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COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Thursday, 10 February 2022

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CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, WASTE AND RECYCLING DECISION-MAKING MEETING

A meeting of the Cabinet Member for the Environment, Waste and Recycling Decision-Making Meeting will be held virtually on **Monday, 21 February 2022 at 10.00 am.**

Rob Weaver
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Cabinet Member for the Environment, Waste and Recycling Decision-Making Meeting
(Councillors Andrew Doherty)

Recording of Proceedings – The law allows the public proceedings of Council, Cabinet, and Committee Meetings to be recorded, which includes filming as well as audio-recording. Photography is also permitted.

As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record any part of the proceedings please let the Committee Administrator know prior to the date of the meeting.

AGENDA

1. **Approval to Increase the Garden Waste Licence fee Amount by £7 to £47 per Licence in 2022/23 Financial Year (Pages 3 - 6)**

Purpose

To update the Cabinet Member for the Environment, Waste and Recycling on the forecast cost of the Garden Waste service in 2022/23, and to seek agreement to increase the fee amount by £7 to £47 per licence.

Recommendation(s)

That the Cabinet Member for the Environment, Waste and Recycling supports increasing the licence fee amount to £47 for the 2022/23 financial year to fully offset the operational costs of providing the service.

Reporting Officer: Scott Williams (01285 623 654)

DATE OF DECISION: NO EARLIER THAN MONDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2022

DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS: NOON ON FRIDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2022

Note: Any Member who wishes to comment on an item is requested to send those comments (preferably by e-mail) to the Reporting Officer, copied to Democratic Services, by the deadline identified.

Any comments received will be reported to the Decision-Maker prior to the decision(s) being taken.

(END)

Agenda Item 1



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Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, WASTE AND RECYCLING DECISION-MAKING MEETING – 21 FEBRUARY 2022
Report Number	AGENDA ITEM I
Subject	APPROVAL TO INCREASE THE GARDEN WASTE LICENCE FEE AMOUNT BY £7 TO £47 PER LICENCE, IN 2022/23 FINANCIAL YEAR
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Cllr Andrew Doherty, Cabinet Member for Waste, Flooding and Environmental Health Email: Andrew.Doherty@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Scott Williams, Business Manager – Contracts Email: scott.williams@publicagroup.uk
Summary/Purpose	To update the Cabinet Member for the Environment, Waste and Recycling on the forecast cost of the Garden Waste service in 2022/23, and to seek agreement to increase the fee amount by £7 to £47 per licence.
Annexes	None
Recommendation(s)	<i>That the Cabinet Member for the Environment, Waste and Recycling supports increasing the licence fee amount to £47 for the 2022/23 financial year to fully offset the operational costs of providing the service.</i>
Corporate priorities	Responding to the challenges presented by the climate crisis
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	The following people have all been consulted on this report and the detail contained within: Councillor Andrew Doherty and Senior Council and Publica Officers.



1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Cotswold District Council provides an opt-in garden waste collection service for residents living in the district, to have the ability to recycle their garden waste.
- 1.2 Garden waste collections are a non-statutory service and from 2008, the Council has made a charge for this collection service.
- 1.3 Households purchase a licence annually, which they affix to the lid of their garden waste bin to confirm that they have subscribed and are eligible for a collection.
- 1.4 The licence purchase isn't an entitlement to a specific number of collections or total amount of garden waste to be collected, it simply provides access to the service.
- 1.5 Ubico makes the garden waste collections on behalf of the Council and charges back the costs under the contract.

2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1 In 2020, the Council reviewed the costs of providing the garden waste service and concluded that the £30 per licence fee wasn't sufficient to generate enough income to fully offset the costs of the service. At that time it was calculated that the charge would need to be £45 per licence, in order to generate sufficient income and so the Council agreed to increase the licence charge amount incrementally by £5 per year for three years (2020/21, 2021/22 & 2022/23), in order to reach the break-even amount.
- 2.2 Having seen the costs of fuel and employment rise considerably during the past year (2021/22), a further review has been completed and it has confirmed that based on the number of subscriptions made in the current financial year, and comparing that to the forecast contract costs of Ubico for 2022/23, the licence fee amount of £45 will not be sufficient to fully offset the costs of the service.
- 2.3 In order to fully break-even, the licence fee would need to be increased from £40 per licence in 2021/22 to £47 per licence in 2022/23.
- 2.4 The licence fee amount in other local authorities is shown for comparison:



3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Ubico has forecast a total garden waste service cost for the 2022-23 year of £1,134,308.
- 3.2 The Council has sold 24,417 licences during 2021-22 (as at the beginning of January).
- 3.3 $£1,134,308$ divided by 24,417 = £47 per licence (rounded up)

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The garden waste collection service is non-statutory and therefore the Council is able to make a charge for residents to use it, and fully offset the costs.
- 4.2 As can be seen at 2.4, there is a wide variation of charges made by different local authorities and the new licence fee of £47 would still sit at the lower end, based on this analysis.

5. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The Pros and Cons of increasing the garden waste licence fee to £47 in 2022/23 are set out below:
- 5.2 Pros
 - Subject to the same number of licences purchased, fully offsets the forecast Ubico cost of the Garden Waste service for 2022/23
 - Brings in additional unbudgeted income for the Council
- 5.3 Cons



- Having previously committed to £5 increase in 2022/23, with charge moving to £47 per licence, it may be unpopular with service users
- May result in a decrease in subscribers to the service

6. EQUALITIES IMPACT

6.1 None

7. CLIMATE EMERGENCY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The increase in licence fee may result in a reduction of usage by service users and moves to compost more at home, which would be of benefit to the environment.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

8.1 The Council could choose to retain the £5 increase with the licence fee amount moving to £45, but on the understanding that the costs of the service wouldn't fully be offset.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 None

(END)