


Agenda Item No:	7	
Committee:	Overview and Scrutiny Panel	
Date:	06 June 2016	
Report Title:	Garden Waste Consultation Overview	

Cover sheet:

1 Purpose / Summary

The members of Overview and Scrutiny are asked to reflect on the following consultation document and make recommendations that will form part of the consultation feedback on the proposal to move to a self-funding garden waste service.

2 Key issues

- On 26 May 2016 Cabinet will be asked to approve the consultation of customers and members on the proposed garden waste service to support service design and implementation.
- Public consultation will take place during June and July on the proposed self-funding garden waste service.

3 Recommendations

- Members are asked to provide an overview of the self-funding garden waste service consultation proposal

Wards Affected	All
Forward Plan Reference	
Portfolio Holder(s)	Cllr Peter Murphy, Portfolio Holder for Environment
Report Originator(s)	Mark Mathews, Head of Environmental Services
Contact Officer(s)	Mark Mathews, Head of Environmental Services Richard Cassidy, Corporate Director
Background Paper(s)	Cabinet Report 26 May 2016 Garden Waste Service Consultation

Agenda Item No:	5	
Committee:	Cabinet	
Date:	26 May 2016	
Report Title:	Garden Waste Service Consultation	

Cover sheet:

1 Purpose / Summary

- To seek approval from Cabinet to develop a self-funding garden waste service and commence consultation on the introduction of a charge for the collection of household garden waste. This proposal forms a significant stage of the overall project to reduce the cost of our waste services, as part of the Council's Comprehensive Spending Review.

2 Key issues

- The Council has provided a '3 bin system' waste collection service since 2006, which includes the collection of garden waste free of charge.
- It costs more than £700,000 each year to maintain this free service to all Fenland properties and with reductions in Government funding creating ever increasing pressure to find further savings, considerations such as charging for services that have previously been offered for free become necessary.
- The Controlled Waste Regulations (England and Wales) 2012 allow the Council to make a charge for the collection of garden waste.
- Amongst the Waste Collection Authorities in the Eastern Region, about half are now making a charge for providing garden waste collections.
- Based on modelling and predicted levels of take up the fee per bin to cover costs and deliver a self-funding garden waste service in Fenland is £40 per bin, per year. Although, the greater the take-up of the scheme the lower the fee could be in future years.
- The introduction of a charged garden waste scheme, along with continuing pressures from property growth in the District will have an impact upon the efficiency and capacity of the remaining dry-recycling and residual waste services.
- The routing of new separate garden waste rounds for a smaller number of customers is expected to result in some changes to collection days and a proportion of customers for whom the garden waste service might be on a different day to their other bins.
- Currently the garden waste collected in Cambridgeshire is composted by Cambridgeshire County Council, as Waste Disposal Authority. Fenland has previously entered into a Partnering Agreement with the County Council and is currently working with the County to ensure that any proposed changes to the service would have as little impact as possible.
- Prior to any final proposals being developed, it is intended to consult with customers and members to provide an opportunity for feedback on the proposed changes and to

inform service design. These findings and a final scheme will be reported back to Cabinet in the Autumn.

- Should Cabinet approve a final scheme, the existing free brown bin service would cease at the end of this financial year and be replaced with a new chargeable garden waste service from April 2017.
- Delivery of this work has already been identified by members as part of the overall Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) saving proposals and forms part of the medium term financial plan.

3 Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 3.1 Agree the proposals set out in this report to develop a new self-funding garden waste service from April 2017 and to consult with customers and members to support service design and implementation.
- 3.2 Approve an additional budget allocation of £10,000 to support the customer consultation, to be funded from the Management of Change Reserve.

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Forward Plan Reference	
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Report:

1 Background

- 1.1 The Fenland waste and recycling service is recognised as being good quality. The service regularly delivers good performance and receives high levels of customer satisfaction.
- 1.2 The Council has provided a 3 bin system including a free garden waste service since 2006. Set up costs for the garden waste scheme were supported by a government grant.
- 1.3 Over the past 7 years, a number of efficiency reviews of the waste and recycling services have been undertaken and have both significantly reduced costs and absorbed the impact of property growth.
- 1.4 However, this property growth is now outstripping the frontline resource available, resulting in increased costs this year and the need for the introduction of an additional collection round and associated costs in 2017/18.

It costs more than £700,000 each year to maintain this free service to all Fenland properties and with reductions in Government funding creating ever increasing pressure

to find further savings, considerations such as charging for services that have previously been offered for free become necessary.

