

REPORT TO: Cabinet Member – Environmental
DATE: 6 April 2011
SUBJECT: **CHARGING POLICY – WHEELED BINS**
WARDS AFFECTED: ALL
REPORT OF: J G Black
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EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL: No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To provide the Cabinet Member – Environmental with an initial policy that deals with green wheeled bins only, following the Council's decision on 27th January 2011, to apply a charge of £10.00 for providing a wheeled bin when requested to do so.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

To approve an initial policy and approach on charging for green (garden waste) wheeled bins pending a more detailed policy being presented to a future Cabinet Member – Environmental meeting on charging for grey (residual waste) wheeled bins.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Cabinet Member - Environmental approves the policy and approach outlined in this report to charge for administering and delivering an additional or replacement green wheeled bin, upon request, from April 2011 onwards.

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: No

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Following the expiry of the call-in period for the minutes of this meeting.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

None – Approved by full Council on 27 January 2011

IMPLICATIONS:**Budget/Policy Framework:****Financial:**

A budgetary saving of £7,250 has been established, following the decision by full Council to apply a charge for providing wheeled bins. This initial policy sets out procedures to achieve part of the saving that will be identified as an income target for the Refuse Collection (AWC) service.

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £	2013/ 2014 £	2014/ 2015 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure	- 7,250			
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Legal:

Comments included in report

Risk Assessment:

Nil

Asset Management: Nil

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

The Acting Head of Corporate Legal Services has been consulted and has no comments on this report LD 90/11
The Head of Corporate Finance & ICT has been consulted and has no comments on this report. FD727 / 2011

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community		✓	
2	Creating Safe Communities		✓	
3	Jobs and Prosperity		✓	
4	Improving Health and Well-Being		✓	
5	Environmental Sustainability		✓	
6	Creating Inclusive Communities		✓	
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy			✓
8	Children and Young People		✓	

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

None.

Background

1. At the Council meeting on January 27th, a decision was taken to charge £10.00 for replacing a wheelie bin. An efficiency saving of £7,250, for

2011/ 2012, via the refuse collection (AWC) services budget has been established.

2. This report sets out a brief initial policy on charging for green (garden waste) wheeled bins only, at this stage, to achieve part of the saving identified.
3. Further work is required, in relation to charging for residual waste bins, to ensure that any future policy does not affect the delivery and credibility of the refuse collection service. The policy will need to consider the impact that will occur should a resident not be able to and/or refuse to pay the charge for administering and delivering a grey wheeled bin. In order to establish a suitable policy, research needs to be carried out to determine best practice, as applied by other Councils. For example; whether concessions will apply, what methods of payment will be accepted and if any exemptions to the policy will be allowed. A report will be presented, to a future meeting, to establish a policy for charging for grey (residual waste) wheeled bins.

Charging Policy effective from 1 April 2011.

4. The Council will from April 2011 onwards apply an 'administration & delivery' charge for dealing with each and every request for a replacement or an additional (second) green wheeled bin. Legal opinion has been sought and it is considered prudent to apply a charge for the delivery & administration of a replacement or additional green wheeled bin. On this basis the Council retains ownership of all wheeled bins provided for participation in the alternating weekly collection (AWC), via grey and green wheeled bins, service.
5. The administration and delivery charge will only apply, at this stage, to replacement and/or second green (garden waste) wheelie bins.
6. A charge will not, at this stage, apply to grey (residual waste) wheeled bins as it has not been determined, at this stage, how the Council will deal with a request from a resident(s) who cannot or will not pay for a replacement grey wheelie bin. The Council's current policy requires residents that receive the AWC service to present their residual or garden waste for collection via the grey and green wheeled bin provided by the Council. If the resident does not have such containers they are unable to participate in this service. An ability to participate in the garden waste collection service is not considered to be as important as an ability to participate in the residual (grey bin) service.
7. To restrict or not deliver a replacement grey bin without a formal policy would leave the Council open to challenge, this is considered given the timescales involved too time consuming at this juncture, and would not be cost effective.

8. At present the Council can only accept payment by debit or credit card via the contact centre. As a temporary measure (for 2 months) Finance have agreed that cheques can be presented for collection prior to delivery of the replacement green bin. Discussions with ARVATO the Council's contact centre provider are continuing with a view to enabling cash payment at a 'One Stop Shop' and other pre-payment systems. All payment options will seek to provide a quick and easy pre-payment process that will enable the delivery of wheeled bin to be made within a reasonable and achievable timescale.
9. Officers will work to produce a policy, following consultation with other Council's, that achieves 'best practice' and provides a practical and achievable solution for dealing with requests to replace/provide a grey (residual waste) wheeled bin. The policy will also include proposals for dealing with exemptions and/or the ability to pay.