
Report to: Cabinet Member – Environmental **Date of Meeting:** June 2011

Subject: Charging for Replacement and Additional Wheeled Bins

Report of: Jim Black – Street Scene Director **Wards Affected:** All

Is this a Key Decision? No **Is it included in the Forward Plan?** No

Exempt/Confidential No

Purpose/Summary

To provide details of the charge, approved by Council in March 2011, to be applied for the delivery of either a grey or green wheelie-bin, following a request to do so by a resident of a domestic property within the borough.

Recommendation(s)

That the Cabinet Member agrees that the charge for delivering a wheelie-bin, when requested to do so, is implemented with immediate effect.

How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?

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

Reasons for the Recommendation:

To achieve the income target agreed by Council, incorporated into the annual budget from 2011/12 onwards, which relates to charging for the delivery of a grey or green wheelie-bin.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs – an income target has been incorporated into the annual revenue budget for the refuse collection service. A charge of £10 has been agreed and will apply for delivering wheelie-bins, when requested to do so.

(B) Capital Costs – N/A

Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

Legal - Nil		
Human Resources - Nil		
Equality		
1.	No Equality Implication	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Impact on Service Delivery:

The charge may have an impact on those who find the ability to pay for delivery or to collect a wheelie-bin difficult due to personal circumstances. If a charge is not applied the agreed income target will not be achieved.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

The Head of Corporate Finance (FD797) and Head of Corporate Legal Services (LD159/11) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

Are there any other options available for consideration?

No, the decision to charge was agreed by Council.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for this report.

Contact Officer: Gary Berwick – Cleansing Services Manager
Tel: 0151 288 6134 Email: gary.berwick@sefton.gov.uk

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

Introduction/Background

1. At its meeting on January 28th, the Council agreed to charge for replacing wheelie-bins (grey or green) as part of the overall approach to establish a balanced budget for 2011/12. As a result of this decision an annual income target of £7,250 has been included in the waste collection budget for 2011/2012 increasing to £10,000 for 2012/13 onwards.
2. In relation to the Council's legal power to make a charge for a service there has to be either a specific power or general power to do so. Under the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) the Council can make a reasonable charge for the collection of green waste, therefore charging for the delivery of a green wheelie-bin to allow participation in the green (garden) waste collection service is a specific power.
3. In order to make progress towards achieving the income target a report was presented to the previous Cabinet Member – Environmental in April 2011 to introduce charging, initially for delivering green wheelie-bins only, with a view to presenting a further report to a future Cabinet member meeting regarding the process to apply for delivering a grey or green wheelie-bin following a request to do so by a resident of a domestic property within the borough.
4. At the meeting in April 2011, the previous Cabinet Member - Environmental deferred the implementation of charging arrangements pending a further report on the basis that research into how this is applied by other Councils would be obtained and considered.
5. Information about the charge applied by other Merseyside and Lancashire Councils for replacing wheeled-bins is attached as Annexe 'A'.
6. Within the Merseyside region both Liverpool and Knowsley still offer free replacement bins, however St Helens, Halton & Wirral all apply a charge; ranging from £17.50 (St. Helens) to £37.00 (Wirral).
7. The charge that Sefton will apply is equal to the lowest in the Merseyside & Lancashire region for Councils that apply such a charge, Preston are currently the lowest at £10.00.
8. The Council is obliged to provide a refuse collection service but has never made provision, in accordance with EPA, to charge for containers provided for this service. However the current proposal is to charge for the delivery of a new or replacement grey wheelie-bin under Section 93 of the Local Government Act 2003. This gives a power to charge for discretionary services, but the charge can only be made if the recipient agrees to pay.
9. As there has to be agreement to pay for this service it is suggested that residents have the option to collect a grey wheelie-bin, free of charge, if they choose not to pay for delivery. This approach would ensure that the correct containers are available and used for the collection process. The resident will have the choice to decide how they obtain a new or replacement grey wheelie-bin from the Council which will enable the Council to comply with it's statutory obligation to collect domestic refuse by making wheelie-bin containers available for use and by emptying them when they are presented for collection.

