


Agenda Item No:	8	
Committee:	Cabinet	
Date:	18 July 2019	
Report Title:	Waste Collection Motion	

1 Purpose / Summary

1.1 To report to Cabinet in relation to the motion tabled at Council on 23 May 2019 in relation to the Council's waste service.

2 Key issues

2.1 The Fenland Garden Waste Service has since 2017 generated sufficient income to provide a year-round 2 weekly collection of organic materials from the 20,000 properties choosing to subscribe.

2.2 At £36 for a direct debit in advance, or £40 for cash payment, Fenland's service remains one of the cheapest services across the region.

2.3 Customers using the service are satisfied, customer numbers are increasing, the quality of the materials collected is very good, each year 3,000 fewer tonnes of waste are collected overall and concerns around the fly-tipping of garden waste increasing costs were unfounded.

2.4 Fenland is contracted to deliver waste in a specified manner through the Partnering Agreement with the County Council. Any changes to collections may require the County Council to renegotiate their contract with their PFI providers and funders at cost to the Council.

2.5 Through its Waste and Resources Strategy, the Government has recently consulted upon a range of proposals in support of its 25 year Environment Plan. This included proposals on kerbside sorted recycling, food waste recycling and free garden waste collections across the Country.

2.6 A further consultation is due from government by December 2019. It is important the Council closely tracks the outcomes of this consultation and any associated new legislation which may give effect to changes in the Council's waste service.

2.7 Given the timeline for this consultation it is important to work together regarding any national changes with partner authorities in RECAP and to revise the Waste Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to fit the changing waste and recycling future.

3 Recommendations

- That within the Council's forthcoming budgetary plans, there should be a staged review of waste collection services for consideration in keeping with the Government's evolving Waste and Resources Strategy objectives and timeline.
- Given the integrated nature of waste collection and the potential impact on partner authorities, that any changes to waste collection services should be made, where practicable, in cooperation with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Partnership (Recap) partners, including the County Council.

- That Cabinet note the existing commitment within the Council’s Business Plan to deliver an updated Waste Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough through the Recap Partnership.

Wards Affected	All
Forward Plan Reference	
Portfolio Holder(s)	Cllr Steve Tierney Portfolio Holder for Transformation and Communication Cllr Peter Murphy Portfolio Holder for Environment
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Background Paper(s)	Council Motion 23 May 2019; Garden Waste

4 Background / introduction

- 1.1 The Fenland Garden Waste Service has, since 2017, generated more than £2 million of income for the Council to provide a 2 weekly garden waste collection directly to the properties in Fenland who have made the choice to fund the service.
- 1.2 Of the 20,000 customers subscribing, 72% have paid in advance by direct debit at a rate of £36, with the remainder paying £40 for the year-long service. This makes the Fenland Garden Waste Service one of the cheapest in the region.
- 1.3 In the past 12 months the service has recorded a customer satisfaction of 99%, with total customer numbers increasing year-on-year.
- 4.1 In the first 2 full years of the Garden Waste Service, the Council has collected in the region of 13,500 tonnes of good quality garden waste for composting. This material is composted in the open air within Cambridgeshire and goes on to make compost that is used by local landscaping and horticultural customers.

