



Cherwell
DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council

Equality Impact Assessment

Garden Waste Savings Proposal

January 2021

Contents

Section 1: Summary details.....	3
Section 2: Detail of proposal.....	4
Section 3: Impact Assessment - Protected Characteristics.....	6
Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Community Impacts	8
Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Wider Impacts	9
Section 3: Review	10

Section 1: Summary details

Directorate and Service Area	Communities – Environmental Services
What is being assessed (e.g. name of policy, procedure, project, service or proposed service change).	This proposal seeks to introduce a charge for garden waste collection and the introduction of a free food waste collection service
Is this a new or existing function or policy?	This is looking to modify an existing function. A significant change to the waste collection to around 70,000 properties
Summary of assessment Briefly summarise the policy or proposed service change. Summarise possible impacts. Does the proposal bias, discriminate or unfairly disadvantage individuals or groups within the community? (following completion of the assessment).	<p>The proposal to introduce a charge to the existing garden waste service will ensure the financial viability of this service for the community. The charge that is proposed is in line with practices at similar sized and neighbouring local authorities.</p> <p>Although the charge may potentially negatively impact on those living in areas of social deprivation, this has been mitigated against by benchmarking the fee against similar local authorities to keep the charge as low cost as possible. The option to take garden waste to household waste recycling centres (HWRC) will still remain for those who are able to access these sites and home composting remains an option for many.</p> <p>The introduction of this charge will allow us to enhance our current food waste recycling offer and move this to a weekly collection.</p>
Completed By	Ed Potter
Authorised By	Ed Potter
Date of Assessment	January 2021

Section 2: Detail of proposal

<p>Context / Background</p> <p>Briefly summarise the background to the policy or proposed service change, including reasons for any changes from previous versions.</p>	<p>The current combined food and garden waste service has been operating since 2003/4. This proposal seeks to separate the two collections. Firstly, the Council plans to introduce a chargeable garden waste collection service and secondly introduce an enhanced weekly food waste collection. These service changes and brings Cherwell District Council in line with garden waste policies operated at other Oxfordshire district councils.</p> <p>The waste collection service covers almost 70,000 properties. With the make up of the district being largely individual properties and a low percentage of flats usage of the brown bin service is around 90-95% of properties.</p> <p>A separate food waste collection service would cover 100% of properties and make it easier for residents to recycle food waste. The current brown bin service captures around 30% of food waste generated. A separate food waste service should recycle 50% or more of food waste.</p> <p>A separate garden waste collection service should have a take up rate of up to 60%. The factors determining the take up will be the amount of properties with significant gardens and the price. In addition a successful communications campaign is extremely important. The proposed price is low in comparison to other authorities not only in Oxfordshire but further afield.</p> <p>Key to the high usage of a separate food waste collection service and a high take up of chargeable garden waste is an extensive communications campaign. This sort of campaign is critical to raising awareness and to persuading residents to utilise the new services.</p>
<p>Proposals</p> <p>Explain the detail of the proposals, including why this has been decided as the best course of action.</p>	<p>The proposal considers the introduction of a charge (£35 a year or £3 a month by direct debit) to collect garden waste and enhancing the current food waste collection.</p>

<p>Evidence / Intelligence</p> <p>List and explain any data, consultation outcomes, research findings, feedback from service users and stakeholders etc, that supports your proposals and can help to inform the judgements you make about potential impact on different individuals, communities or groups and our ability to deliver our climate commitments.</p>	<p>The current satisfaction with the brown bin service is very high, around 85%. The current housing stock in the district has relatively high levels of properties with gardens and the service is well used.</p> <p>Research has been carried out to see how other councils have implemented such a change. Typically moving to chargeable garden waste reduces participation from 90-95% to 40-60%. This is based on comparing the service with five neighbouring district councils and benchmarking against 25 other local authorities.</p> <p>Our benchmarking demonstrated that charges range from £30 - £60 per year for garden waste collection, with the average charge being £42 per year. Introducing a charge of £35 a year would mean that we were in line with neighbouring authorities and below the average cost of similar sized local authorities.</p> <p>This proposal is subject to public consultation as part of the wider Cherwell Budget setting process which will be reported to Executive as part of the decision-making process.</p>
<p>Alternatives considered / rejected</p> <p>Summarise any other approaches that have been considered in developing the policy or proposed service change, and the reasons why these were not adopted. This could include reasons why doing nothing is not an option.</p>	<p>Continuation of the operation in its current format is not considered to be financially viable. Introducing separate food waste is expensive with high running costs and is probably unaffordable without introducing charged for garden waste</p>

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Protected Characteristics

Protected Characteristic	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Older people tend to be higher users of the service so the introduction of a charge may be slightly more likely to adversely affect them.	Making the service affordable will mitigate the potential negative impact and alternative options do exist such as use of HWRC or home composting	Waste Collection Manager	Ian Upstone September 22
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Potential slightly negative impact as some disabled people may be less able to access alternatives such as HWRCs	Making the service affordable will mitigate the potential negative impact and alternative options do exist such as home composting	Waste Collection Manager	Ian Upstone September 22
Gender Reassignment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	None			
Marriage & Civil Partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	None			
Pregnancy & Maternity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	None			
Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	None			
Sex	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	None			
Sexual Orientation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	None			

Religion or Belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	None			
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Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Community Impacts

Additional community impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Rural communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Potential slightly negative impact since there will be a slightly higher proportion of residents with gardens in rural areas.	Making the service affordable will mitigate the potential negative impact and alternative options do exist such as use of HWRC or home composting	Waste Services Manager	Ian Upstone September 22
Armed Forces	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	None			
Carers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	None			
Areas of deprivation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Potential negative impact as less able to afford to use the service	Making the service affordable (£3/month) Alternative options do exist such as use of HWRC or home composting	Waste Services Manager	Ian Upstone September 22

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Wider Impacts

Additional Wider Impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Other Council Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Providers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Social Value ¹	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

¹ If the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 applies to this proposal, please summarise here how you have considered how the contract might improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the relevant area

Section 3: Review

Where bias, negative impact or disadvantage is identified, the proposal and/or implementation can be adapted or changed; meaning there is a need for regular review. This review may also be needed to reflect additional data and evidence for a fuller assessment (proportionate to the decision in question). Please state the agreed review timescale for the identified impacts of the policy implementation or service change.

Review Date	September 2022
Person Responsible for Review	Ian Upstone
Authorised By	Ed Potter