

Committee: Cabinet

Agenda Item

Date: 17 January 2013

14

Title: **Garden Waste Services 2013**

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Susan Barker, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services

Key decision: **No**

Summary

1. This report relates to subscription fees and charges and periods of operation for the two garden waste services provided by the council: kerbside collection for subscribing households; and bring facilities where commissioned by local councils. The proposals have been brought forward in advance of the general setting of fees and charges as part of the budget setting process so that an early start can be made on encouraging existing subscribers to renew their interest in the scheme and to assist local councils in their budget planning.

Recommendations

2. That Cabinet approve the following fees and charges and periods of service operation:
 - a. The subscription fee for the household garden waste collection service from April 2013 to March 2014 be £40, with stepped reductions for households joining part way through the period. The one off charge for supply of a bin to subscribers will remain £20.
 - b. Service to operate from the week beginning 5 March 2013 to Easter 2013 for 2012 subscribers; and from Easter until week ending 13 December 2013, and from week beginning 4 March 2014 until week ending 28 March 2014 for households renewing their subscription and new joiners (break in service December 2013 to March 2014).
 - c. The charges to local councils for a community bring garden waste 'skip' service until week ending 30 March 2014 will be based on the number of hours a week/ fortnight/ month the service is required:

1 hour a week service	=	£1,443
1 hour a fortnight service	=	£722
1 hour a month service	=	£382
6 hours every weekend	=	£8,661
6 hours on alternate weekends	=	£4,330

Service during March 2013 would be met from 2012/13 budget.

- d. The community bring 'skip' service will operate from 2/3 March 2013 to week ending 15 December 2013 and from 1/2 March 2014 to 29/30 March 2014 for those councils participating in FY2013/14 (with service break from December to March).

Financial Implications

3. The kerbside household garden waste collection service is forecast to cover its costs on the basis of the proposals and therefore does not require any net expenditure.
4. Recovery of only 75% of the direct costs the community bring 'skip' service will involve net expenditure of £13,840 in 2013/14. Also, recharges are not included in the costing. This estimate assumes that direct costs can be reduced in proportion to any drop in income if parish councils withdraw from the service.

Background Papers

5. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

None, other than published reports

Impact

- 6.

Communication/Consultation	Local councils were consulted on their interest in commissioning bring facilities for 2013 in August-September 2012
Community Safety	
Equalities	
Health and Safety	
Human Rights/Legal Implications	
Sustainability	
Ward-specific impacts	
Workforce/Workplace	Weekend bring facilities depend on overtime working by collection staff

Situation

7. Outturn forecasts suggest that there is sufficient scope within this year's budget to start the household kerbside collection service again to 2012 subscribers from 5 March. It is also proposed that household collections would continue for 2013 subscribers through to 13 December. The intention is that a combination of a longer operating season and pegging the cost to 2012 fees (£40 subscription for collection from one bin and £20 for the supply of a bin) will persuade both existing customers to renew and attract new joiners. As in 2012, people joining the scheme part way through the season will only have to pay part of the subscription fee.
8. It was reported to Cabinet last October that the weekend garden waste 'skip' service continued to be popular in 2012 despite the enthusiastic take up of the subscription household bin option by residents. Consultation with local councils suggested that generally they would be prepared to commission services in 2013. However, some councils requested that the objective of full cost recovery be reconsidered because of their budget pressures. There is nevertheless an opportunity to improve services for the 2013 season.
7. Bring facilities could have an extended season of operation from 1 and 2 March through to 13 and 14 December 2013 recommencing again in March 2014 with the cost to local councils in FY 2013/14 as follows. These charges for a 41 week operation recover 75% of the costs of providing the service, and are 20% lower than the indicative rates reported to Cabinet last October for a 34 week operation.

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Risk Analysis

9.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Ongoing pressure on household incomes results in residents curtailing discretionary expenditure	2 Strong demand in 2012. Service has operated with few problems. Good value for money.	2 Some possible loss of income	Improved collection offer to households through longer season
Local councils face budgetary	2 Representations	2	Review decision that local councils should

pressures	received from some councils		pay full cost of bring 'skip' service in 2013.
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1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.