the scheme. Information about when the sack scheme will stop will be communicated to residents.

Service Disruption and Missed Collections

- 3.12 From time to time, there will be service disruptions and missed collections and these will be managed in line with the Council's existing collection policies.

Other Garden Waste Sources

- 3.13 Garden waste from other sources e.g. schools and places of worship and other establishments that generate household waste will also be able to subscribe to the garden waste scheme.

Implications

4 Legal Implications

4.1 There are no legal implications associated with the recommendation.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from this recommendation.

6 Risk Management Implications

6.1 No significant risks have been identified as part of the recommendation.

7 Security and Terrorism Implications

7.1 There are no known security and terrorism implications associated with this recommendation.

8 Procurement Implications

8.1 There are no known procurement implications associated with this recommendation.

9 Climate Change Implications

9.1 The introduction of a garden waste collection charge will allow the council to maintain a high recycling rate, whilst continuing to divert garden waste from landfill.

9.2 Food waste may be re-directed to the black refuse bin, until such time as an alternative collection and treatment solution can be found. This will slightly increase the amount of waste disposed of through landfill or energy recovery. However, food waste prevention and home composting will also be promoted to reduce the impact on climate change.

10 Equality and Diversity

10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out in connection with the proposals that are set out in this report and no significant differential impacts were found. Residents on the assisted waste collection will continue to receive garden waste collections as previously agreed if they choose to subscribe to the service.

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