

Report to:	CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS, RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT AND DEPUTY LEADER JOINTLY WITH THE ACTING STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF PLACE
Report of:	INTERIM ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF WASTE MANAGEMENT
Date of Decision:	18 November 2016
SUBJECT:	INCREASE IN CHARGES FOR GARDEN WASTE 2017
Key Decision: No	Relevant Forward Plan Ref: n/a
If not in the Forward Plan: (please "X" box)	Chief Executive approved <input type="checkbox"/> O&S Chairman approved <input type="checkbox"/>
Relevant Cabinet Member(s) or Relevant Executive Member	CLLR LISA TRICKETT, CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS, RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT CLLR IAN WARD, DEPUTY LEADER
Relevant O&S Chairman:	CLLR MOHAMMED AIKHLAQ, CORPORATE RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE
Wards affected:	ALL WARDS

1. Purpose of report:
<p>1.1 A public report to set out the proposals for the Garden Waste Service Charges that will be implemented with effect from December 2016 for the new collection season that starts in March 2017.</p> <p>1.2 This report explains the considerations taken into account to determine the proposals and outlines the financial implications.</p>

2. Decision(s) recommended:
<p>That the Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling and Environment and the Deputy Leader jointly with the Acting Strategic Director of Place:</p> <p>2.1 Approve the charges for the garden waste refuse collection service for the collection season that commences March 2017 as set out in section 4.2.1.</p>

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3. Consultation
<p>3.1 <u>Internal</u> Service and Finance Officers have been consulted on the proposed fees and charges.</p> <p>3.2 <u>External</u> Consultation with external stakeholders has been undertaken through the 2015/16 Budget process, specifically by the inclusion of the proposal to increase fees in the Responding to Challenge, looking to the future” Budget Consultation 2015+ White Paper. An increase in the charge for the domestic garden waste collection service of £5 from £35 to £40 per season was proposed as a Case for Change.</p>
4. Compliance Issues:
<p>4.1 <u>Are the recommended decisions consistent with the Council’s policies, plans and strategies?</u> The Council’s garden waste collection services contribute to the strategic priorities in the Council Business Plan 2016+ – contributing to Birmingham having a strong economy. Fees and charges are determined in accordance with the Corporate Charging Policy and these revised prices will come into effect on 1st December 2016 for the season that starts in March 2017.</p> <p>4.2 <u>Financial Implications</u> <u>(Will decisions be carried out within existing finance and Resources?)</u></p> <p>4.2.1 It is proposed to increase the garden waste service charge from £35 per year to £40 per year for the season March 2017 in line with the City Council Business Plan and Budget 2016+ that was approved on the 1 March 2016. This is the first increase in the charges since the new chargeable service was introduced in March 2014 and will ensure that the service continues to be provided on a full cost recovery basis.</p> <p>4.2.2 The additional income that will be generated is estimated at £0.31m on the basis of the existing customer base of approximately 63,000 users is maintained in 2017 (in line with the budget assumptions).</p> <p>4.2.3 The existing practice of offering discounts will be maintained i.e. the early bird charge will be £35 (after a £5 discount) and the online discount of £2 will also continue to be available to residents who choose to pay for the service in this manner following the end of the early bird discount.</p> <p>4.3 <u>Legal Implications</u> The Environmental Protection Act 1990 gives Local Authorities the duty to provide a garden waste collection and disposal service where requested to do so.</p> <p>4.4 <u>Public Sector Equality Duty</u> A copy of the Equality Act 2010 – Public Sector Duty statement is appended – Appendix 1, together with the initial equality assessment screening – Appendix 2. A full Equalities assessment was not required.</p>

5.	Relevant background/chronology of key events:
5.1	The chargeable garden waste service was introduced in 2014 and take up of the service has gradually increased. For the 2015 season 57,000 units were sold. Taking account of discounts available to customers against the standard price of £35 income of £1.9m was achieved in 2015/16.
5.2	A case for change was approved as part of the Business Plan and Budget 2016+ process which set a target for an increase in sales to 62,000 in the 2016 season and a consequential increase in income of £0.16m in 2016/17. The target sales were achieved by June 2016 and the additional income is projected to be achieved. Also approved as part of this case for change was a price increase for the 2017 season of £5 per bin.
6.	Evaluation of alternative option(s):
6.1	When setting the fees and charges, consideration is taken of value for money around the current service offering, achieving full cost recovery of the service and the level of increase required to achieve the budget.
7.	Reasons for Decision(s):
7.1	Full consideration was given to increasing this charge as part of the case for change approved in the business Plan and Budget 2016+.

Signatures		<u>Date</u>
Cabinet Member	<p>.....</p> <p>Cllr Lisa Trickett, Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling and Environment</p>
Deputy Leader	<p>.....</p> <p>Cllr Ian Ward, Deputy Leader</p>
Chief Officer	<p>.....</p> <p>Jacqui Kennedy, Acting Strategic Director of Place</p>

List of Background Documents used to compile this Report:
SN11, Case for Change Business Case: Garden Waste

List of Appendices accompanying this Report (if any):
1. Appendix 1, Equality Act 2010, Public Sector Equality Duty
2. Appendix 2, Initial Impact Assessment for Garden Waste

Report Version		Dated	