

## CABINET MEMBER DECISION RECORD

<b>Decision Ref. No:</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>  Councillor Michael Filer - Portfolio Holder for Cleansing & Waste
<b>Subject:</b>  Further to the Cabinet resolution on 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2015 to introduce a payment for the Green Waste Collection Service the Council received a complaint that the Cabinet had not been given information about the effect on households containing residents with disabilities on a low income. The Council has therefore considered the introduction of a discount from the chargeable Garden Waste Collection Service for residents on a low income (Means Tested Benefit).
<b>Decision taken:</b>  No discounts will be offered from the chargeable Garden Waste Collection Service for residents on a Means Tested Benefit.
<b>Reasons for the decision:</b>  The Council has obtained a variety of information from relevant bodies and Council's to inform its decision. Based on the 5% discount uptake identified in Borough of Poole's garden waste registrations, offering a 100% discount to residents on Means Tested Benefits if this Council were to do the same it would cost the Council £43k, whilst offering a 50% would cost £25k and 20% discount £14k.  A discount scheme would lead to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A reduction in income towards the cost of service delivery</li><li>• Price variations, making the scheme more time-consuming and costly to administer (due to the requirement to process and check evidence).</li><li>• The system being open to abuse i.e. someone eligible for a discount paying a lower rate on behalf of their neighbour, someone eligible for a few months would receive the annual service at discounted rate</li></ul> The cost of offering a discount is considered disproportionate to the impact.
<b>Call-in and Urgency:</b>  The decision is subject to the Council's call-in procedure.
<b>Background:</b>  As a result of increasing financial pressures, a review of the Garden Waste Collection Service was undertaken in 2015.  On 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2015, Cabinet approved the following recommendations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Service enhancements to increase the collection capacity of garden waste offered per household and extend the collection season</li><li>2. The introduction of an annual membership fee for garden waste collection and other</li></ol>

garden related benefits at the rate of:

- £35 for one 140 litre wheeled bin
  - £50 for two 140 litre wheeled bins
3. Flat properties of four flat units or more will be offered communal garden waste bins following a site visit at a rate of:
- £45 per 240 litre wheeled bin
  - £125 per 660 litre wheeled bin

As part of the Cabinet Report, an Equality Impact Needs Assessment (EINA) was completed, which considered the impact of the service changes on different service user groups. The EINA identified that disabled or elderly residents on low income would potentially be negatively impacted by the service changes and set out the following mitigating actions:

- Garden waste can be taken to Millhams Community Recycling Centre and Kings Park drop-off point on Sunday (9am-12pm) for free disposal
- Residents are encouraged to home compost to help mitigate the financial impact and manage garden waste arisings. The Council supports a national promotional offer for home compost bins that includes home delivery, which will be promoted alongside the garden waste collections.

Since this Cabinet decision, a complaint was received from a disabled resident within the Borough as a result of which Officers have reviewed the EINA to see whether these measures go far enough to reduce the impact of the service changes. Following a consultation with DOTS Disability, discounts and exemption charges have been considered for residents who are on Means Tested Benefit.

Based on average Bournemouth household size of 2.17 residents; 13,732.72 (17%) households in Bournemouth are on Mean Tested Benefit; limited data is available relating to the access of these residents to a garden.

Research has been carried out into the exemption/discount policies offered by other Local Authorities for garden waste collections. Discounts were offered by two of the 19 Councils surveyed in the Cabinet Report, which includes our neighbouring authorities, high performing authorities and our most similar authorities in terms of statistics.

Of these two, one offers a 50% discount for residents aged over 75 and the other (Borough of Poole) offers a 50% discount via a Corporate Access to Leisure & Learning discount card for residents who are on low income, disabled or in full-time education. In 2014 & 2015, 5% of Borough of Poole's garden waste registrations received this 50% discount via the discount card.

#### **Options - and reasons for rejection:**

- A) To introduce a 20% discount (£7 discount) for garden waste collections for residents on Means Tested Benefit
- B) To introduce a 50% discount (£17.50 discount) for garden waste collections for residents on Means Tested Benefit
- C) To introduce a 100% discount (£35 discount) for garden waste collections for residents on Means Tested Benefit

The Council has considered the potential costs of introducing a 20%, 50% or 100% discount from Bournemouth residents on a low income (means tested benefit). Based on the 17% of Bournemouth residents on Means Tested Benefit, receiving a 50% discount of their garden waste collections would cost the Council £90k, which would include the cost of collections and cost of administrating the discount.

Based on the 5% discount uptake identified in Borough of Poole's garden waste registrations, offering a 100% discount to residents of Means Tested Benefit would cost the Council £43k, whilst offering a 50% would cost £25k and 20% discount £14k.

A discount scheme would lead to:

- A reduction in income towards the cost of service delivery
- Price variations making the scheme more time-consuming and costly to administer (process and check evidence).
- The system being open to abuse i.e. someone eligible for a discount paying a lower rate on behalf of their neighbour, someone eligible for a few months would receive the annual service at discounted rate

As a result, the cost of offering a discount is considered disproportionate to the impact and is therefore not recommended.