- 1.5 The Council has a power under the Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012 to make a charge for the collection of some types of household waste, including garden waste. The Council already charges for some types of household waste, for example bulky items.
- 1.6 Introducing a self-funding Garden Waste Service was identified by Councillors within the Comprehensive Spending Review as a preferred means of delivering savings and as a result has been incorporated within the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 1.7 About 42% of English Waste Collection Authorities have introduced a charge for collecting garden waste. This figure is even higher amongst our Eastern Region neighbours, where nearly half make a charge. The provision of this type of service is therefore tried and tested and much has been learned from the authorities already operating such services.
- 1.8 Information obtained from a number of other similar authorities where charges have been introduced for existing garden waste schemes, indicates that between 40%-50% of existing customers produce around 70%-80% of the waste and it should be anticipated that these customers will take up the service. This also indicates that a significant number of customers were not using the previous free scheme to any significant extent.
- 1.9 Initial estimates for the take up of the scheme are that 40% of existing customers could join, producing up to 80% of the current waste. Due to economies of scale, should more customers join, the overall cost of the service per bin collected reduces, as set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Estimated Costs

Customer Uptake	30%	40%	50%
Number of paid bins	12,000	17,000	20,000
Vehicle costs	£ 185,000	£ 250,000	£ 260,000
Direct staff costs	£ 245,000	£ 270,000	£ 270,000
Premises/Supplies & services	£ 30,000	£ 30,000	£ 30,000
Customer support and administration	£ 101,200	£ 120,000	£ 130,000
Total costs	£ 561,200	£ 670,000	£ 690,000
Costs per bin	£ 46.77	£ 39.41	£ 34.50

- 1.10 Based on the evidence obtained from other authorities, it is estimated that the first year charge per bin for the service should be set at £40 if the scheme is to be self-funding.
- 1.11 As the service will be funded directly by those subscribing, it is proposed that the charge per bin is reviewed each year to ensure that the fee reflects the costs of providing the service, on a not-for-profit basis.

This means that the fee could change each year to reflect the number of subscribers and actual service costs. Therefore, a larger number of subscribers could reduce the fee, likewise a smaller number and the fee could increase.

- 1.12 Whilst modelling and the experience of other authorities has been used to predict the initial uptake and the corresponding resource required, it is important to recognise that there remains a risk that the service will not cover all costs if take up is too low in the first year.

To reduce this risk, an effective marketing and communications approach is being developed including a number of incentives to join such as; the use of 'Early bird' reduced rates; an option to have multiple bins and the ability for neighbours to share a bin.

In addition, a robust web payment system, in-cab and back office systems will be required, along with dedicated Customer Access staff at busy times of year.

2 Initial Service Design Considerations

- 2.1 Using the experience of other authorities, it is proposed that bins will be clearly identified as paid for via a defined sticker so that payment can be confirmed by the Council's in-cab and back office systems.
- 2.2 Within the proposal it is planned to promote cost price home composters along with supplying information on home composting to allow customers a choice about what they do with their organic waste in future. This forms part of the consultation.
- 2.3 Many authorities allow individual properties to have more than 1 wheeled bin, providing that an additional annual subscription fee is paid for each bin and that there is a suitable location for collection. Therefore, the proposal is that customers will be allowed additional bins at each property. The fee for second bins may be reduced to reflect lower administration costs.
- 2.4 The majority of authorities provide the garden waste service using only wheeled bins and do not offer a sack only option. The current proposal does not include provision for a sack only service and as such the consultation will include the 500 properties that currently make use of sacks for the collection of their garden waste to provide information on service design.
- 2.5 Based on the experience of other authorities it is anticipated that the majority of the waste collected through the existing free service will continue to be collected at the kerbside and delivered to the County Council for composting. There is the potential for some waste currently in brown bins to move to other waste streams; such as through the Household Waste Recycling Centres, cardboard to blue bins and food waste to the residual bin.
- 2.6 Fenland is in discussions with the County Council who act as our Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) over these proposals, as part of a review of the Partnering Agreement agreed by Cabinet (28.7.2005 refers). However, it is intended that the scheme will be designed to have a minimal impact on the WDA.
- 2.7 As it is anticipated that there will not be 100% take up of the new service, customers who don't subscribe may wish to return their brown bin. Therefore, plans are being developed to undertake organised collections of unwanted bins and any un-stickered bins left out will be collected and either recycled or prepared for re-use.
- 2.8 As the current waste collection arrangements are very integrated, separation of the collection of garden waste into a new variable subscription based service will affect the overall efficiency of the other collections. This impact, along with anticipated property growth, is being modelled and will require additional resource for green bin and blue bin collections to continue at current service standards, should the proposed self-funding garden waste service be implemented. The costs of this are currently being developed and will be reported to Cabinet, along with a final scheme proposal in the Autumn.

