

Record of Decisions

Kerbside Green Waste Collection Service

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 12 July 2022.

Decision

That:

1. SWISCo are instructed to deliver an opt in, paid for kerbside garden waste collection service as soon as possible;
2. The Director of Finance be requested to use his delegated authority to introduce a new charge for the service to be fortnightly, all year round and charged at £50 p/a (£40 for CTSS) per 240 litre bin, in accordance with Financial Regulation, paragraph 5.10 (in consultation with the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Finance and Chief Executive); and

That Council be recommended:

3. That the Director of Finance be delegated authority, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance, to provide Council funding by prudential borrowing for the Council to purchase the bins for garden waste or provide a loan to SWISCo for their purchase.

Reason for the Decision

Torbay Council's recycling rate is currently 37% and below the target of 50%. A key element to increasing the recycling rate is to increase opportunities for the recycling of garden waste.

Implementation

Decision 1 and 2 will come into force and may be implemented on 25 July 2022 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny). Decision 3, will be considered by the Council on 21 July 2022.

Information

The only green waste recycling option (other than in garden composting) currently available to Torbay residents is the Household Waste and Recycling Centre in Paignton or seasonal remote collection points in Torquay and Brixham. Torbay's waste flow data shows approx. 1500 tonne of garden waste is disposed of in the residual stream every year. Collecting and recycling this garden waste offers potential for improvements of Torbay's recycling rate by up to 6%, therefore making an important contribution towards the Council's climate emergency commitments.

A charged garden waste collection was identified in the Resource and Waste Strategy for Torbay, by the target date of 2023. The Resource and Waste Strategy sets out that this collection will reduce the amount of green waste that is put into the residual bin and will lead to an improvement in Torbay's recycling rates.

At the meeting Councillor Morey proposed and Councillor Law seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

The alternative option to an opt in charged for service would have been to offer a free service to all households with a garden (approximately 45,000 properties).

Although this was promoted as the preferred option of Central Government, on the basis of new burdens funding this being a net nil cost to local authorities, DEFRA has not confirmed any further details. The results of the Government consultation were due to be published in July 2022, delayed from Autumn 2021, however any changes will then have to be included in new legislation relating to the Environment Bill, as is in reality a number of years away. At the current time a free service would cost Torbay Council approx. £1.2 m per annum plus capital costs of approximately £1.6m

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

Published

15 July 2022

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet