

e. Potential Introduce a charge for collecting 'Green' Garden Waste

Potential Implementation from 2018

Potential annual additional income of £270,000 to £350,000.

1. Present Situation

A large number of authorities are now charging for green waste which is a non-statutory service. At the beginning of 2016/17 the average charge in the East Midlands was £35 per annum. With the exception of North West Leicestershire all of the district councils in Leicestershire charge for this service.

2. Options

The Council has been providing a wheelie bin service free of charge for two years and about 17,000 bins are already in use in the borough from a total of 23,000 properties. Initial research suggests that there is scope to increase supply of wheelie bins further to households who currently use bags.

If the Council introduced a charge for the service it would have to operate on a bin only service and collection of bags would have to cease.

Net income from introducing a charge would obviously depend on the annual charge and the level of take-up. For example if the Council were to charge the East Midlands average of £35 per annum, a take-up of 45% would be required to achieve net income in a full year of £350,000. However, a lower annual fee might lead to increased take-up. Attached is a paper that sets out a matrix of potential income levels dependent upon the fee to be charged and the suggested level of take up.

If a fee were to be charged then a unique annual bin sticker would be sent out each year to identify which properties have paid so that the collection crews know which bins to empty. The Council would leave any existing bins out if residents wanted to keep them but would also collect them in if residents request that they be removed.