Initial modelling demonstrates that routing of new separate garden waste rounds for a smaller number of customers results in some changes to collection days and a proportion

of customers for whom the garden waste service might be on a different day to their other bins. Any required changes will be designed to minimise the impact and scale of change for customers.

- 2.9 The service is proposed to commence in April 2017, subject to a further report to Cabinet in the Autumn, with a fixed number of promotional 'Early Bird' discounted available from December 2016.
- 2.10 The public consultation document is set out as Appendix A along with the consultation Frequently Asked Questions for the website. The public consultation will be printed in-house, have a dedicated webpage and will be delivered through the most efficient means to the 43,500 properties in Fenland and is expected to cost £10,000 to complete
- 2.11 In order to continue to engage members throughout the process, it is proposed that a number of internal member consultations take place over the summer, including Overview and Scrutiny and an all member seminar, prior to reporting findings back to Cabinet.

Timeline

Public Consultation	10 Jun - 13 July 2016
Member Consultation	June- August 2016 (dates to be arranged)
Cabinet final approval	Autumn 2016
Subscriptions become available	December 2016
Service commences	April 2017

Fenland District Council

To the resident
Fenland District Council
Garden Waste Consultation
Survey Enclosed

Do it online
www.fenland.gov.uk/gardenwaste
Closing date: 13th July 2016

Dear local resident,

Garden Waste Changes – Have Your Say

We are writing to you because we need to make some changes to the Garden Waste (Brown Bin) collection service. We would like to get your comments on this.

Proposed new service

We are proposing to stop the free collection of garden waste. Instead, we want to introduce an 'opt-in' chargeable collection scheme. This would be available to all properties in Fenland with a suitable collection point.

Households opting in

Households who currently receive a garden waste collection service would be subject to an annual charge of £40 per bin for an all-year round service. Households could have as many brown bins as they like, although there would be a charge for each bin.

Households who do not use the service on a regular basis but would like to participate are encouraged to share a bin with neighbours or friends.

Households opting out

Alternatively, garden waste can be taken to the three household recycling centres in Wisbech, March and Whittlesey. These are run by Cambridgeshire County Council (see details at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20128/recycling_centres).

Home Composting bins can be purchased through the Cambridgeshire Waste Partnership (RECAP) from £18 plus postage at www.cambs.getcomposting.com . It is also possible to make your own (see details at www.homecomposting.org.uk).

Why make changes?

The Council has been providing a garden waste collection service to around 40,000 of the 43,500 homes in Fenland since 2006. It was originally funded by a one off Government grant. It currently costs over £700,000 a year to provide our garden waste service. Reductions in Government funding means the council must make difficult decisions about how to provide services to customers. Collecting brown-bin waste is not statutory, which means it does not have to be provided by law. Introducing a charge would mean the customers who use the service would fund the service costs.



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE



As new houses are built across Fenland we need to change the way we work so that we are able to provide an effective and efficient service that can continue to accommodate the growing number of properties.

Tell us what you think

We would like you to tell us how you use the garden waste service at the moment and what you think about the proposed changes. Your feedback will be used by Councillors as they decide how the service will operate.

You can complete the questionnaire online by visiting www.fenland.gov.uk/gardenwaste.

Alternatively, please complete the attached survey and return it to: Garden Waste Consultation, Fenland District Council, 11 Melbourne Avenue, March, Cambridgeshire, PE15 0EN.

Feedback is welcomed by 13th July 2016

Yours faithfully
Waste & Recycling Team – Fenland District Council

Proposed Changes to Fenland District Council Garden Waste Collection Services

The Council faces significant financial pressures and needs to make savings to continue to successfully deliver key services and priorities.

This is your chance to have your say on the future of your kerbside garden waste brown bin collection service. This information will be collated and form part of the report that councillors will decide upon later in the year.

The consultation closes on 13th July 2016

please tick or cross one box under each option unless stated otherwise.

1 About you and your garden

Do it online - www.fenland.gov.uk/gardenwaste

Closing date: 13th July 2016

Name: _____

Email address: (this will be used for future communications in relation to this topic)

What age group are you in?

