

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Streetscene Scrutiny Panel

Date **24 September 2020**

Report of: **Head of Streetscene**

Subject: **REVIEW OF GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE**

SUMMARY

A recent decision taken by Hampshire County Council will mean that the Borough Council will no longer benefit from the recovery of costs for material recycling, from April 2021 onwards.

This decision will place a financial burden on the Borough Council estimated at approximately £400,000 a year. This is in addition to the £1.5 million shortfall in the Council's medium-term financial plan and the economic loss caused by Covid-19.

To offset the additional costs and help tackle the shortfall, it is proposed that a charge for the collection of garden waste be introduced.

A draft Executive report has now been prepared, which outlines the proposal. The report can be found at Appendix A and a more detailed review of the Garden Waste Service and charging proposals can be found at Appendix B. A presentation will also be given to the Scrutiny Panel on 24 September outlining the proposal.

The Scrutiny Panel is asked to comment on the contents of the presentation, draft Executive report and detailed review. Any comments will be added to the report to be presented to the 12 October 2020 meeting of the Executive for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Scrutiny Panel note and comment on the presentation, draft Executive Report and detailed results in advance of the report being presented to the 12 October meeting of the Executive for consideration. Comments will be included in the final report presented to the Executive on 12 October.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Council has provided a free garden waste collection service since 2005 and is now the only Council within Hampshire that does not charge or plan to charge for collections.
2. A recent decision taken by Hampshire County Council will mean that the Borough Council will no longer benefit from the recovery of costs for material recycling, from April 2021 onwards.
3. This decision will place a financial burden on the Borough Council estimated at approximately £400,000 a year. This is in addition to the £1.5 million shortfall in the Council's medium-term financial plan and the economic loss caused by Covid-19.
4. To offset the additional costs and help tackle the shortfall, a review of the Garden Waste service was conducted with the aim of finding potential additional revenue streams.
5. A draft Executive report has now been prepared. This outlines the top-level results of the review and the proposals for the introduction of a new chargeable garden waste collection service. These proposals have the potential to generate a significant new revenue stream for the Council which will help to offset the loss of cost recovery from material recycling, as well as contribute to the £1.5 million shortfall in the Council's medium-term financial plan.
6. The draft Executive report can be found at Appendix A. More detailed results can be found at Appendix B. A presentation will also be given to the Scrutiny Panel on 24 September outlining the main findings of the review.
7. The Scrutiny Panel is asked to note and comment on the contents of the presentation, draft Executive report and detailed results. Comments will be added to the Review of the Garden Waste Collection Service report to be presented to the Executive on 12 October 2020 for consideration.

CONCLUSION

8. A review of the Garden Waste Service has been conducted which contains proposals for the introduction of a chargeable scheme. The Scrutiny Panel is asked to note and comment on the review and proposals, with comments being added to the Review of the Garden Waste Collection Service report, to be presented to the meeting of the Executive on 12 October 2020 for consideration.

Appendices: A: Draft Review of the Garden Waste Collection Service report

B: Detailed Garden Waste Collection Service Review Results

Background Papers: None

Reference Papers: None

Enquiries: For further information on this report please contact Mark Bowler (Ext 4420)