

Report

Report to:	Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	30 May 2023
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	On-Request Garden Waste Collection
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1. Purpose of this Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ seek approval to not reinstate the on-request garden waste collection service

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the operational and financial position, outlined in section 4.1 of the report, be noted; and
- (2) that it be agreed not to reinstate the on-request garden waste collection service.

3. Background

3.1. A review of the Waste Management Service is underway that is considering the Service's current and future operating model. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact across all areas of the Service, from day to day operations the ability to deliver all pre-pandemic services; to the new working from home societal change seeing an increase in the waste tonnages within the household collection service. The Service operates in a complex legislative environment and is subject to often volatile market conditions in the disposal of waste and these key factors will be incorporated into the review process.

3.2. The early work of the review process has aligned with the scope of the Charging Transformation Review to develop proposals for the Waste Service. The Charging Transformational Review was initiated in summer 2021 to review the level of charging across the Council with a focus on services that were unable to recover costs. A number of proposals were brought forward as part of the budget process for 2023/2024.

3.3. The next stage of the review will consider internal developments as well as the complex national context in the waste sector such as the introduction of the Deposit Return Scheme which has now been pushed back to March 2024. This will be a multi-year programme of work that will consider:-

- ◆ the optimum collection model to maximise recycling rates
- ◆ alternative working patterns
- ◆ waste infrastructure – stores, Civic Amenity sites, waste transfer stations
- ◆ meeting Net Zero targets
- ◆ technology developments

- 3.4. Further reports will be presented to Community and Enterprise Resources Committee as the review process progresses.

4. On-request garden waste service

- 4.1. The on-request garden waste uplift service has been suspended since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2019 to allow the Council to focus resources on the household refuse collection service. Since the suspension of the service, new contractual arrangements for the disposal of this waste stream have been implemented. If the service was re-started, vehicles would be required to travel further to the processor with an increase in labour and transport costs. The new contract has also seen an increase in disposal costs per tonne which would equate to an additional cost of £0.130 million per annum based on pre COVID-19 tonnages.
- 4.2. Given the operational and financial position outlined in 4.1, it is proposed that the on-request garden uplift is not reinstated. This would avoid the additional costs set out in section 5.2 and generate a further saving to the Council of around £0.100 million based on pre COVID-19 operations and tonnages.
- 4.3. Residents can continue to use the Council's 6 Household Waste Recycling Centres to dispose of their garden waste. In addition, the service has a small number of hot composters available that could be provided free of charge to residents that do not currently receive a food/garden waste collection service, and this will allow householders to compost waste at home.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. There are no employee implications as a result of the contents of the report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. As outlined in section 4, reinstatement of the on-request garden waste collection service would see additional operational costs as well as additional disposal costs of £0.130 million per annum. There is no identified budget for these costs. Not reinstating the service would realise a saving of £0.100 million for the Council.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 7.1. There are no significant implications in terms of climate change, sustainability and environmental implications associated with this report.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. There are no other significant implications as result of the contents of this report.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. A screening determination was completed in relation to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which confirmed there is no need for a separate SEA for these proposals.
- 9.2. An equality impact assessment (EQIA) has been undertaken during the development of the proposals to identify and mitigate any negative impacts and seek opportunities to promote equality.
- 9.3. The assessment is that the proposals do not have any adverse impact on any of the protected characteristics groups.
- 9.4. No formal consultation is proposed in relation to this proposal.

Davie Booth
Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

15 May 2023

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

Values

- ◆ Focused on people and their needs
- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent
- ◆ Ambitious, self-aware and improving
- ◆ Fair, open and sustainable

Priorities

- ◆ We will work to put people first and reduce inequality
- ◆ We will work towards a sustainable future in sustainable places
- ◆ We will work to recover, progress and improve

Outcomes

- ◆ Good quality, suitable and sustainable places to live
- ◆ Thriving business, fair jobs and vibrant town centres
- ◆ Caring, connected, sustainable communities

Previous References

- ◆ None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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