Under 25

25 - 44

45 - 59

60 - 74

74 +

Current service

Which current garden waste service do you use?

I compost at home

I use a wheeled bin (brown bin)

I use paper sack

I have access to a shared brown bin

I do not use the garden waste service

Do you have a garden?

Yes

No

If you do use the garden waste service, do you use the bin all year round?

Yes

Only during the growing season

Which statement best described your use of the household waste recycling site?

I take garden waste to the household waste recycling site more than 4 times each year

I take garden waste to the household waste recycling site 1-4 times each year

I do not use the household waste recycling site for garden waste

2 The Proposed Service

Do it online - www.fenland.gov.uk/gardenwaste Closing date: 13th July 2016

If the new garden waste service is implemented, how would you deal with your garden waste? Please tick 1 or more that apply.

- Pay the annual fee for 1 bin (£40)
- Pay the annual fee and use more than 1 bin (£40 for each brown bin)
- Take more garden waste to the household waste site
- Compost at home

If an 'Early Bird' offer was available that reduced the price of the service if bought before 28th Feb, would you be interested

- Yes
- No

If you were to take the service, how would you prefer to pay?

- Online by Debit Card
- By telephone (Debit Card)
- Post Office or Bank (may include a charge)
- By Direct Debit online
- Cash or cheque at Fenland @ your service shops or Community Hubs

Comments

Do you have any other comments about these proposed changes, or are there any other factors you think we should take into account? Please enter your comments in the box below.

Documents prepared by Fenland District Council are available in large print, Moon, Braille, on audio cassette and electronic format upon request. We can also arrange to have documents translated into community languages. For more information, call 01354 622451 or email info@fenland.gov.uk.

Contact us: If you have any questions or queries about this survey, contact 01354 654321 or email info@fenland.gov.uk

Please return to address below by 13th July 2016, or do it online:

www.fenland.gov.uk/gardenwaste

GARDEN WASTE CONSULTATION

Fenland District Council, 11 Melbourne Avenue, March, Cambridgeshire, PE15 0EN

Do it online - www.fenland.gov.uk/gardenwaste

Closing date: 13th July 2016

Appendix A - Garden Waste Proposal Frequently Asked Questions (Formatted for Website)

Why are we charging for garden waste?

Central government has cut funding to Fenland District Council resulting in tough choices having to be made including charging for collecting garden waste. Many of our neighbouring councils and half of the councils in Eastern England now charge for the kerbside collection of garden waste.

When do the charges start?

The new service is planned to start from April 2017.

How much is the new service proposed to cost?

The cost of the new service is proposed at £40 per year per brown bin. Any additional bins at the same property will incur an additional annual cost of £40 per bin.

The proposal is that during 2017, a fixed number of customers booking the service early will receive an 'Early Bird' discounted rate. No other concessions are planned.

How do I sign up and pay for the new charged garden waste collection service?

You will be able to sign up and pay online from December 2016. Payment can be made by debit card. Alternatively you will be able to pay over the phone or pay by cash or cheque at any of the council's shops or community hubs.

When will I have to pay by?

The proposal is that you can sign up and pay any time from the end of 2016.

How will the new changes affect me?

The changes mean that if you would like to have your garden waste collected after March 2017 you will need to pay £40 a year. This is an optional service and you will only pay if you would like to use the service. If you do not wish to pay to have your garden waste collected from the kerbside, you can use the County Council's household recycling centres for free or compost at home. Details of home composters are available at www.getcomposting.com or by phoning 0800 316 4454.

I have no means of getting my garden waste bin to the road and use sacks for my garden waste collections at present. Do the charges apply to me?

The garden waste sack service will also cease in March 2017 with this proposal and the replacement service is a wheeled bin service only. If you have room for a wheeled bin, or could share a bin with a neighbour, then it is still possible to access the proposed service. We will be consulting customers on their opinion of the proposal and options such as compost bins that are available for gardens.

Will my collection day change?

Yes, our modelling shows that a proportion of collection days are likely to change.

How do I opt out?

The plan is that you will not need to contact us to opt-out. Free collections will stop from the end of March 2017 unless you contact us to sign up and pay. If you do not want to pay to have your garden waste collected then you can keep your bin but we will not empty it.

If at a later date you choose to sign up for the chargeable garden waste service you can use your existing bin providing it is serviceable.

Can I have more than one bin and will additional bins be charged at the same rate?

Yes, the proposal is that properties can have more than one garden waste bin; providing there is suitable storage and a suitable collection point then there is no limit on the number of bins customers can have.

