
**Meeting of the Highways and Environmental Services Select Committee -
Thursday 21st March 2024**

Report of the Director of Environment

Update on Green Waste Charging

Purpose of report

1. To present the current progress report on all matters associated with the introduction of a chargeable Green Waste collection service.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that the Highways and Environmental Services Select Committee review the contents of this report and that any identified issues are referred back to the Cabinet Member and Director of Environment to feedback and inform future decisions.

Background

3. The Council has no statutory duty to collect garden waste free of charge. Waste collections by local authorities are governed by the Environmental Protection Act 1990. In November 2021, DEFRA announced Simpler Recycling which states that Local Authorities will be required to provide a garden waste collection service where it is requested but, as is currently the case, they can continue to choose to charge for this service. Householders will be able to make their own decision about whether they wish to use this optional service or make their own other arrangements.

Dudley's free garden waste has been delivered to approximately 133,000 households on a fortnightly basis since its implementation in 2006/7. The collection season ran from April to the beginning of November with households receiving 16 collections over a 32-week period.

The proposal for Dudley to charge residents for the collection of the garden waste was ratified at the meeting of full council on Monday 4th March 2024.

The new chargeable service will commence from 1st April 2024 with residents paying £36 for 25 collections over a 50-week period.

Current Cost of the Service 2023/24

The direct costs of the green waste service is £2,943,600, with a further £437,900 relating to departmental charges and CEC's, therefore a total cost of £3,381,500.

Other Neighbouring Authorities

| LOCAL AUTHORITY | SUBSCRIPTION PRICE 2023/24 | NO OF COLLECTIONS PER ANNUM |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| BIRMINGHAM | £50 | 20 |
| COVENTRY | NO CHARGE | |
| SANDWELL | £35 | 20 |
| SOLIHULL | NO CHARGE | 24 |
| WALSALL | NO CHARGE | 26 |
| WOLVERHAMPTON | £38 | 20 |
| BROMSGROVE & REDDITCH | £60 | 20 |
| MALVERN HILLS | £80 | 26 |
| SOUTH STAFFS | £43.60 | 26 |
| TELFORD & WREKIN | NO CHARGE | 26 |
| WORCESTER CITY | £68.80 | 20 |
| WYCHAVON | £52.00 | 26 |
| WYRE FOREST | £60 | 20 |

220 of the 326 English Councils charge for green waste collections with an average fee of £41.22.

Assumptions of Service take-up and Proposed Savings

| Year 1 (30%) | Year 2 (35%) | Year 3 (40%) |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| £1,310,000 | £1,360, 000 | £1,340,000 |

How does the service work?

Residents pay for the service by accessing MyDudley or by contacting Dudley Council Plus. They can subscribe for the service at any time, however if they subscribe after the 1st April 2024 the charge of £36 will still apply.

After payment, residents are sent a permit to attach to the green or brown lidded bin. Only wheeled bins with visible permits will be collected by the crews, however the crews will also carry details of who has paid.

The service will begin from the next collection date following receipt of the permit.

Residents can have additional bins if they wish but they will need the £36 subscription fee for each bin. They will also need to purchase each additional bin at a cost of £33.31.

A household can if they wish cancel the service and will be entitled to a full refund if they have not received a collection and are within the 14-day cooling off period. Should they have already received one or more collections a £15 charge will still apply.

There is QR code on the permit and in the accompanying letter to direct residents to the Council website to advise of the next collection date and a link to the Frequently Asked Questions.

Residents who are unable access MyDudley and have to contact Dudley Council Plus can be offered a collection calendar that will be posted direct to them.

Finance

4. The financial implications in this report are set detailed above.

Law

5. The Council operates its green waste collection service according to:-
 - The Environmental Protection Act 1990
 - Controlled Waste Regulations (England and Wales) 2012
 - Simpler Recycling

Risk Management

6. The risk is not meeting revenue targets due to lack of service up-take. To mitigate the risk a comprehensive communications plan has been developed which includes coverage through media outlets, e-bulletins and the Home Magazine.

Equality Impact

7. An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken to:
 - Assess the potential impact of the service on different equality groups.
 - Identify any potential barriers or disadvantages faced by specific groups.
 - Ensure that the service is designed and delivered in a manner that promotes equality, inclusivity, and accessibility for all residents.

No negative equality and diversity implications have been identified.

Human Resources/Organisational Development

8. There are currently no human resources or transformation implications associated in this report.

Commercial/Procurement

9. The commercials related to this report are detailed above and our Commercial Team have been involved in the modelling of the income.

There are no procurement implications associated in this report.

Environment/Climate Change

10. Following the Councils declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2020 the Council has developed a Climate Action Plan to achieve Carbon Net Zero by 2030. This report has no direct impact on Climate Change.

Council Priorities and Projects

11. The introduction of green waste charging will help the council deliver a sustainable and balanced budget and ensure we can continue to deliver essential services for our residents.



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Appendices

None

List of Background Documents

None