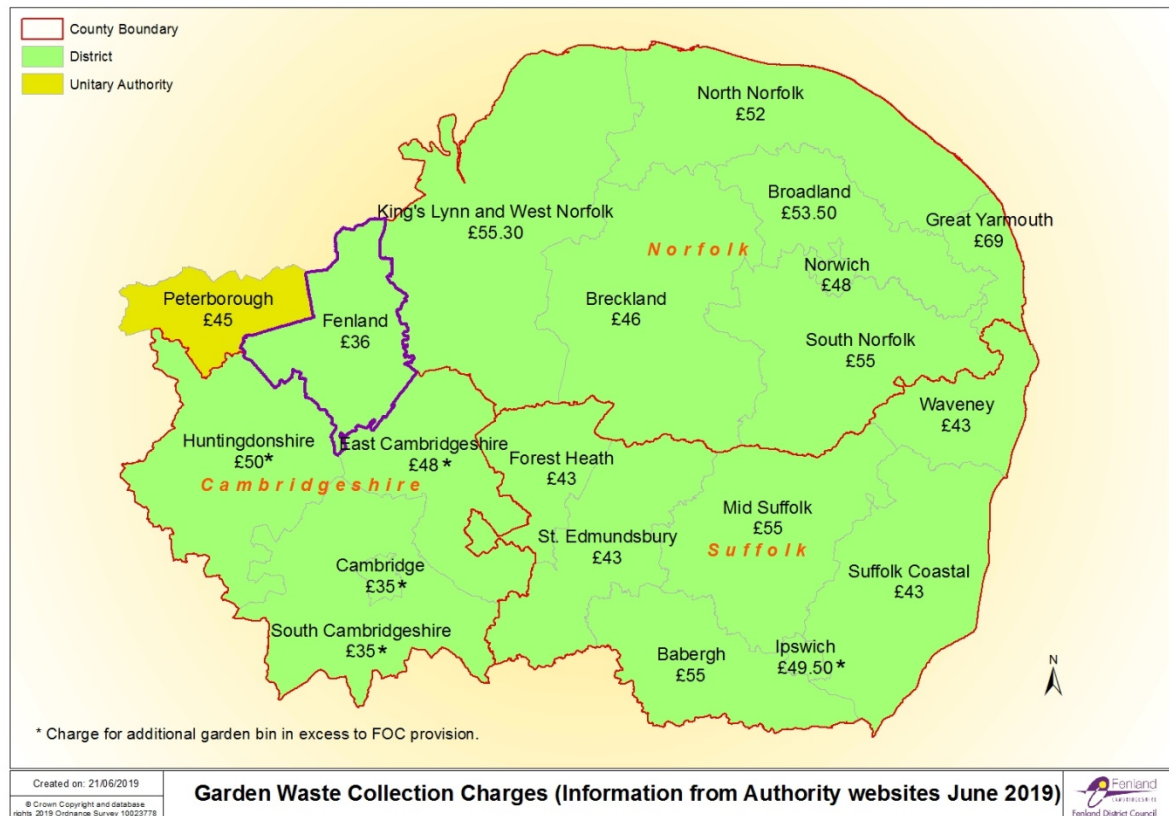


Image 1 –Advertised Garden Waste Fees

Environmental Improvements

- 1.4 There have been environmental improvements as a result of the new service and overall the amount of waste has reduced, recycling rates for the area have remained similar, the quality of the materials collected has been improved and good quality compost is produced from the materials collected.

County Council Impacts

- 4.2 Reports from the County Council show that introducing the garden waste service has reduced the total waste customers in Fenland produce and including household waste sites this reduction is more than 3,000 tonnes each year. This demonstrates that as a result of the new service, less waste is being transported and treated, there is a better quality end product and as a result has reduced costs of treatment and disposal.
- 4.3 To allow Fenland to provide the new service from 2017, the County Council went through a contractual change process with their PFI contractor, AmeyCespa, along with seeking the permission of Defra and the PFI funders. We are informed that any changes to waste services, including a return to free garden waste services, would require the consideration of the impacts on the County Council and their PFI Contract funders. This is set out in the Partnering Agreement that Fenland is contractually bound to deliver. Without any national changes to legislation the legal costs of changes with each of the separate providers and funders are likely to be borne by Fenland.

Fly-tipping

- 4.4 The potential for increases in fly tipping were of concern to customers prior to the implementation along with the additional costs of managing this. The levels of fly tipping across the District have remained broadly similar, with some increases, against a background of fly tipping increasing nationwide. The numbers of instances of garden waste related fly tipping in the past year was on average two a month more than prior to the garden waste service and is managed within existing resources.

National Picture

- 4.5 As part of the [Waste and Resources Strategy](#), in support of the [25 Year Environment Plan](#), the Government has consulted recently on a range of proposals including offering free garden waste collections. These are subject to future consultation later in 2019 and any resulting changes are expected to form future legislation. The Government have set out in this strategy that any net costs to local authorities of the changes will be funded.
- 4.6 Given the likely need for strategic changes to Fenland's waste service in line with an evolving national and local picture, the Council should consider adopting a re-evaluation of Fenland's Waste Collection Service as an element of the Council's forthcoming budgetary plans; incorporating national changes from the Waste and Resources Strategy in collaboration with partner authorities in Recap and a revised Waste Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Appendix 1 - Waste Service Motion

During the consultation with residents regarding garden waste, sixty two percent of respondents agreed they would prefer to keep the service at a reasonable cost rather than the only other option, to have no service at all.

The Government is consulting on garden waste, and considering options including the abolition of all such charges. This Council would welcome such a move, which would increase recycling rates and efficiency. In the meantime, this Council supports the fundamental re-evaluation of the whole of our waste collection service, including potential revision of garden waste collection charges, potential economies of scale in better co-operation with neighbouring District Councils and possible advantages of vertical integration with the waste disposal function currently provided by County.

This Council resolves to:

- refer this matter for consideration by Cabinet; and

if the resolution at 1 is agreed, that Cabinet considers taking the following steps:

- awaiting the outcome of the re-evaluation of the waste collection service and thereby reviewing all Garden Waste contributions paid by the residents of Fenland;
- awaiting the outcome of the re-evaluation of the waste collection service and then reviewing the financial impact and impact on recycling of discontinuing or reducing the garden waste charge;
- following the Council's re-evaluation of the waste collection service advise Councillors of any budget requirements necessary to give effect to any recommendations coming from the Cabinet review including the circa net £700K income the Council derives from the current scheme.