

Notice of :	DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
Decision Number:	PH30/2023
Relevant Officer:	John-Paul Lovie, Head of Waste Policy and Partnerships
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Ivan Taylor, Deputy Leader of the Council
Date of Decision:	23 February 2023

FEES AND CHARGES FOR WASTE SERVICES 2023/24

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To present the proposed Community and Environmental Services fees and charges for Waste Services 2023/24.

This report outlines the proposal to maintain the annual subscription cost of kerbside green waste collections and bulky waste collections at the existing rates.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To agree to the Community and Environmental Services proposed fees and charges for Waste Services for 2023/24, detailed in Appendix A with effect from the 1 April 2023 to the 31 March 2024.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 *Green Waste* - To allow the green waste collection to continue without Council funding support. Although in line with neighbouring authorities, Blackpool's charges for green waste collections are slightly higher than Wyre and Fylde's charges. The charge has been proposed in line with the costs of providing the service and also contribution to the Council's waste service costs.

Bulky Matters – Is delivered in partnership with Wyre and Fylde. In order to support residents through the current cost of living and inflation crisis, and reduce the risk of fly tipping, it is recommended not to uplift collection rates this year.

The fees and charges have been reviewed in order to take account of the costs of providing the service, business development, inflation, the Council's budget requirements and local market conditions.

- 3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

- Increase the current charging regime.

An increase would further support the Council's financial arrangements but could also risk a reduction in uptake of the services as well potentially lead to an increase in fly tipping of green waste and bulky waste including hazardous waste such as fridge freezers.

- Reduce the current charging regime.

This option would reduce the level of funding raised and potentially negatively affect the capacity to deliver the services in the future without additional Council funding support.

5.0 Council Priority:

5.1 The relevant Council Priority is: "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience".

6.0 Background Information

6.1 In terms of green waste, this option will enable the scheme to recover the costs of collecting green waste without Council funding support.

6.2 This charge is broadly comparable and in line with other authorities throughout the North West region, particularly the neighbouring boroughs of Wyre and Fylde.

6.3 Residents would be advised of alternative options for managing their garden waste, e.g. they could take it to their local household waste recycling centre or consider home composting which has the least environmental impact as it stops unnecessary transportation of materials.

6.4 Bulky waste collections are delivered in conjunction with a third sector provider (Calico), as well as in partnership with Wyre and Fylde BC's, and the proposed service charges are designed to remain affordable and allow residents a flexible and readily accessible service to dispose of their bulky waste responsibly.

Any charges have recognised the need to reduce waste going to landfill and relate to those wastes which are generally not collected via the fortnightly refuse and recycling collection provision.

6.5 The remaining waste and environmental charges are to be determined by the Council's wholly owned waste and cleansing company, ENVECO.

7.0 **List of Appendices:**

Appendix A – Fees and Charges for Waste Services.

8.0 **Financial considerations:**

8.1 In 2016/17 (implementation year), the green waste scheme generated just over 10,000 subscriptions and £259,000 revenue, increasing in 2017/18 to 10,500 and £331,000 revenue.

In 2018/19 subscriptions reduced slightly to 10,167 and £371,000 revenue, with the trend being circa 10,000 which represent approximately 18% participation rate, which is above average for the North West.

Performance for 2019/20 was 10,059 subscription with an outturn of £370,000.

Performance for 21/22 was 8,651 subscriptions with an outturn of £338,810, reflecting the impacts of the pandemic.

Current performance for 22/23 is 9,341 with a forecast outturn of £400,000.

The proposals are in line with the provisional General Fund Revenue Budget 2022/2023.

9.0 **Legal considerations:**

9.1 Blackpool Council does not have a statutory duty to collect green waste from households as it does for general household waste. However, the Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012 sets out those household wastes, for which collection and disposal charges may be made, and these state that a collection charge (but not a disposal charge) can be made for garden waste from households.

In relation to the review process of the fees and charges, the services operate within a framework underpinned by the following key pieces of legislation:

- The Local Government Act 2003
- The Civic Amenities Act 1967

- The Local Authorities (Prohibition of charging residents to deposit household waste) Order 2015
- The Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Controlled Waste Regulations 2012

Local Government Act 2003 Legislation allows local authorities to charge for provision of discretionary services.

The legal framework is guided by the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

10.0 Risk Management considerations:

- 10.1 The proposed fees and charges will assist in the Council delivering its medium term financial sustainability strategy.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

- 11.1 The Council has explored the potential for adverse impact on people because of/or related to their protected characteristics covered by the Equality Act 2010. The Council is confident that the implementation of the charging schemes will not directly/indirectly discriminate in this way.

Should it be approved, the Council recognises that the communication of the scheme will need to be done in a broad range of accessible ways, taking particular account of language barriers and disability issues. This will be built into the comprehensive communications plan.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

- 12.1 None.

13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

- 13.1 The Council's lead client officer for Waste Management commissions a biannual Household Waste survey from the Councils in-house market research service, Infusion, which is used to inform decision making and drive future strategic ambition.

Some of the key findings of the research are listed below:

- Overall satisfaction with all types of waste and recycling collections slightly increased from 2019 to 2022;
- Across different types of waste and recycling collection there was a slight decrease in satisfaction when it came to the size and type of bin/container/sack used for collections from 2019 to 2022;
- Satisfaction with elements of Bulky Waste Collection increased from 2019 to

2022, however, satisfaction with the Green Waste Collection Service decreased from 2019 to 2022;

- Overall satisfaction with Household Waste Recycling Centre increased from 2019 to 2022;
- Having a collection of a wider range of materials continued to be cited as the most popular action respondents felt that could persuade them to recycle more; Prior to implementation in 2016, a survey was undertaken in February 2015, in partnership with Made2Measure and Ipsos MORI, with the results published in March 2016. As part of this survey residents were asked whether they would be prepared to pay a subscription fee to have garden waste collected from their homes. The survey indicated a participation rate of between 7.5% and 9%.

Current participation in 2022/23 is in the region of 16 % which underpins the cost recovery assumption of this report.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

15.0 Key decision information:

- 15.1 Is this a key decision? NO
- 15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number:
- 15.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? N/A
- 15.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

16.0 Call-in information:

- 15.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? NO
- 16.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

17.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):

Date informed:

Date approved:

18.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

18.1 None.

19.0 Executive decision:

19.1 The Deputy Leader of the Council agreed the recommendation as outlined above namely:

To agree to the Community and Environmental Services fees and charges for Waste Services for 2023/24, detailed in Appendix A with effect from the 1 April 2023 to the 31 March 2024.

20.0 Date of Decision:

20.1 23 February 2023

21.0 Reason(s) for decision:

21.1 The fees and charges from 2022/23 have been reviewed in order to take account of the costs of providing the service, business development, inflation, the Council's budget requirements and local market conditions.

22.0 Date Decision published:

22.1 23 February 2023

23.0 Executive Members in attendance:

23.1

24.0 Call-in:

24.1

25.0 Notes:

25.1