10. The Cabinet Member – Environmental will notice that the information in Annexe ‘A’ shows that **no exemptions or concessions apply**. It is recommended that the Council adopts a similar approach therefore enabling a single message to be given to all residents when requesting a replacement or additional grey or green wheelie-bin.
11. The charge will apply to all replacement and additional wheelie-bins and will be levied in the form of a delivery charge and will operate on a pre-pay basis. Payment will be accepted by credit/debit card over the phone or directly via one-stop shops and upon confirmation an instruction to deliver a wheelie-bin will be electronically recorded and subsequently delivered within 7 working days.
12. The charge applied will only contribute towards the cost of delivery and the Council will retain ownership of all wheeled-bins supplied. In order to maintain the health and safety of collection staff and minimise litigation the Council reserves the right not to collect/empty wheelie-bins that are not owned or provided by the Council.
13. In line with other Councils, Sefton will continue to encourage recycling by offering free replacement recycling boxes, blue bags and food caddies.
14. Bins that are lost or damaged by crews will continue to be replaced and delivered free of charge, subject to the crew completing the appropriate paperwork on collection day.
15. Bins that are lost or damaged due to circumstances for which the householder cannot be held responsible, IE arson or theft, will be replaced free of charge and may, upon confirmation of the crime reference or police incident number, be delivered without charge.
16. Individual cases where a resident has protected characteristics that result in either financial hardship or an inability to collect a bin will also be considered and, subject to the circumstances, may have their request for a wheelie-bin to be delivered without charge agreed.
17. The Cabinet Member – Environmental is recommended to delegate the authority to approve a free-of-charge delivery of a wheelie-bin, as referred to in 15 and 16 above, to the Street Scene Director. Each request will be considered on an individual case-by-case basis and all free-of-charge deliveries will be reported retrospectively and monthly to the Cabinet Member – Environmental. It is anticipated that the number of free-of-charge deliveries will be minimal and subject to proof.
18. The Cabinet Member is requested to note that the delay in implementing this charge, the ability for residents to choose to collect rather than pay for delivery and any agreed free-of-charge deliveries will mean that the annual income target is unlikely to be achieved in the current (2011/12) financial year.

CHARGING FOR WHEELED BINS IN LANCASHIRE & MERSEYSIDE

ANNEXE 'A'

	New Build	Pre-built	Lost/stolen	Damaged	
Blackburn	£25 per bin charge to cover administration/delivery to either developer or occupier	£25 per bin charge to cover administration/delivery	£25 per bin charge to cover administration/delivery		Currently replacing 40-50 per day
Blackpool	x	No charge but currently reviewing position	x	x	Letter sent to all social landlords /estate Agents and Solicitors advising of Policy
Burnley	£23.40 for residual bin only Recycling containers FOC	£23.40 for residual bin only Recycling containers FOC	£23.40 for residual bin only Recycling containers FOC	£23.40 for residual bin only Recycling containers FOC	Changes to planning policy Originally replacing 7000 per annum but reduced to 300 per annum
Chorley	£41 charge for 3 wheeled bins (240 litre not chipped) Responsibility of developer/householder	Advise householder to check otherwise charged at standard rate	No charge	Charge of £41 only where householder damaged bin	

Fylde	£30.50 for residual bin only Recycling containers FOC	£30.50 for residual bin only Recycling containers FOC	£30.50 for residual bin only Recycling containers FOC	£30.50 for residual bin only Recycling containers FOC (only applies where householder responsible)	Letter sent to all social landlords /estate Agents and Solicitors advising of Policy
Hyndburn	x	No charge but currently reviewing position	x	x	Actively identify properties which have more than the number allowed and currently removing 50 per week
	New Build	Pre-built	Lost/stolen	Damaged	
Pendle NB Pendle has since reversed decision to charge for political reasons	£10 for wheeled bins and £5 for boxes to cover administration /delivery	£10 for wheeled bins and £5 for boxes to cover administration /delivery	£10 for wheeled bins and £5 for boxes to cover administration /delivery	£10 for wheeled bins and £5 for boxes to cover administration /delivery	Changes to planning policy

Preston	£10 for residual and green bins Charge to cover administration and delivery Recycling containers FOC	£10 for residual and green bins Charge to cover administration and delivery Recycling containers FOC	£10 for residual and green bins Charge to cover administration and delivery Recycling containers FOC	Repairs FOC other wise charged at standard rate unless damage has been caused by collection operation.	Changes to planning policy
Ribble Valley	No charge but currently reviewing position	No charge but currently reviewing position	No charge but protocol with police has reduced number of reports of stolen bins. District passes on details of reported stolen bins to police who send uniformed officer within 48 hours. Only on confirmation will replacement bin be provided or householder charged	Charge Of £27.50 + vat where deliberately damaged.	Councillor / Officer working group looking at options
West Lancs	Only when different to standard size bin	No charge but currently reviewing position	x	x	Councillor / Officer working group looking at options

Merseyside Districts					
	New Build	Pre-built	Lost/stolen	Damaged	
Halton	Free	£20.00 Recycling Comingled bin still free	£20.00 Recycling Comingled bin still free	£20.00 Recycling Comingled bin still free	Introduced April 2011
Knowsley	Free	Free	Free	Free	Knowsley declined a charge at its budget meeting in 2011
Liverpool	Free	Free	Free	Free	No plans to introduce charges
St Helens	Free	£17.50 Green Bin still Free	£17.50 Green Bin still Free	£17.50 Green Bin & Recycling Box still Free	With effect from April 2011
Wirral	Free	£37	£37	£37 Co-Mingled bin free	Introduced in 1997.