

**CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT,
STRATEGIC HOUSING, PROPERTY, WASTE – CLLR TOBY STURGIS**

WASTE AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICE

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REFERENCE: SDSPW-01-14

FEES AND CHARGES FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES 2014/15

Purpose of Report

1. To seek formal approval for the new schedule of charges relating to:
 - (i) the collection of non-domestic household and commercial waste,
 - (ii) the collection and disposal of non-domestic household and commercial waste and
 - (iii) the provision of second garden waste bins and the collection of bulky household waste for 2014/15.

Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

2. Reviewing the fees and charges for waste management services should enable the Council to ensure that value for money is provided to residents. Recovering the full costs of providing the service should enable the Council's resources to be targeted at those who most need them.

Background

3. At its meeting held on 25 February 2014 Council adopted the Policy on Fees, Charges and Concessions. The policy confirms the approach previously taken by the Waste Management Service that the Council recovers the full cost of providing the service, including direct costs, indirect costs and overheads. Council also resolved to set the changes in fees and charges set out in Wiltshire Council's Financial Plan Update 2014/15. This explained that in the main most discretionary fees have been frozen or increased on average by 2%, the relevant retail price index at December 2013. The update also set out that the Council would carry out a more detailed review to ensure that it recovers a reasonable charge for commercial waste services.

Main Considerations for the Council

4. Work has been done to improve the efficiency of the commercial waste collection rounds. As a consequence the Council should be able to recover the full costs of providing this service by increasing fees and charges by 2% for 2014/15.
5. There are many furniture and electrical goods re-use charities across Wiltshire which will collect used furniture and electrical goods to refurbish for low income families to benefit from. The Council's website and customer services staff encourage residents to explore these options when seeking to dispose of bulky household items. The Council's current charging mechanism results in residents paying the same charge whether they dispose of one item or four. The proposal for 2014/15 introduces a charge per item, regardless of the number of items for collection.

6. The attached schedule (**Appendix 1**) shows the current and proposed charges, for the different sizes of container in use, for commercial waste and non-domestic household waste customers. It also illustrates the magnitude of the proposed increases in percentage terms.

Safeguarding Considerations

7. There are no safeguarding considerations arising from this report.

Public Health Implications

8. There are no public health implications arising from this report.

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

9. There is a risk that increasing costs of chargeable waste management services may result in increased fly-tipping. However, this risk is offset to some extent by the fact that we operate commercial waste services in direct competition with the private sector. Alternative service provision is available to waste producers should they decide that the Council's charges are unaffordable.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

10. The proposals would continue the established approach of providing harmonised fees and charges for chargeable waste management services, irrespective of where a customer is based within the county. Failure of the Council to recover the costs of delivery of these services, where it is able to do so, would place an additional pressure on the Council's budget.

Risk Assessment

11. There is a risk that the Council loses commercial waste and non-domestic household waste customers because of the increase in fees and charges, resulting in failure to achieve income targets. There is also a risk of additional material entering the household residual waste stream via illegal use of household recycling centres. However, it is felt that that the HMRC ruling that local authority waste services remain chargeable at zero-rate VAT means that the Council will still operate competitively against private sector providers.

Financial Implications

12. The financial implications of the fees and charges have been accounted for during the preparation of the Council's budget for 2014/15.

Legal Implications

13. The Council has a duty to provide for the collection of commercial waste and non-domestic household waste when specifically requested to do so. Legal advice on the Council's powers and duty to recover costs and avoid displacement of costs onto council tax payers has been incorporated into these proposals.

Options Considered

14. To:
 - (i) Continue to charge on the basis of full cost recovery for commercial waste collection only, commercial waste collection and disposal, non-domestic household waste collection only and non-domestic household waste collection and disposal, in accordance with Section 45 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, as prescribed in the Controlled Waste Regulations 2012.

Reason for Proposal

15. To comply with the Council's Policy on Fees, Charges and Concessions in seeking to recover the full costs of providing the service. Increasing fees and charges by 2% should enable the Council to achieve the additional income of £250,000 set out in the Council's Financial Plan Update 2014/15.

Proposal

16. That the proposed fees and charges for waste management services for 2014/15, set out in the attached schedule, be approved.

The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this Report:

None