

Executive Decision Report

New Optional Garden Waste Collection Service

Decision to be taken by: Assistant Mayor Neighbourhood
Services

Decision to be taken on: 4th December, 2013

Lead director: Adrian Russell



City Mayor

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Sophie Cox / Luke Crown
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- Report version number: 3.0

1. Summary

The purpose of this report is to outline the proposed Garden Waste Service.

2. Recommendations

That the views of the Neighbourhood Services and Community Involvement Scrutiny Commission are sought on these proposals.

That the Assistant Mayor, Neighbourhood Services, is recommended to approve the proposals for a new garden waste collection service, as laid out in this report.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Council has been successful in obtaining money from the Department of Communities and Local Government to support the weekly collection of waste and recycling through enhancing existing services and providing new ones.
- 1.2 It is proposed that an optional garden waste collection service is introduced, which will provide residents with the opportunity to have their garden waste collected conveniently from their kerbside using a green wheeled bin. This will help divert garden waste from our general household waste stream, improving our composting rate and providing a better service for customers who cannot, or do not wish to, compost their garden waste.
- 1.3 This report outlines the details of a new optional garden waste service due to be launched in the Spring of 2014.

2 Service Details

- 2.1 The garden waste collection service will be an opt-in service available to all residents across Leicester City. Biffa will be undertaking the collections.
- 2.2 The service will be in operation between March and October each year, providing an 8 calendar month collection service.

- 2.3 Collections will take place fortnightly on a Monday, meaning that every customer opting in to this service will receive approximately 17 or 18 collections per year.
- 2.4 The annual charge for the service will be £30. Promotion of the service will commence in December 2013 and continue into the New Year. Residents will be encouraged to sign up for the service before 28th February 2014 for an introductory price of £20.
- 2.5 Customers are entitled to register for additional bins, should they so wish:
- If a resident applies for an additional bin at the initial point of registering for the service, the charge for the additional bin will be £15 per bin. This additional bin will need to be renewed alongside the first bin on the customers' anniversary date at for a charge of £20.
 - If a resident applies for an additional bin after registration at a later date, the charge for the additional bin will be £20 per bin. This additional bin will need to be renewed alongside the first bin on the customers' anniversary date for a charge of £20.
- 2.6 The green garden waste bins issued to each customer subscribing to the service will remain the property of LCC.
- 2.7 Items that will be accepted within the green bin are as follows:
- Leaves
 - Small twigs/branches
 - Hedge trimmings
 - Grass cuttings
 - Weeds
 - Garden and house plants
 - Flowers
 - Bark

Items that will **not** be accepted within the green bin are as follows:

- Food waste (cannot be accepted under the Controlled Waste Regulations)
- Treated wood, e.g. fence panels coated in creosote or wood stain (as this inhibits the composting process)
- Logs/branches larger than 100mm/4" in thickness
- Soil or turf
- Plant pots or seed trays
- Gravel or stones
- Plastic/carrier bags
- Plastic sheeting

3 Implications of proposed new service on the Bulky Waste Collection Service

3.1 With the introduction of the new garden waste collection scheme, there will be a need to make a few changes to the bulky waste collection. The current bulky waste service allows residents to book one free collection of up to 5 bulky items and 15 bags/bundles of garden waste every 2 months. The following changes are proposed:

- All customers across the City are entitled to one free collection of up to 5 bags/bundles of garden waste per annum. (In addition, as per the current service, residents can still book one free bulky waste collection for non-garden waste items every two months).
- After the free collection of garden waste has been utilised, residents can book further garden waste bulky collections as per the current charges (e.g. £15 for up to 15 items).

4. Details of Scrutiny

The views of the Neighbourhood Services and Community Involvement Scrutiny Commission will be sought prior to any decision being made.

5. Financial, legal and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

To follow

5.2 Legal implications

My understanding is that under the existing PFI Waste Management contract with Biffa they have the right of first refusal regarding the extension or development of any schemes regarding household waste collection. Negotiations are ongoing and the service specifications will need to be incorporated into appropriate contractual form once each party is clear as to what is needed/expected. Early engagement with the Contracts team within legal is therefore important over the coming weeks.

Legally there is no duty upon a Local Authority to collect garden waste, so the above proposals represent an enhancement to core legal duties in this area.

Kamal Adatia, City Barrister, ext 37 1401

5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction Implications

As part of our aims to reduce the area wide carbon footprint of Leicester, the Climate Change Programme of Action has a milestone target of achieving 48% of household waste being recycled by 2015, with further targets planned to be set for 2025. This is echoed by the proposed new EMAS target to reduce the environmental impact of household and Council waste and minimise its landfill.

The introduction of a kerbside garden waste collection service will help increase LCC's recycling and composting rate along with diverting waste from landfill. By source segregating garden waste, LCC will be able to compost more garden waste material than is currently possible using the ball mill.

As waste does not currently form part of the carbon footprint calculations for the city council's own operations, there will be no impact on these emission levels.

Charlotte Wood, Senior Environmental Consultant (Climate Change), Environment Team, 29 8174"

5.4 Equality Impact Assessment

The design of information for the public needs to be accessible (in keeping with corporate communications standards) to meet the wide range of needs of those residents interested in the scheme.

Irene Kszyk, Corporate Equalities Lead

5.5 Other Implications

None identified.

6. Background information and other papers:

N/A

7. Summary of appendices:

None

8. Is this a private report (If so, please indicated the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No

9. Is this a “key decision”?

No

10. If a key decision please explain reason