

REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE

Report No. 15

Date of Meeting	12 th July 2007
Title of Report	Introduction of Charges for Compost Collection in Pewsham, Chippenham
Portfolio	Waste & Sustainability
Link to Corporate Priorities	Waste and Recycling
Key Decision	No
Executive Workplan Ref	B348
Public Report	Yes

Summary of Report

To update the Executive on the position regarding the extended trial of non-chargeable compost collection service in Pewsham, Chippenham, which was introduced 1990's and to agree to the introduction of a charge for this service from 6th September 2007.

Officer Recommendations

The Executive agrees:-

1. To stop the current free pilot-scheme for Compost Collection at Pewsham and introduce a chargeable service with effect from 6th September 2007.
2. To introduce a lower annual charge of £17 for the first bin and £8 for any additional bins at the same property to encourage the current users of the scheme to retain their existing 110 litre wheeled bins.

Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
Yes	None	Yes	None	None
Contact Officer	Mrs Melanie Scott - Waste Management Strategy, Enforcement and Education Officer, 01249 706358 mscott@northwilts.gov.uk			

1. Introduction

- 1.1 To introduce charges for the free garden waste collection service at Pewsham, Chippenham in line with the rest of the district.

2. Background Information

- 2.1 In the early 1990's a trial compost collection scheme, involving 2,000 110 litre bio-wheeled bins was introduced at Pewsham, Chippenham free of charge. No end date was agreed for the trial to finish.
- 2.2 The introduction of a chargeable Compost Collection service in other parts of the District, now means the free service at Pewsham needs to be reconsidered and brought in line with the new chargeable scheme.
- 2.3 The trial has continued to grow over the years to include 1352 properties. Some of these properties have 2 or more bins. All free bins have been issued and there are no replacement 110 litre bins available.
- 2.4 In order to deliver the aim of the Wiltshire Waste Partnership (WWP) to keep bio-degradable waste out of landfill, in 2005, Wiltshire County Council (WCC) purchased for North Wiltshire District Council 5,400 no. 240 litre wheeled bins. These will be issued across the district to introduce a chargeable garden waste collection service and encourage recycling.
- 2.5 This new chargeable service currently has 3,450 customers and employs one vehicle and crew. There is a further 2,000 customers who have expressed an interest in being included within the new service when a second vehicle and crew is appointed in August 2007.

3. Options and Options Appraisal

- 3.1 Option 1: Remove existing 1506 no. 110 litre wheeled bins and distribute 240 litre wheeled bins to those residents who sign up to join the chargeable service at Pewsham.
- The existing wheeled bins are of no use to the Council for use elsewhere due to their odd size and pre-drilled ventilation holes.
 - The logistics of collecting 1506 wheeled bins is unwieldy and would be labour and vehicle intensive, and therefore costly.
 - Once collected the Council do not have space to store these bins.
- 3.2 Option 2: Leave existing 110 litre wheeled bins on site for those who want to continue with a chargeable garden waste collection service, or allow those that wish to retain their bin for their own personal use, but not take up the compost collection service to do so.
- Some residents may prefer to keep the 110 litre rather than have a 240-litre bin to use for chargeable garden waste collection service. However they would be able to opt for a 240-litre bin if preferred.
 - As these bins are smaller the price per annum would be less. £17 per annum for the first bin and £8 for any subsequent bins per

property. The charge is not directly related to the size of the bin. The majority of the cost is the fortnightly servicing of the bin, not the amount collected.

- Due to the reasons above, if residents can make use of these bins for other purposes it would be of benefit to the Council for them to keep the bins.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There could be some additional costs to the Council in collecting unwanted bins, if any of the existing users of the scheme do not wish to sign up to the paid service or retain the bins for their own personal use, although this can be managed within existing resources or offset against increased income during this period.
- 4.2 There will be additional income to the 2007/08 Revenue Budget with the introduction of charging at Pewsham. The exact amount of additional income cannot be guaranteed, as this will be dependent on take-up, but if half the current users of the scheme (676) signed up to the new charges, at £17 this would raise approximately £11,000, although take up is likely to be higher if the residents retain the existing 110-litre bin for the lower rate.
- 4.3 The table below shows the additional income to the Revenue Budget based on various percentage take-ups.

% take up	Income from Sept 2007 (part year)	Full Year Income
100%	£13,407	£22,984
75%	£10,055	£17,238
50%	£6,703	£11,492
25%	£3,351	£5,746

5. Community & Environmental Implications

- 5.1 The scheme has been very successful in Pewsham and has been widely used. The report is looking to continue to provide the service but bring it in line with chargeable services the Council provides.
- 5.2 If any of the existing properties within the scheme no longer wish to continue with the scheme or retain the bin for their own use. The Council will arrange collection of the bin, which will be recycled and the plastic reused.
- 5.3 If Members agree to the introduction of charges, a communication strategy to manage the introduction of charges to this scheme will be produced to target effected properties to manage the introduction as smoothly as possible.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1 The risk of not introducing a charge for the garden waste collection service at Pewsham is that this Council continues to subsidise a service, which is charged to other households elsewhere within the district. Complaints to this effect could be received.

- 6.2 There is a risk that some of the existing users of the scheme may withdraw and require the Council to collect their bins from their properties, as the bins are the property of the Council and not the householder, we would be responsible for disposal.
- 6.3 The service has been free for a number of years. The Council could be criticised for now introducing a fee for the service if this is not managed correctly. To try and minimise this risk, the Council will be producing a communications strategy to target all the effected households to explain the reasons for the introduction of a charge for the service and setting out what available options are open to them.

Appendices:	• None
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	• None

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
• None		