

Subject:	Update on Chargeable Garden Waste Collection Service		
Date of Meeting:	28 June 2016		
Report of:	Acting Executive Director of Environment, Economy & Culture		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Richard Bradley	Tel: 29-4701
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE.**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 Policy and Resources Committee on 9th July 2015 and Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee on 13th October 2015, agreed to trial a chargeable garden waste collection service with effect Spring 2016.
- 1.2 This report provides an update on progress against previous recommendations and notes the demand for the scheme.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Committee:

- 2.1 Subject to operational effectiveness (e.g. vehicle travelling) and where the original business case is still justified in terms of cost efficiency, authorises the Acting Executive Director of Environment, Economy and Culture to develop a strategy to better promote waste minimisation & recycling and extend the chargeable garden waste collection service to other areas of the City as set out in the body of this report.
- 2.2 Agrees the policy approved by ETS on 13th October 2015 on garden waste collections be extended to reflect 2.1 above. This policy is set out in paragraphs 4.5 to 4.7.
- 2.3 Agrees a further update report to be brought to ETS in June 2017, which will enable a full year of data to be presented to the Committee.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 At the Policy & Resources Committee on 9 July 2015, Members approved the development of a more detailed five year Waste, Street Cleansing & Recycling Service Plan incorporating key actions and objectives set out in the existing Waste Management Strategy. A chargeable garden waste collection service was a key component of this strategy.
- 3.2 It was recognised that whilst some 20,000 home compost bins have been delivered to residents, not everyone has the space or desire to compost at home. Garden waste disposed via the Household Waste Recycling Sites contributes around 3.3% - 3.5% of total waste arising, though the sites are not easily accessible by people who do not have a car. Garden waste accounts for around 10% of total waste disposed via residual waste bins.
- 3.3 In recognition of this, a business case for a chargeable garden waste collection scheme was presented to and agreed by ETS Committee in October 2015 and collections started in spring 2016 within the Hove Park & Withdean areas.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 As of 16th May 2016, when collections commenced, around 1300 residents have signed up and are receiving the new collection service.
- 4.2 Around 23,000 leaflets have been distributed inviting residents to take part in the service – an initial participation rate of around 7%. It is to be noted however, that only limited marketing and publicity has taken place so far.
- 4.3 Without any substantive marketing of the new service, over 550 residents have expressed an interest in participating in the scheme, though live outside the initial trial area of Coldean, Hollingbury, Hollingdean, Patcham, Preston, and and Withdean . This would suggest there is a demand for the service across the City.
- 4.4 There are approximately 60,000 remaining households, excluding city centre properties, flats etc., that could be invited to participate in the new service. This represents an excellent opportunity to satisfy a demand from our residents, improve the recycling rates in the City and reduce waste disposal costs. The original business case as approved by ETS In October 2015 will still be applied, providing financial assurance.

Changes to Garden Waste Collection Policy

- 4.5 ETS approved changes to the garden waste / side waste collection practices in October 2015. Residents within the trial area have adapted well to these changes. Waste minimisation options – such as reducing, reusing, home composting or recycling more recyclable materials still need to be better explained. This will enable those who do not wish to participate in the new garden waste service to reduce their residual waste in order for it to be contained within a residual waste bin.

- 4.6 In areas where there is to be no extension to the garden waste collection scheme, small volumes of garden waste placed within wheeled bins will continue to be collected. In all other areas, no side waste or garden waste will generally be collected, though the waste minimisation options will be explained and marketed to help residents adapt to these changes.
- 4.7 In conjunction with other waste policy changes approved by Members, the continued modernisation of the waste collection service will help address the amount of waste produced per household. Currently, each household disposes 590kg of waste every year (14/15 figures), an increase from 450kg per household (13/14 figures), which is an unsustainable amount of waste being produced. Total waste disposal expenditure in the 2015-16 financial year was £12.2m and is forecasted to increase in each year of the current PFI contract.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Without any substantive marketing of the new service, over 550 residents have expressed an interest in participating in the scheme, though live outside the initial trial area of Coldean, Hollingbury, Hollingdean, Patcham, Preston and Withdean. This would suggest there is a demand for the service across the City.
- 5.2 Waste minimisation options – such as reducing, reusing, home composting or recycling more recyclable materials still need to be better explained. City Clean staff will also need to be fully briefed on these changes.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 This report seeks approval to extend the current chargeable garden waste collection scheme, to satisfy resident demand for the service and to help contribute to a City that produces less waste and recycles more.
- 6.2 This builds upon previous Committee approval to modernise and develop a more detailed five year Waste, Street Cleansing & Recycling Service Plan incorporating key actions and objectives set out in the existing Waste Management Strategy. A chargeable garden waste collection service was a key component of this strategy.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The recommendations will be subject to the stipulations within the original business case reported to the Environment, Transport and Sustainability Committee in October 2015 being applied. The financial business case and approved fees have been prepared for the service to be as close to cost neutral as possible.
- 7.2 The financial data will be subject to analysis as part of monthly Targeted Budget Monitoring (TBM) process in order to regularly test the assumptions contained within the original business case. Any significant budget variation to the original

financial assumptions will be reported as part of the council's budget monitoring process and mitigating actions implemented if required.

- 7.3 The future charge of the service will be subject to the Councils Corporate Fees and Charges Policy. Fundamentally, the policy aims to increase the proportion of income contributed by users of services where appropriate, rather than the cost being met from the general council tax payer. As a minimum, charges will be reviewed annually as part of the budget and service planning process.

Finance Officer Consulted: Steven Bedford

Date: 27/05/16

Legal Implications:

The Council is permitted to charge for garden waste collection pursuant to the Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012.

Lawyer Consulted: Elizabeth Culbert

Date: 8th June 2016

Equalities Implications:

- 7.4 The equalities implications in accordance with the report presented to ETS dated 13th October 2015 remain valid and no further implications arise from the recommendations contained within this report.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.5 The sustainability implications in accordance with the report presented to ETS dated 13th October 2015 remain valid and no further implications arise from the recommendations contained within this report.

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.6 None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. None

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. None

Background Documents

1. None