How will you know if I have paid for the service?

When you pay to receive a garden waste collection you will be sent a garden waste sticker to place on your bin. This will identify that you have paid for the year.

The experience of other authorities is that stickers are best placed on the rear of the bin under the handle to allow the collection crew to see them when the bin is presented handles towards to the road.

Can residents share a bin?

Yes, you can share your bin with a neighbour if you wish. The bin will be charged to one resident and will be collected from that property only.

What happens if I sign up part way through the year? Will I have to pay £40 still?

The proposal is that you can sign up to receive the service at any point during the year. The annual charge runs from 1 April until 31 March each year. If you sign up part way through the year you will be charged for the full year.

I don't currently have a bin, can I still sign up for the service?

Yes, the proposal is that you can sign up and pay for the service at any time. Once you have paid for the service the council will arrange for the delivery of a garden waste bin. The usual Council delivery charge will apply to all new bins.

Don't I already pay for a garden waste collection through my council tax?

Council tax contributes towards the cost of running Council services but changes to government funding means that we can no longer afford to offer this service free of charge.

Alternatives to paying for garden waste collection

Will home composters still be available?

Yes, we will continue to offer cost-price compost bins and food waste digesters. This is a good alternative to paying for a collection or taking garden waste to a household recycling centre. You will also create great compost to use at home. These are available at www.getcomposting.com or by phoning 0800 316 4454.

Will I still be able to take garden waste to the household recycling centre?

Yes, you can continue to take your garden waste to any of Cambridgeshire County Council's household recycling centres free of charge.

What happens if I can't get to a household recycling centre?

The council offers garden waste and food waste digesters which will also compost garden waste. This is a good alternative to taking garden waste to the household recycling centre. You will also create great compost to use at home. These are available at www.getcomposting.com or by phoning 0800 316 4454.

Charging

Will there be help for residents without the means to pay or who are in receipt of benefits for a bin?

It is proposed that within the first year a fixed number of customers paying for the service before 28th February will receive a discount on their first bin. No other concessions will be available.

Why are you charging £40 when other councils charge less?

The charge is proposed at this level based on the experience of other authorities and is created to cover the costs of the service - no profit is made from the service. The charge in future years will reflect the costs and could go up or down according to the number of people who sign up to the service. Authorities across the country charge similar amounts per year for the kerbside collection of garden waste because collecting waste in rural areas can be expensive.

Why is the council charging for garden waste now after it has been a free service for 10 years?

Central government has changed the way funding is provided to Fenland District Council over recent years. This means the council has to make tough choices including charging the customers who use the garden waste service.

I won't put my bin out every fortnight, can I have a discount?

No. The collection crews will visit your property regardless of whether you put your bin out for collection. You could talk to your neighbours about the possibility of sharing the cost and a bin.

Can I have £40 off my council tax?

No. Council tax is collected and distributed to the County Council, Fire and Police Services and others. Of the £1709 paid in Council Tax by a Band D property, around £250 goes to Fenland District Council. In the past, Council Tax has contributed to the cost of running this service, and all other services, but the council can no longer afford to offer this service free of charge.

Can you reduce the £40 by stopping the service in the winter?

The proposal is to maintain the existing service for those customers that choose to use it by raising a charge. The annual £40 charge is based on 26 collections per year. An evaluation of the costs of stopping the service did not offer significant savings because the majority of the costs are tied up.

Will charging for garden waste mean more fly tipping?

In line with the experience of other areas, we expect customers will either pay for the service, compost at home or take their garden waste to their nearest household recycling centre. The council will continually monitor the number and nature of fly tipping cases to assess whether charging for garden waste increases fly tipping, but does not expect a significant increase and will continue to prosecute offenders.

How will I be charged in future years?

The plan is that you will be charged from 1 April each year. You will receive an annual reminder to renew your contract in February each year. You can opt out of the service at any time, but you will not be entitled to a refund.

What happens if I pay for the service but my bin gets stolen?

If your bin is stolen then it will be replaced in line with existing policies.

Will I have to pay for the service if I don't want it?

No, this is an optional service - you will only pay if you would like to receive a fortnightly collection of garden waste.

Bins and collections

Will there be a ban on garden waste in household waste bins?

Garden waste cannot be placed in your household waste (green) bin. Additional waste placed next to your household waste bin will not be collected. If you choose not to receive the kerbside garden waste collection service then you could compost at home or can take your garden waste to any of the County Council's household recycling centres at no charge. Household waste bins containing garden waste could be refused and result in enforcement action.

