



COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM (11)

GARDEN WASTE COLLECTIONS

Accountable Member	Councillor Sue Coakley Cabinet Member for Environment
Accountable Officer	Claire Locke Group Manager - Council Advisory Services 01285 623427 claire.locke@cotswold.gov.uk

Purpose of Report	To consider issues regarding future garden waste collections.
Recommendations	That Council gives further consideration to the licence fee for the garden waste collection service to be included within the new waste and recycling collection service; and the previously-agreed winter suspension of garden waste collections.
Reason(s) for Recommendation(s)	To respond to an extant Council resolution; and a recently-submitted Motion.

Ward(s) Affected	All
Key Decision	No
Recommendation to Council	No

Financial Implications	Included within body of report
Legal and Human Rights Implications	None
Environmental and Sustainability Implications	A key objective is increasing recycling performance, and consideration is also given to maximising fleet efficiency and reducing the carbon impact of the Council's operations.
Human Resource Implications	This will depend on any changes to the previous specification agreed by the Council.

Key Risks	<u>Financial</u> The table below shows the net impact upon the Council's budget for the waste options. The table assumes no change to the fee for green waste collection (£30 or £15 per bin per annum, according to financial circumstances of customer). An allowance has been made for some reduction in demand, and therefore reduced income, in options 2a and 2b.
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Cost Estimates	Current service 2018/19	Option 1 Baseline with Growth	Option 2a (fortnightly garden waste)	Option 2b (weekly garden waste)
Annual net service cost - current service 2018/19	£3,437,924	£3,437,924	£3,437,924	£3,437,924
Cost increase of options	£0	£34,254	£56,067	£512,682
Annual cost of service option	£3,437,924	£3,472,178	£3,493,991	£3,950,606
<i>Seasonal garden waste saving</i>	<i>£0</i>	<i>(£213,000)</i>	<i>(£122,000)</i>	<i>(£213,000)</i>
Net Budget Increase/(Saving)	£0	(£178,746)	(£65,933)	£299,682
Net revenue position	£3,437,924	£3,259,178	£3,371,991	£3,737,606

(i) Any reduction in licence fee would have a negative impact on income from existing customers. It is possible there could be some increase in demand from some existing customers who would increase the number of bins at the property. This could impact upon the operation of the service (quantity of green waste collected) and could result in additional costs. There could also be an impact upon operational matters, such as the number of vehicles required to deliver the service and Ubico's Operators Licence.

(ii) A reinstatement of winter collections will increase the cost of the service by £122,000 on a fortnightly collection basis or £213,000 on a weekly collection basis.

Operational

A reinstatement of winter collections would reduce the ability to redeploy garden waste crews to other collection rounds (which, in turn, reduces the reliance on agency staff and assisting with driver shortages); and would impact on the potential to provide greater fleet resilience during Christmas and the winter when service disruption is likely due to inclement weather, which would speed up catch-up collections.

Equalities Analysis

Not applicable to this report - the impact of any changes on those with mobility problems who receive an assisted collection will be carefully considered to ensure they are appropriately supported.

Related Decisions

Council - 11th December 2018 - Future Waste Service Review

Background Documents

- (i) Resource Futures - CDC Waste and Recycling Collection Options Appraisal - September 2018.
- (ii) Public Waste Survey - June 2018.
- (iii) Members' Waste Service Workshop - August 2018.
- (iv) Town and Parish Council Waste Service Workshop - August 2018.
- (v) 2019/20 Budget Consultation.

	(vi) Report to Council - 11 th December 2018 - Future Waste Service Review. All background documents are available at www.cotswold.gov.uk
Appendices	None

Performance Management Follow Up	Implement Council decision(s).
Options for Joint Working	The Waste services across Cotswold, West Oxfordshire and Forest of Dean District Councils are managed jointly by the Joint Waste Team. This provides the opportunity for learning and sharing of best practice.

Background Information

1. Background

1.1 At its last Meeting, on 11th December 2018, the Council considered options for the design of the future waste and recycling service, and agreed as follows:-

RESOLVED that:

(a) *the consultation summary, the financial estimates and other information provided be noted and, based on this evidence, the future Waste and Recycling Service be delivered as follows:-*

- *a fortnightly collection of residual waste (as existing);*
- *a fortnightly collection of dry recyclates (as existing) but subject to an enhancement to the existing kerbside sort collection service, to include additional materials (i.e. waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), textiles and cartons) and a change in receptacle for cardboard;*
- *a separated weekly food waste collection;*
- *a separated fortnightly garden waste collection;*

(b) *revenue costs be mitigated by introducing an annual three-month suspension of the garden waste service during the winter period (dates to be determined);*

(c) *capital be allocated as set out in Appendix 'D' - Table 3 to the circulated report for the selected option for the procurement of fleet and new containers;*

(d) *one-off revenue allocations be agreed of up to £180,200 for the additional waste service management of mobilisation and procurement, delivery of containers, communications to the public, and additional customer services and operational support immediately prior to and during service launch;*

(e) *delegated authority be given to the Council's Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Group Manager (Council Advisory Services), Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment, to take the decision on fleet contract awards;*

(f) *a contract for the bulking and onward sale of all recyclates collected in the new service be produced; and delegated authority be given to the Council's Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Group Manager (Council Advisory Services), Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment, to take the decision on such materials handling contract award.*

(g) a review of the optional garden waste collection fee be presented to the Council at its Meeting in February 2019, with the intention of making a reduction to the fee, given the transition to a separated fortnightly garden waste collection.

