

Committee: Cabinet

Agenda Item

Date: 1 December 2016

15

Title: **Kerbside garden waste collection
subscription charges for 2017/18**

**Portfolio
Holder:** Cllr Susan Barker

Key decision: No

Summary

1. Currently the majority of subscribers pay by card over the phone. Efficiencies would be achieved by moving subscriptions to direct debit mandate. Residents could be incentivised by offering a discount against the annual charge and collecting the subscription in small instalments. At the same time, the scheme will be simplified so that the subscription will not be reduced for those joining the scheme part way through the year.

Recommendations

2. The kerbside garden waste collection subscription remains at £40 for the year 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018
3. A £5 discount will be made for customers switching to payment by direct debit mandate. A deadline will be set to benefit from this discount.
4. There will be no reduction in subscription charges other than the direct debit discount for customers joining part way through the year.
5. The free bin for new subscribers will be withdrawn.

Financial Implications

6. The budget implications are expected to be broadly neutral. Budget monitoring will flag up variations from estimates and the outturn will be adjusted accordingly. A threshold will be crossed potentially during the year requiring an additional collection round. Any significant overspend can be met by drawing on the waste reserve. If the threshold is not reached by year end, surpluses can be added to the reserve to manage any deficit arising in the following year.

Background Papers

7. 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

Impact

8.

Communication/Consultation	The changes will need to be communicated effectively to existing subscribers and to potential subscribers.
Community Safety	
Equalities	
Health and Safety	
Human Rights/Legal Implications	
Sustainability	Additional take up of garden waste collection and subsequent composting of material collected will boost recycling rates
Ward-specific impacts	
Workforce/Workplace	As the subscriber base grows an additional crew will need to be deployed

Situation

9. The kerbside garden waste collection service continues to grow, but there are opportunities to achieve efficiencies in the administration of its operation. Direct debit payments are potentially more stable than card payments, involve less staff time once the arrangement is set up, and should reduce the incidence of problems with termination and restarting service associated with failure to pay on time, such as missed collections. Stability would also be supported by withdrawing the option of customers waiting until the autumn to take up service for little payment, then terminating service in March and restarting again in the autumn. This had not been anticipated when the service was set up.

Risk Analysis

10.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Demand for the service increases to a level in excess of capacity, requiring an additional	2 Service growth continues	2 Income does not increase in line with costs	Flexibility in deployment of resources. Use of the waste reserve.

collection round which is then not fully utilised			
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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.