Will Christmas trees be collected free of charge from residents without bins?

No. The plan is that only residents who pay to have their garden waste collected at the kerbside will have their Christmas trees collected. One Christmas tree will be collected per property. Residents who don't sign up for the chargeable garden waste service can take their Christmas trees to any of Cambridgeshire County Council's household recycling centres for free.

Will you take extra garden waste placed beside the bin?

No, the current service will be maintained and all garden waste must be contained within the bin with the bin lid closed. However, the proposal does now allow for customers to subscribe to additional bins should there be a need.

Who owns the bins?

The council will continue to own the bins.

Will I have to pay to replace my broken or lost garden waste bins?

Just as is the case now, we will replace or repair bins which have been damaged or lost by the council. Where the damage is deliberate or negligent then a charge for the replacement may be made.

If I move house can I take my garden waste bin with me?

The proposal is that if you move within Fenland, then the service will follow you - You can continue to receive a charged garden waste collection from your new property if it is in Fenland and we will transfer your contract to your new property.

When you move house all bins should be left at the property. We will then ensure that the bin is available for the new occupier to also continue with the remainder of the year's subscription. The proposal is that if you are moving outside of Fenland or would like to cancel your contract you can do so, but you would not be entitled to a refund.

Can I keep my garden waste bin for storage etc., if I don't want to pay for the collection service?

Yes. If you do not want to pay to have your garden waste collected then you can keep your bin but we will not empty it after the end of March 2017. If at a later date you choose to sign up for the charged garden waste service, you can use your existing bin providing it is serviceable.

The council will collect your bin should you not wish to keep it. If the council has retrieved your bin and you sign up for the chargeable service the usual new bin delivery charge will apply in addition to the collection charge for the service.

How will you stop residents without bins putting their garden waste in my paid-for bin?

You should ensure that your property name or number is clearly marked on the garden waste sticker that you will be given once you have paid for the service. You should also ensure that your bin is placed in a location which means that it is difficult for others to put waste in your bin, unless you choose to share this with them.

Retrieving your bin from the kerbside soon after it is emptied will also help to ensure that others do not use your bin.

I do not want to keep my bin. Will I be able to opt back in if I want to?

The proposal is that you can sign up to receive the service at any point during the year. The annual charge will run from 1 April to 31 March each year. If you sign up part way through the year you will be charged the full amount.

If the bin has been returned then a bin delivery charge will apply.

When will my bin be removed?

It is proposed that if you do not want to pay to have your garden waste collected then you can keep your bin but we will not empty it. If at a later date you choose to sign up for the chargeable garden waste service you can use your existing bin providing it is serviceable.

The council will collect all unwanted bins in a phased manner.

Can I give my bin away or sell it?

Although your bin is yours to keep, the council remains the owner and you will not be allowed to sell or give your bin away. The plan is that for customers who are certain that they do not want to use the garden waste service at any time, that they contact the council to arrange for the bin to be retrieved.

Will there be delivery charges if I decide I want a bin, having given it back?

If you have already returned your bin and you decide to sign up for the chargeable service the usual bin delivery charge for a bin will apply.

Extra information

Have you considered the environmental impact of more people driving to the Household Recycling Centres?

Yes. However we hope that many residents will recognise the benefits of the kerbside collection and choose to pay the £40 annual charge rather than use the household recycling centres.

Won't the service be much less efficient if you charge?

The new charged service will mean that only residents who pay for the service will be visited by the crews on their collection days. We will keep the collection rounds under regular review to keep them as efficient as possible.

Won't we be sending more waste to landfill because of the changes?

We will be encouraging residents to sign up for the chargeable service. Those residents who choose not to pay could compost their garden waste at home or take it to one of Cambridgeshire County

Council's household recycling centres. With these options, we hope to avoid any increase in waste going for treatment and landfill.

We are being encouraged to recycle. Will this service mean that we don't meet recycling targets?

We will continue to encourage customers to recycle as much as possible and focussed education work will support the service. The council does not expect a significant reduction in the recycling rate for Cambridgeshire overall. We hope that most residents will pay for the service, take their garden waste to their nearest household recycling centre or compost it at home.

Is it legal to charge for garden waste collection?

Yes. Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, as recently updated by the Controlled Waste Regulations (England and Wales) 2012, councils can charge for the collection of garden waste. Charging for the collection of garden waste will bring Fenland District Council in line with many neighbouring councils who have a charged service.