



**Prosperous Communities
Committee**

Tuesday, 29 October 2024

Subject: Garden Waste Consultation and Business Plan

Report by:

Director of Operational and Commercial Services
Director of Change Management, ICT &
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Contact Officer:

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Purpose / Summary:

To present the results from the Garden waste
consultation and proposed business plan for
2025/26

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Prosperous Communities Committee:

- a. Review the consultation results in line with the garden waste business plan for 2025/26.
- b. Consider the following eight options (as detailed in section 3.2) and recommend a preferred option to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee for approval:
 1. Same price, same number of collections
 2. Cost recovery same number of collections
 3. Same price, two more collections
 4. Same price, four more collections
 5. Same price, all year round collections
 6. Cost recovery including two more collections
 7. Cost recovery including four more collections
 8. Cost recovery, all year-round collections

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: The Consultation process was conducted in accordance with established case law principles.

Financial : FIN/86/25/PC/SL

Consultation Costs:

- Print/Pack/Collate/Postage - £3497.15
- Snap additional costs - £575 (survey software used for collating consultation results)
- Market Stall cost - £5.25
- Staff cost to be covered by existing resource.
- Total consultation cost - £4077.40

Full Garden Waste option costs to be confirmed by Finance prior to Committee

Of the 8 options included within the business plan for 2025/26, option 2 is proposed as the preferred option:

£46 price per bin, 18 collections per year

This fee level is forecast to deliver total cost recovery for the service, whilst increasing the fee by £2 per annum from the current fee of £44 (an increase of 4.5%).

The income generated from the service will increase by £52.5k, which will contribute towards the increased cost of service delivery.

Staffing : HR219/10/24

HR implications are dependant on option.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

Equalities monitoring data was collected as part of the consultation and is included in Appendix 1.

Data Protection Implications :

All respondents of direct invitations who took part in the survey have previously agreed to be contacted in this way.

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :

To be inserted prior to committee as dependant on option.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations :

None arising from this report

Health Implications:

None arising from this report

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

[Agenda for Prosperous Communities Committee on Tuesday, 5th December, 2017, 6.30 pm | West Lindsey District Council \(west-lindsey.gov.uk\)](#)

Risk Assessment :

None arising from this report

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

x

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

x

No

1. Background

- 1.1 In December 2017, Prosperous Communities Committee resolved to introduce a subscription-based garden waste service from 1 April 2018, prior to this happening the service had been free for residents who could receive it.
- 1.2 The decision to introduce a charge was taken on the basis that a “user-pays” ethos was implemented and that the function should seek to fully recover its costs. Failure to do this would mean that residents who didn’t subscribe to the service would be indirectly funding it through their council tax payments.
- 1.3 The service has continued to grow year on year, with high levels of satisfaction. Each year our Citizen Panel are asked how satisfied they are with the garden waste collection and this satisfaction level has increased since 2020 from 67.7% to 79% in 2023.

2 Consultation

- 2.1. A paper went to Prosperous Communities in July 2024 which proposed to undertake a consultation on the garden waste service. This consultation had the objectives to:
 - Discover what views our residents hold in relation to payment methods for this service
 - Discover what views our residents hold in relation to collection schedules for this service
 - Propose updates and or changes to Members which meets the needs of our residents as informed by the consultation.
- 2.2. It was important within this consultation that the range of residents consulted were as inclusive as possible to ensure that all views were taken into consideration irrespective of whether they are currently using the service or not. To ensure this was undertaken the residents who currently use the service and residents who do not currently use the service were consulted.
- 2.3. This consultation started on Monday 15 July 2024 and closed on Monday 9 September 2024. The results from this consultation have been collected and are reported in Appendix 1.

3. Business Plan

- 3.1. Following on from the consultation, a business plan for 2025/26 has been written and attached as appendix 2. This business plan outlines the current service along with 8 options for 2025/26 and the financial

implications for each option. These 8 options are around the frequency and subscription rate for the 2025/26 garden waste season.

3.2 The options are as follows:

	Option	Number of collections	Price per bin	Financial implications
1	Same price, same number of collections	18	£44	This will create a deficit of £4.2k
2	Cost recovery same number of collections	18	£46	This will cover the costs and account for a risk adjustment of 2% less subscribers
3	Same price, two more collections	20	£44	This will create a deficit of £100.9k
4	Same price, four more collections	22	£44	This will create a deficit of £197.3k
5	Same price, all year round collections	26	£44	This will create a deficit of £389.7k
6	Cost recovery including two more collections	20	£48.60 To be confirmed prior to committee	This will cover the costs and account for a risk adjustment of 2% less subscribers
7	Cost recovery including four more collections	22	£52.10 To be confirmed prior to committee	This will cover the costs and account for a risk adjustment of 2% less subscribers
8	Cost recovery, all year-round collections	26	£59.10 To be confirmed prior to committee	This will cover the costs and account for a risk adjustment of 2% less subscribers

4. Recommendations

4.1 That Prosperous Communities Committee:

- a. Review the consultation results in line with the garden waste business plan for 2025/26.
- b. Consider the 8 options and recommend a preferred option to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee for approval.