



## Portfolio Holder Report

The portfolio holder will make a decision on this item after seven days have elapsed (including the date of publication).

Report of:	Portfolio Holder	Date of publication
Mark Billington, Director of Environment	Councillor Simon Bridge, Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder	18 April 2024

### Green Waste Collection Service Fees and Charges

**Key decision:** Yes

#### 1. Purpose of report

1.1 To confirm the fees and charges for the green waste collection service for 2024/25.

#### 2. Council priorities

2.1 A well run, forward-thinking council that puts customers first.

#### 3. Recommendation

3.1 That the fee for the annual green waste subscription remains at £35 per bin per annum for the July 2024 – June 2025 subscription cycle until 31 August 2024 as an early bird subscription; thereafter subscriptions will be charged at the rate of £40 per bin for the remainder of the subscription period. Additional bins subscribed for at the same time remain £30 per bin per annum up to 31 August 2024, increasing to £35 per bin after 31 August 2024.

#### 4. Background

4.1 In May 2016, an annual fee was introduced for the collection of green waste following the cessation of recycling funding from Lancashire County Council (LCC) and the continued reduced central grant funding.

4.2 This fee enabled the service to continue to be offered to those opting into a kerbside green waste service without impacting on non-garden properties.

**4.3** The introductory fee of £30 per bin per annum (additional bins £25) was increased to £35 per bin per annum (additional bins £30) in 2020 to reflect increased service costs and was considered reasonable and fair, offering value for money for the service received at the time.

## **5. Key issues and proposals**

**5.1** There have been no changes to the fees since 2020 whilst service collection and administration costs have increased. The sharp spike in inflation, living wage, fuel and energy prices is an unprecedented crisis hampering council efforts to deliver quality services while supporting residents through the cost-of-living crisis.

**5.2** In addition, the council decision to switch to HVO as an alternative to diesel (to reduce the carbon footprint of the waste fleet), will increase the fuel costs beyond previously forecasted budgets.

**5.3** Charges for a green waste subscription service have been introduced across most of Lancashire (and further afield) to mitigate the cost of the green waste collection service previously funded through the LCC cost sharing agreement. The current charges for green waste collection services at Lancashire authorities are listed below with analysis by total cost and weekly cost per collection:

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Green Waste Charges (April 2024)</b>	<b>Winter Suspension</b>	<b>Cost per Collection</b>
Blackpool	£45.00	Christmas (2 weeks)	£1.80
Blackburn	£45.00	Dec – Feb	£2.25
Burnley	£40.00	Dec – Feb	£2.00
Chorley	£37.50	Christmas	£1.50
Fylde	£36.00	Christmas	£1.44
Hyndburn	£33.00	Dec - Feb	£1.65
Lancaster	£45.00	Christmas	£1.80
Pendle	£41.00	Dec - Feb	£2.05
Preston	£40.00	Christmas	£1.60
Ribble Valley	Free		
Rosendale	£45.00	Dec - Feb	£2.25
South Ribble	£25.00	Christmas	£1.00
Wyre	£35.00	Christmas (4 weeks)	£1.46
Average	£38.95	N/A	N/A

**5.4** Wyre currently has the third lowest charge in Lancashire at £35 per bin per annum and a year-round service (excluding Christmas), with a cost per collection of £1.46. Many other authorities are charging a higher annual subscription fee while suspending the service for three months over the winter period.

**5.5** It is proposed to increase the cost of the subscription by £5 per bin reflecting the increase in service and administration costs, while freezing the fee to customers signing up before 31 August 2024 as an early bird special. This incentive is hoped to encourage more customers to sign up

early in the new subscription period (commencing 1 July 2024), which would reduce the resources required in sending out reminder communications and prevent missed green bins from unsubscribed customers.

## 6. Alternative options considered and rejected

6.1 Maintaining, lowering or increasing even higher the current charge were considered. However, the benchmarking clearly demonstrates there is a strong case for increasing the fees as per the recommendation at 3.1.

## 7. Delegated functions

7.1 The matters referred to in this report are considered under the following executive function delegated to the Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder (as set out in Part 3 of the Council’s Constitution): “To consider arrangements for refuse collection, street cleansing, and litter control (including beach and foreshore cleansing) and to determine charges or fees for any relevant services operated within the Portfolio”.

<b>Financial, Legal and Climate Change implications</b>	
Finance	<p>The change in fee structure will reflect the increased service and administration costs since 2020, while providing an incentive to encourage sign-up via the early bird offer.</p> <p>Based on 2023/24 income of £927,000 and estimating that 70% would sign up on the early bird offer and 30% sign up afterwards, the forecast income would be £966,710k which is a 4% increase compared to 23/24 income.</p>
Legal	<p>A council may recover a reasonable charge for the collection of green or garden waste under Section 4 of the First Schedule of the Controlled Waste (England and Wales) regulations 2012 and s.45(3) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.</p>
Climate Change	<p>There are no climate change implications arising from this report.</p>

### **Other risks/implications: checklist**

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
ICT	x
data protection	x

### Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

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List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
none		

### List of appendices

None