

NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL DECISION



DECISION OF: COUNCILLOR ANNEMIEKE WAITE. THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CLIMATE, WASTE AND SUSTAINABILITY

WITH ADVICE FROM: THE DIRECTOR OF PLACE

DECISION NO: 23/24 DP 405

SUBJECT: INCREASE OF GARDEN WASTE SUBSCRIPTION CHARGE 2024/25

KEY DECISION: YES

REASON: The decision affects services across North Somerset

BACKGROUND:

Fees and charges represent an important source of income, providing funding to assist in achieving the Council's objectives.

Some of our fees and charges are effectively set by legislation but many are locally determined. Income derived from charging will be used to offset the costs of providing the service being charged for, including support service costs. In setting an appropriate level of fees and charges, managers also take into account their client groups and corporate objectives.

The fee for garden waste collection has been reviewed and due to the increase in the costs associated with providing the service. This decision seeks authorisation for the proposed increase in line with inflation.

The Council's constitution requires any increase in fees that are over 5% and up to 10% or are estimated to generate additional revenue income of £100,000 to £300,000 needs to be approved by the relevant Executive Member.

DECISION:

To increase garden waste charge by 9% to £60 for the financial year 2023/24.

REASONS:

- Raising revenue from charges for services is an important element in the overall financing of Council services and activities and helps to deliver service and strategic objectives.
- Consideration is therefore given, on a regular basis, to the scope for raising revenue through charges for services and to reviewing the appropriateness and adequacy of the levels of charges being proposed or actually in force
- Services are generally given an increase in their income targets each year in accordance with agreed budget principles. This will be achieved through a combination of increases to fees and charges, increased use, and through rental and sales income where appropriate. Where information is available, changes to fees and

charges will take account of changing circumstances and patterns of service use as well as known and predicted changes to service costs.

- There is a general policy presumption that the levels of fees and charges should rise, each year, in line with the rate of inflation. Accordingly, the charges proposed in each service area should be sufficient to meet the additional fees and charges income reflected in the final draft budget, which is detailed in an annual report to the Executive.
- The following represents the range of factors, which service managers need to take into account when setting fees and charges:-
 - Charges determined by primary or secondary legislation
 - Service costs, including inflation
 - Service supply and demand
 - Market conditions
 - Benchmarking with other authorities and other providers
 - Full cost recovery for services provided
 - Affordability

OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

Service Managers considered alternative pricing within the guidance / framework as described above.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The costs associated with providing the garden waste service for residents has increased in 2023/24, mainly as a result of inflation.

It is therefore proposed that the fee is increased by 9% to ensure it is adequate to cover the costs of providing the non-statutory service to residents which choose to sign up.

The fee increase is expected to generate c£200k of additional income, this will be offset by additional costs incurred by the council for collecting the garden waste. This has been taken into account in the proposed revenue budget for 2024/25.

LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

The council can charge for garden waste collections (but not the disposal or treatment) under the Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012.

The Council's constitution requires any increase in fees that are over 5% and up to 10% or are estimated to generate additional revenue income of £100,000 to £300,000 needs to be approved by the relevant Executive Member.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONSULTATION

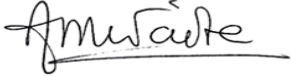
The changes are in accordance with the Council's policy guidance and principles and, as such, no consultation has been undertaken. The revised fees and charges will be published on the Council's website.

RISK MANAGEMENT

In some cases, increases in fees and charges can be a disincentive to the take up services. No material risks have been identified in this respect.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? Yes as part of the 2023/24 revenue budget

Signed:  Executive Member for Climate, Waste and Sustainability

Date: 22 January 2024

Signed:  Director of Place

Date: 22 January 2024