

Recycling – Green Waste Service

Cabinet

Date: 10th December 2014

Author: Cabinet Member for StreetSmart
Head of StreetSmart

Wards: All

Locality Affected: All

Parishes Affected: All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 This report responds to the motion at Council on 24th February 2014 concerning recycling and requesting a report suggesting ways that a weekly Green Waste recycling service, free at the point of use, could be re-introduced for Eastcott Ward and the Town Centre (Council Minute 99, 2013/14 refers)
- 1.2 The introduction of new Green Waste subscription service was linked to the StreetSmart Change Programme, one of the key change programmes identified by the Council.

2. Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the contents of this report and retain the existing paid for Green Waste Recycling Service.
- 2.2 That the Council be advised of the contents of this joint report in response to the motion at the Council meeting on 24th February 2014 (Minute 99, 2013/14 refers).

3. Detail

Council Motion – Recycling – 24th February 2014

- 3.1 The Council at its meeting on the 24th February 2014 approved the following motion:

“This Council notes:

- a) The recent introduction of charges for Green Waste collection in Swindon.
 - b) The changes already made at Swindon Commercial Services Ltd and the Council to implement this change.
 - c) The distinctive nature of homes in the Eastcott Ward and Town Centre, with larger than average gardens but less space than would be expected for storage for green waste, as well as a greater likelihood of fly tipping as a result.
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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Leon Barrett, Direct Dial Telephone Number 07818 510602, lbarrett@swindon.gov.uk.

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This Council requests that:

The Cabinet Member for Finance and the Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Housing and StreetSmart (Delivery) to bring a report to the Cabinet as soon as practicable suggesting ways that a weekly Green Waste recycling service, free at the point of use, could be re-introduced for Eastcott Ward and the Town Centre.” (Minute 99, 2013/14 refers.)

Background and Context

- 3.2 Council officers have recently undertaken a comprehensive review of the operation of the Green Waste Service and a report on the outcome was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Highways and StreetSmart on 26th November 2014. This report is available on the Council's Website, link below:
<https://ww5.swindon.gov.uk/moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=959&MId=6654&Ver=4>
- 3.3 The report considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Highways and StreetSmart covers the review in detail. However, for the purpose of this report, two areas are of particular note in the context of the Council motion.
- 3.4 The demographical analysis of subscriptions across the Borough aligns closely with the size of property gardens and this is shown at Appendix A1, with further demographic information provided in Appendices A2 to A4 covering disability, deprivation and age.
- 3.5 The demographic analysis indicated that there was take up of the service across the age, disability and financial economic status equality groups. The largest proportion of subscriptions fell into the age brackets of 30 to 59 but with pockets of subscriptions falling in to the age brackets of 65 to 84.
- 3.6 There was take-up of the service within the financial economic status (deprivation) grouping with some instances of higher take up in higher deprivation areas against lower take up in lower deprivation areas.
- 3.7 There was also take-up of the service within the disability grouping, again with some instances of lower take up in higher disability areas against higher take up in lower disability areas.
- 3.8 From the analysis undertaken, there is no indication that there is a disproportionate effect on residents within the age, disability and financial economic status equality groups. Take up of the service appears to be more closely aligned to garden size and the need for the service based on this factor.
- 3.9 The fly tipping audit (Appendix B) recorded no evidence of fly tipping in Eastcott and Town Centre Wards being significantly greater than in similar urban wards.

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Response to Motion.

- 3.10 This report in response to this motion has been timed to reflect the undertaking and outcome of the 6 month review of the introduction of the paid-for Green Waste service which was undertaken in September 2014. The review determined that the majority of households qualified for a green wheelie bin and therefore for inclusion in the paid-for service. However, households with limited access or limited space to store a wheelie bin have been issued with green bags following a waste assessment.
- 3.11 The review indicates that since introducing the service, we now have over 12,000 subscriptions to the service indicating that green waste collection is a service that residents are prepared to pay for.
- 3.12 There is take-up of the service across all wards within the Borough with analysis indicating that subscription levels are aligned closely to garden size.
- 3.13 It is recognised that some gardens in Eastcott and the Swindon Town Centre appear to be larger at the rear than in other areas and may have little or no rear access, and many properties have limited space at the front of the property. However, when compared to the whole Borough, an analysis of the circa 200 subscriptions in these areas has shown the same proportion of these properties (95%) have received wheelie bins rather than green bags following a waste assessment. This indicates there is sufficient space for a wheelie bin, or that where it is deemed there is not sufficient space, then green bags have been / are provided.
- 3.14 There is no evidence arising from the review to support the view that Eastcott and Town Centre Wards are disproportionately affected by the introduction of the paid-for service over other wards in the Borough or that Eastcott and Town Centre Wards would significantly benefit over other wards from the re-introduction of a free at the point of use Green Waste service.
- 3.15 During 2013/14, the cost of the Green Waste service was £758,000.
- 3.16 The Council is projecting savings of £731,000 from the implementation of the paid-for Green Waste Service by 31st March 2015. This is £11,000 more than projected in the Cabinet paper dated 2nd January 2014. These savings help to support the Council's Budget, respond to the Budget pressures that the Council faces, and enable scarce resources to be centred on those in most need.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 The Cabinet could consider a free at the point of use Green Waste Service for Eastcott Ward and the Town Centre and identify the necessary savings required to pay for such a service from elsewhere in the Council's budget.

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5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 None specific to this summary report but full details of the financial and procurement implications are available in the report to Cabinet on the new Green Waste Service on 2nd January 2014. Link below:
<https://ww5.swindon.gov.uk/moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=285&MId=6393&Ver=40>

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 Legal and Human Rights considerations have been taken fully in to account in compiling this report. It is considered that the contents of this report are compatible with Convention Rights.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 No other implications have been identified at this time.

Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA)

- 5.4 A DIA was completed for the new paid-for Green Waste collection service. This is under continual review and was last updated in October 2014.
- 5.5 The DIA identified potential impact on some residents within the age, disability and the financial economic status equality groups. Adjustments were made to the cost of the service to reduce the impact on those residents in the financial economic equality grouping. The Assisted Collection service is available to those residents within the age and disability equality groups. The review of the DIA in October 2014 indicated no additional impacts other than those previously identified.

Risk Management

- 5.6 A risk register is maintained as part of the service review and monitoring.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Board Director, Resources (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None.

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8. Appendices

8.1 Appendix A1 – Subscriptions by Garden Size and Ward

8.2 Appendix A2 – Subscriptions by Disability and Ward

8.3 Appendix A3 – Subscriptions by Deprivation and Ward

8.4 Appendix A4 – Subscriptions by Age and Ward

8.5 Appendix B – Fly Tipping Audit

9. Key Decision/Decision in Cabinet Work Programme and Forward Plan

9.1 This not a Key Decision and is included in the Cabinet Work Programme and Forward Plan for December 2014.