

Report for:	Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel 21.12.17
Item number:	
Title: Supporting Paper:	Charges for Replacement Bins and Collection of Green Waste and Bulky Items
Report authorised by:	Zoe Robertson, Head of Commissioning & Client
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Wards affected:	All
Report for Key/	
Non Key Decision:	Not applicable

1.0 Describe the issue under consideration

At a previous meeting the Panel asked for an update on charges for replacement bins and collection of green waste and bulky items.

The Council's process for identifying savings is its Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). Savings of £2.8m have already been made against the Integrated Waste Management (Veolia) contract through this process. Further savings related to additional income through charges to users have now been implemented. This will deliver £1.2 million in 2017-2018 and a further £0.64 million in 2018-2019. This includes charging for green garden waste collection; extending charges for bulky waste collection; and charging for replacement bins.

2.0 Green Garden Waste

A charged green garden waste service went live from 23 October. Residents can subscribe for an annual service using a 240 litre bin at £75/year, a 140 Litre bin at £55/year or a sack service using biodegradable sacks at £55/year. Over 3,000 households had signed up by the end of October and this continues to climb.

3.0 Bulky waste collection

There has always been a charge for the collection of bulky items that are not reusable or recyclable. This was extended to all bulky items and charges were introduced from July 2017. An average of 150 bulky waste collections are made every week. There has been some reduction in demand which we anticipated. We expect demand will increase over time and we continue to monitor closely.

4.0 Fly-tipping

We continue to monitor all fly-tipping closely and in particular to see if there has been any increase in respect of bulky or green waste following the introduction of charges. There has been no increase to date. Fly-tipping levels remain at previous seasonal levels.

5.0 Replacement bins

A charge of £30 for a replacement bin was introduced from July 2017. Three or four replacement bins are ordered every week. The principal saving associated with this charge is reduced demand for replacement bins. The charge is set at a sufficient

level to encourage greater stewardship of bins without being so high as to encourage theft. Savings were largely achieved through a deduction to the Veolia contract.

6.0 Conclusion

Charges were introduced as the council has to save £20million over the next two years. It was felt that by handling waste differently the council could make vital savings while still providing a robust service. This means more of the council's remaining resources will be able to go into other essential areas, such as adult social care, libraries and children's services. Take up of charged services to date is being monitored to ensure savings targets will be met. Seasonal variations in take up of these services is expected and has been taken into account in this planning. Officers are monitoring carefully to check there are no unintended consequences of the charges e.g. increased fly-tipping. To date this has not been an issue but we will continue to monitor this.