

URGENCY ITEMS - MINUTE OF DECISION

Delegation arrangements for dealing with matters of urgency

Paragraph 7.2.1 of the Council's Constitution provides that Chief Officers may take urgent decisions if they are of the opinion that circumstances exist which make it necessary for action to be taken by the Council prior to the time when such action could be approved through normal Council Procedures. They shall, where practicable, first consult with the Leader and Chairman (or in their absence the Vice-Chairman) and the Opposition Spokesperson of the appropriate committee.

Subject: Garden Recycling Service

Appropriate Committee: Leisure & Environment

Details of Item

Members will be aware that during the financial year 19/20 Environmental Services adopted the Garden Recycling service for the entire district. During the business case, figures were put into budget forecasts suggesting that the annual charge for each container was to be £35, this was subsequently actioned and has been the annual charge for the current financial year.

The business case also forecasted future income and the annual charge indicated for the financial year 21/22 was proposed to be £37 per container.

As everyone is aware the beginning of the garden recycling collection provision was interrupted by the first lock down through Covid 19 and following many complaints communications were put out by the authority that promised a reduction in charge for the 2021/22 financial year in recompense. This also encouraged customers to remain a subscriber rather than cancel. This saved a huge amount of time and effort on behalf of many areas of the council that were getting involved in cancellations/refunds.

During the latest submission of the council's Fees & Charges document the Business Manager-Environmental Services had to submit the annual charge for the service @£37 as that was the only agreed price at the time. A note was put on the item to remind members of the earlier pledge which indicated the reduction.

However due to the timings of the next round of committee meetings, the service needs to bring forward the decision to authorise the reduction to allow marketing to take place prior to the usual sign up dates, to allow the renewal letters to be formatted but more importantly to allow time for the ESB software, that administers the charges to be altered.

It should also be noted that due to the software restrictions (that can only administer one level of charge at a time) and the fact that this is an ideal time to push for more customers it is

proposed that we offer a one-off £30 introductory offer to everyone and not just residents who were subscribers during the original service reductions.

Equalities Implications

None apart from the fact that all subscribers will receive the same charge

Financial Implications (FIN20-21/1413)

The 2021/22 income budget for garden waste was projected to be £500,310 in the current Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). This is based on 13,522 bins at £37 each. However, customer numbers have increased more than we estimated, and the budget for 2021/22 is now based on 16,754 bins. If the price is reduced to £30, income is projected to be £502,620. The reduction in price does not adversely affect the MTFP, there will actually be a slight increase in income. The increase in bin numbers covers the reduction in price.

Decision

Reason for Decision

Members Consulted:

Roger Jackson Agreed 17 December 2020
Neil Misson Agreed 21 December 2020
Yvonne Woodhead Agreed 21 December 2020
David Lloyd Agreed 21 December 2020
Keith Girling Agreed 21 December 2020
Paul Peacock Agreed 21 December 2020

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'acj', written over a horizontal line.

Date 21 December 2020