

**Wiltshire Council**

**Environment Select Committee**

**9 December 2014**

---

## **Results of Consultation on Changes to Kerbside Garden Waste Collections**

### **Executive Summary**

During the summer of 2014 the Council consulted on three options for the future of the kerbside garden waste collection service. These are:

- (i) a three month suspension of the non-chargeable kerbside garden waste collection service with no collections taking place in December, January and February;
- (ii) a five month suspension of the non-chargeable kerbside garden waste service with no collections taking place in November, December, January and February;
- (iii) to introduce a chargeable kerbside garden waste collection service instead of the current non-chargeable service.

The results of the consultation process show a clear preference for a three month suspension of the garden waste service with no collections taking place in December, January and February. This option was selected by over 61% of those who responded.

### **Proposal**

That Environment Select Committee note the results of the consultation on options for changes to the kerbside garden waste collection service.

### **Reason for Proposal**

To inform members of Environment Select Committee of the results of the consultation.

**TRACY CARTER**

Associate Director Waste and Environment

## **Results of Consultation on Changes to Kerbside Garden Waste Collections**

### **Purpose of Report**

1. To inform members of Environment Select Committee of the results of the consultation.

### **Relevance to the Council's Business Plan**

2. Making savings from the kerbside garden waste collection service would enable funding to be realigned to deliver the Council's priorities.

### **Main Considerations for the Committee**

3. Residents were consulted on three proposals:
  - (i) a three month suspension of the non-chargeable kerbside garden waste collection service with no collections taking place in December, January and February;
  - (ii) a five month suspension of the non-chargeable kerbside garden waste service with no collections taking place in November, December, January and February;
  - (iii) to introduce a chargeable kerbside garden waste collection service instead of the current non-chargeable service.
4. Residents were also invited to tell the Council whether they would not be using the garden waste service in the future as they would compost all their waste at home or take it to the household recycling centre.
5. The consultation proved to be the most popular run by Wiltshire Council with over 15,000 responses. The results of the consultation are set out in the table below. 88% of those who responded gave their postcodes enabling the council to plot the results. Responses were received from all areas of Wiltshire although there was a lower than average response from Tisbury community area. The report on the results of the garden waste consultation is attached in **Appendix 1**.

<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Proposal 1 - a three month suspension of the garden waste service with no collections taking place in December, January and February	9,492	61.2%
Proposal 2 - a five month suspension of the garden waste service with no collections taking place in November, December, January, February and March	4,716	30.4%
Proposal 3 - to introduce a chargeable kerbside garden waste collection service for those who opt to pay for this	893	5.8%
I would not be using a garden waste service as I do not have a garden, I compost at home or take it to the household recycling centre	272	1.8%
No proposal selected	144	0.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,517</b>	<b>100%</b>

## **Background**

6. At a meeting held on 19 October 2010 Cabinet agreed to implement a harmonised waste collection and recycling service across Wiltshire which includes a non-chargeable optional kerbside collection of garden waste every two weeks. Residents were invited to apply for the garden waste collection service, except in west Wiltshire where the non-chargeable service was already in place. Almost 145,000 households are now in receipt of the service.
7. The Council's Business Plan 2013-2017 sets out the financial pressure arising from the reduction in funding from central government and the predicted increase in service demand combined with inflation. The plan outlined how the Council would work to realign funding to deliver the Business Plan priorities to:
  - protect those who are most vulnerable;
  - boost the local economy; and
  - bring communities together to enable and support them to do more for themselves.
8. The Council considered alternatives to the current non-chargeable kerbside garden waste collection service in order to make savings and sought residents' views on these options over the summer of 2014.

## **Safeguarding Implications**

9. There are no safeguarding implications arising from this report.

## **Public Health Implications**

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

## **Environmental and Climate Change Considerations**

11. There are no environmental and climate change considerations arising from this report. A decision to suspend the kerbside garden waste collection service for a period of three months or five months each year would lead to a reduction in the vehicle miles travelled in delivering this service. Any change in the service could lead to an increase in the tonnage of garden waste being treated within the residual (non-recycled) waste stream rather than being composted.

## **Equalities Impact of the Proposal**

12. There is no equalities impact arising from the proposal.

## **Risk Assessment**

13. There is a risk that any change to the current service results in the Council experiencing an increase in the tonnage of garden waste being diverted into the residual waste stream. This would impact on performance and the extent of the savings that could be achieved.

## **Financial Implications**

14. There are no financial implications arising from this report. Each of the options considered within the consultation should deliver savings from 2015-16.

## **Legal Implications**

15. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

## **Options Considered**

16. That members of the committee note the results of the consultation.

## **Conclusion**

17. The results of the consultation process show a clear preference for a three month suspension of the garden waste service with no collections taking place in December, January and February. This option was selected by over 61% of those who responded.

## **TRACY CARTER**

Associate Director Waste and Environment

Report Author:

**Tracy Carter**

Associate Director Waste and Environment

---

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

None

## **Appendices:**

Appendix 1 - Results of Garden Waste Consultation