

Appendix

Introduction of Charging for Garden Waste Collection Service January 2015

Equality Impact Assessment

Introduction of Charging for Garden Waste Collection Service

Contact: Jim Espley
Refuse & Recycling Manager

Updated: 06/01/2015

1. What type of proposal is being assessed?

A service review or re-organisation proposal

2. Please describe the purpose of this proposal

To make savings to contribute towards the Council's need to reduce it's budgets

3. Does this proposal require a full equality impact assessment? *(Please refer to section 1 in the toolkit above for guidance)*

<Please Select> Yes

4. Please provide a summary of the steps taken, and the information used, to carry out this assessment, including any engagement undertaken

(Please refer to section 1 in the toolkit for guidance)

When the original wheeled bin collection system was designed, the proposals were presented to full council. The corporate Improvement team also undertook a residents survey which focussed on a number of different service area, the refuse service being one of them. A number of issues were raised including storing bins and what assistance would be provided to those unable to handle the bins themselves. The outcome of the feedback received from the consultation was the formal introduction of the Council's 'Assisted Collection Scheme'. This scheme provides assistance with refuse and recycling collections according to the householder's need. The assisted collection form has been updated to reflect this EqIA.

The introduction of charging for the green waste collection service is an efficiency measure designed to realise significant revenue savings. The law allows local authorities to charge for green waste collections, and is a recommendation in the Welsh Government's Collections Blueprint.

The assisted collection scheme will continue under the new system. The Assisted collection scheme agrees a point of collection with the householder and the collection crews are instructed to pick up the bins from this point and to return them to that exact point after emptying. The collection crews are provided with regular training updates and reminders on the importance of the assisted collection scheme and how it should operate. Drivers are instructed to pay particular attention when they have 'agency' staff working on the round (as they will not be familiar with the assisted collection locations).

The chargeable green waste service is an opt in scheme, residents are not obliged to join.

Residents can compost their garden waste at home, and Waste Management will offer support and give advice on home composting.

Residents can take garden waste to their local Recycling Centre free of charge where help in disposing of the waste will be provided.

Waste Management will continue to offer home composting containers to residents at a discounted rate.

5. Will this proposal have a positive impact on any of the protected characteristics?

(Please refer to section 1 in the toolkit for a description of the protected characteristics)

The new opt in garden waste collection service has limited scope to adversely affect any particular group of people. Where it does impact on particular groups, service dispensations such as assisted collections are used to ensure the services remain accessible to all.

6. Will this proposal have a disproportionate negative impact on any of the protected characteristics?

Yes, the adoption of a chargeable service could affect the ability of those people on low incomes to afford the service. No concessionary rates have been applied to the scheme.

7. Has the proposal been amended to eliminate or reduce any potential negative impact?

Yes	<p>The 'paid for' garden waste service is an opt in service. Information regarding the new service was posted to all residents during October 2014 explaining the charges involved and how to take payments. Originally on line payments was to be the only method of paying for the service. However, this was then opened out to have options for paying over the phone (via the customer contact centre), via One Stop Shops and libraries.</p>
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8. Have you identified any further actions to address and / or monitor any potential negative impact(s)?

No	The main mitigation against negative impacts is the availability / use of the council's assisted collection scheme. Any resident who finds it difficult to move their waste to the collection point is provided with a "backdoor" collection. The underlying principle of the service is to provide a refuse and recycling collection system according to the householder's need.
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Action(s)	Owner	Date
Review to be undertaken by Council 12 months after implementation of new service	Jim Espley	01/04/2016
Specific Equality Training to understand the barriers experienced by residents with protected characteristics.	Jim Espley & Operational Team Leaders	Quarterly (ongoing)
Monitor and evaluate complaints	Jim Espley	Quarterly (on going)

9. Declaration

Every reasonable effort has been made to eliminate or reduce any potential disproportionate impact on people sharing protected characteristics. The actual impact of the proposal will be reviewed at the appropriate stage.

Review Date:	06/01/2015
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Name of Lead Officer for Equality Impact Assessment	Date
Jim Espley	06/01/2015

Please note you will be required to publish the outcome of the equality impact assessment if you identify a substantial likely impact.