

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT
AND PROPERTY****BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL CHARGEABLE GREEN WASTE SCHEME****Purpose of the Report**

To inform Committee of a proposal to introduce a chargeable green waste collection service in Bassetlaw from April 2017, supported by £75,000 from the County Council, generated from savings in waste treatment and disposal costs.

Information and Advice

1. Members will recall approving the Waste Reduction, Re-use, Recycling and Composting Plan 2016/17 at the Environment and Sustainability Committee on 10 March 2016. The Plan set out a number of initiatives to help the County Council reach its PFI contract target of 52%, and the EU Waste Framework Directive target of 50% recycling and composting by 2020.
2. The Plan includes a key action of providing incentives to the Waste Collection Authorities for introducing new or improved kerbside green waste collection schemes in order to reduce the amount of residual waste collected, improve performance and save on waste disposal costs.
3. A budget proposal was approved by the County Council on 27 February 2014 to incentivise Bassetlaw District Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council to introduce kerbside green waste collection services by equitably sharing savings accruing to the County Council in waste treatment and disposal costs resulting from moving this waste up the hierarchy. This proposal estimated a net saving of £200,000 for the County Council.
4. Bassetlaw District Council has recently concluded a consultation with residents on preferred methods of increasing their current very low recycling rate of 19% for 2014/15. This puts Bassetlaw bottom in the East Midlands, and in the worst 5 councils nationwide for recycling and composting performance.
5. The preferred solution from this consultation is to introduce a chargeable kerbside green waste collection service with effect from April 2017. A financial model for this has now been produced by Bassetlaw District Council which confirms the longer term viability of the proposal, although they do not currently have sufficient funds to meet all of the one off costs of establishing and promoting the scheme.

6. The County Council has therefore been requested to provide, and has agreed to make, a one off contribution of £75,000 towards establishing the scheme, from the modelled savings in waste treatment and disposal costs.
7. The revenue costs of providing the service by Bassetlaw District Council will be self-funded from the proposed subscription charges levied on residents.
8. The County Council will take the full benefit of any savings through the shift of residual waste to other waste streams and all associated waste disposal savings, for the service.
9. The scheme is modelled to achieve what are considered to be very modest take up rates, and the County Council should still recover the initial contribution by the end of year two.
10. The County Council considers it likely that take up rates will be significantly higher, delivering additional savings over this period, and in the long term will generate substantial waste disposal savings in excess of those agreed in the business case approved in February 2014.
11. It is anticipated this scheme will improve recycling and composting performance in Bassetlaw by around 2% per annum as subscriptions grow, which is significant against the very low baseline.
12. Cabinet at Bassetlaw District Council approved setting up a chargeable green waste collection scheme on 7 June 2016.

Other Options Considered

13. None – this is an information report.

Reasons for Recommendations

14. Providing a one off payment of £75,000 to Bassetlaw District Council to support the introduction of a sustainable charged for green waste collection service delivers a significant saving to the County Council over the longer term by reducing waste disposal costs. It will also increase recycling and composting performance towards the EU and PFI Contract targets.
15. The proposal fits within the principles agreed by the County Council at the meeting on 27 February 2014 as it shares savings in waste treatment and disposal costs equitably with Bassetlaw District Council to incentivise the introduction of a kerbside green waste collection service.

Statutory and Policy Implications

16. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

17. This report is for information only, however the proposed £75,000 one off contribution will be met from existing waste treatment and disposal budgets, and will be offset by savings in these budgets within a two year period.

Legal Implications

18. This report is for information only.

Implications for Service Users

19. The introduction of district wide green waste collections in Bassetlaw will allow residents more choice in how they dispose of their waste, and hopefully ease pressure on the County Councils recycling centre network. A chargeable service is the current offering provided by the majority of Borough and District Councils in the County with the exception of Ashfield, where a free green waste collection service is currently available.

Recommendation

20. That Committee:

- I. Note the contents of the report.

Jas Hundal

Service Director, Environment, Transport and Property

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments

None the report is for noting only.

Financial Comments (SES 07/06/16)

The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers

Electoral Divisions

All