Record of Voting - for 29, against 0, abstentions 3, absent 2.

1.2 Members may find it useful to bring with them to this Meeting their copies of the agenda papers for the December Council Meeting.

2. Garden Waste Licence Fee

2.1 The initial purpose of this report was to provide Members with an opportunity to review the licence fee for the optional garden waste collection service - in line with resolution (g) above.

2.2 The report to Council in December 2018 contained the following section relating to seasonal garden waste collections:-

3.8 Garden waste is currently collected weekly throughout the year. The service has been subsidised and the licence fee has remained at £30 for ten years since its introduction in 2008. All of the other districts in Gloucestershire collect garden waste fortnightly, so a move to a fortnightly collection would be beneficial to align Gloucestershire services and mitigate service costs. The £30 licence fee would cover the cost of a fortnightly service but leaves a £373,000 shortfall for a weekly service which the Council then have to fund.

3.9 An alternative option is seasonal collections - tonnages of green waste drop significantly during the winter months yet the weekly collection service remains in place although the resources are reduced by one vehicle. Some authorities cease garden waste collections during the non-growing season, i.e. November - January.

3.10 This would provide the following benefits:

- Cost reduction of an estimated £122,000 per annum for Option 2a and £213,000 per annum for Option 2b (fleet running costs and staff salaries).*
- Ability to redeploy garden waste crews to other collection rounds, reducing the reliance on agency staff and assisting with driver shortage.*
- Providing greater fleet resilience during Christmas and the winter when service disruption is likely, which would speed up catch up collections.*

3.11 In addition, if the decision was made to separate the collections of food and garden waste, a physical break in the collection of garden waste soon after service launch would reinforce the communication to residents that they can no longer place food waste in their garden waste bins. The value of this service break in aiding communications should not be underestimated.

3.12 At an all-Member Briefing on 15th November 2018, the period of a winter suspension was queried as the weather had remained mild through the start of November. The period would be given further consideration and could be trialled for the first year with the potential for the start and end date to be changed in the second year.

2.3 Option 2a incorporated a fortnightly garden waste collection; and option 2b a weekly collection.

2.4 For the period of the 2019/20 licence, and based on the Council's December decision, weekly collections would continue until the start of the new service in Autumn 2019. By way of an example, if the new service was to start on 4th November 2019, and that coincided with the start of the three-month winter suspension, there would be 31 weekly collections over the first seven months of the

licence period; followed by three months of no collections; and then followed by 5 fortnightly collections over a two-month period - which would equate to 36 collections during the licence period.

2.5 Any reduced income will depend on the scale of any reduction in the licence fee. However, each £1 reduction in licence fee is likely to lead to a reduced income of just over **£24,200** (based on no change in the number of licence holders).

2.6 A reinstatement of winter collections would also reduce the ability to redeploy garden waste crews to other collection rounds (which, in turn, reduces the reliance on agency staff and assisting with driver shortages); and would impact on the potential to provide greater fleet resilience during Christmas and the winter when service disruption is likely, which would speed up catch-up collections.

3. Motion

3.1 As can be seen from the agenda, a Motion has been submitted by Councillors Julian Beale, SG Hirst, NJW Parsons, C Hancock, RA Morgan, David Fowles, SI Andrews, LR Wilkins and RW Dutton, as follows:-

'In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.1, we propose that the decisions of the Council taken at its meeting on 11th December 2018 in respect of the Future Waste Service Review (Minute CL.38 refers) be rescinded insofar as they relate to (i) the annual three-month suspension of the garden waste service during the winter months (within resolution (b)); and (ii) the intended reduction in the garden waste licence fee (resolution (g)).

We further propose that, instead:

- (a) there be no suspension of the garden waste service during the winter months;*
- (b) the fortnightly collection of garden waste be reviewed before the end of the 2019/20 annual licence period;*
- (c) in light of the above, the garden waste licence fee remains at £30 for 2019/20.'*

3.2 Given the subject matter of the Motion, and its link to agenda item (11), the Chairman has agreed that this Motion shall be considered and debated as part of the consideration of the agenda item.

3.3 If there is no suspension of the garden waste service, the anticipated saving of £122,000 will not be realised.

3.4 However, if the licence fee was to remain at £30 (and discounted rate of £15), income of £638,400 could be anticipated (this is reflected in the net revenue position figures in the financial implications section of this report).

4. National Update

4.1 On 18th February 2019, the Government set out plans for a major overhaul of the country's waste system, through the launch of a suite of consultations.

4.2 Building on commitments made in the government's Resources and Waste Strategy published in December, the consultations provide detail on plans to (i) make packaging producers pay the full cost of dealing with their waste; (ii) introduce a consistent set of recyclable materials to be collected from all households and businesses; (iii) introduce consistent labelling on packaging so consumers know what they can recycle; and (iv) to bring in a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for cans and bottles, subject to consultation.

4.3 The proposals include separate weekly food waste collections for every household in England and could include free fortnightly garden waste collections for households with gardens.

4.4 On the same day, government also launched its consultation on introducing a world-leading tax on plastic packaging which does not meet a minimum threshold of at least 30% recycled content, subject to consultation, from April 2022. This will address the current issue of it often being cheaper to use new, non-recycled plastic material despite its greater environmental impact.

4.5 Government is seeking views on its plans for 12 weeks. The changes will then make up a key part of the government's upcoming Environment Bill, to be introduced early in the second session of Parliament. Changes are envisaged over the period 2023-2025; and financial implications, including impacts on local authorities, are covered.

(END)