#### **Consultations undertaken:**

Advice from Corporate Equality & Diversity team:

10/11/15 - Compliant with Equality Act 2010 as we have considered impacts of service change

12/01/16 - Consult with DOTS Disability

04/02/16 - Follow advice from DOTS Disability Consultation - work up detailed costs for an exemption/discount policy for residents on low income

11/02/16 - Return to Cabinet with detailed costs to aid informed decision on an exemption policy for those on low-income

Advice from Legal team:

29/10/15 - Compliant with Equality Act 2010 as we have considered impacts of service change

29/01/16 - Meeting - Follow advice from DOTS Disability Consultation - work up detailed costs of an exemption/discount policy for residents on low income

05/02/16 - Advice sought from Head of Legal as to whether revised decision is required from Cabinet or Portfolio Holder.

Consultation with DOTS Disability - 19.01.16

**Conclusion** - Participants thought the Council should review the Equality Impact Needs Assessment and consider an alternative option to those it has already considered. This option should explore the feasibility of providing an exemption/discount to the charge for disabled/older people on low income who cannot physically make use of the free disposal points.

**Following Action** - Detailed costs to be worked up for an exemption/discount for residents on low income to present to decision making member/group.

Completed EINAs from other local authorities have been considered.

Brent offer a 20% discount for OAPs and those in receipt of means tested benefits; As part of Brent's EINA they reviewed charges and exemptions offered by the seven London authorities finding five offered discounts for older residents with the exemption criteria ranging from over 60 to over 75 and the discount level ranging from 13-25%.

Harborough District Council considered offering a discount for residents on a low income and who have a limited ability to dispose of their garden waste for free such as residents on disability or age related benefits, however the discount was not introduced as it would incur an additional administrative burden and may have resulted in the scheme not making the necessary service savings.

#### Finance/Resource Implications:

Financial implications of a 20%, 50% or 100% exemption to garden waste charging have been modelled.

Based on the 5% discount uptake identified in Borough of Poole's garden waste registrations, offering a 100% discount to residents of Means Tested Benefits would cost the Council £43k, whilst offering a 50% would cost £25k and 20% discount £14k.

Name: *Adam Riddell*

Signature: (of Chief Finance Officer)

Date: 23/2/16

#### Legal implications:

In line with the Equality Act 2010, the Council has considered the needs of all Bournemouth residents when shaping the policy and in delivering our garden waste service. This includes consideration of the impacts on disabled residents, elderly residents and those on low incomes.

Name: Tanya Coulter

Signature: (of Monitoring Officer)

Date: 22/3/16

#### Risk assessment:

In collaboration with the Council's Risk Officer, a Project Risk Register has been produced as highlighted in the Garden Waste Collections Review Cabinet Report and has been further considered in accordance with this service review.

The main risks that have been considered are:

- Too few residents register to receive garden waste collections meaning the income revenue is not sufficient to cover service costs and a reduction in recycling performance results;
- An increased amount of garden waste is disposed of at Millhams CRC or Kings Park Drop-off point;
- An increased amount of garden waste is fly-tipped across the borough;
- An increased amount of garden waste is placed in household refuse bins with associated disposal costs;
- Residents are unhappy about introduction of charges;
- Negative media coverage;
- The Customer team are not able to accommodate within current resources the demand for registrations and take payments.

The following mitigation has been implemented:

- Costs have been modelled on an uptake of 20,000 households, which is low in comparison to uptake rates seen by neighbouring authorities;
- Recycling rates will be monitored closely and alternative methods to improve recycling performance will be considered;
- Service enhancements will be supported by comprehensive communications campaign to engage with residents and the local media, communicating the service enhancements, reasons for the introduction of charges and encouraging residents to register;
- A membership package will offer additional garden related benefits such as discounts at local garden centres and free compost events;
- Garden waste tonnages at Kings Park and Millhams CRC will be monitored and communications to encourage garden waste registration will be placed at the sites;
- Garden waste tonnages in fly-tipping will be monitored and enforcement action will be

investigated as needed;

- Households are limited to one 140 litre bin for refuse collection. Excess refuse will not be collected by collection crews. Additional refuse capacity will not be allocated;
- Customer team have been engaged and well briefed. The Digital by Default team have been involved from early stages of planning and the requirements of the registration processes have been specified, designed and implementation was underway from September 2015.

Name: Georgina Fry  
Date: 29.02.16

Signature: 

**Impact Assessments:**

Please see Background documents - Amended EINA Garden Waste Collections Review and Appendix 4 - Garden Waste Review Environment Impact Checklist of Garden Waste Collection Review Cabinet Report

**Information for/not for publication:**

Information for publication

**Background papers:**

Garden Waste Collection Review Cabinet Report and supporting documents were reviewed and approved by Cabinet on 9th September 2015

<http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/CouncilDemocratic/CouncilMeetings/CommitteeMeetings/Cabinet/2015/09/09/Cabinet09-Sep-2015.aspx>

Appendix A: Amended EINA Garden Waste Collections Review

Appendix B: DOTS Disability Chargeable Garden Waste Service Consultation

Appendix C: Amended Other Council Comparisons - GW 2015

Any conflict of interest declared by a Cabinet Member who is consulted by the Member taking the decision	Name of Cabinet Member	Nature of interest	Details of any dispensation granted by the Monitoring Officer
Yes/No* (*Delete as appropriate)			

**Decision taken by:**

Councillor ..... MICHAEL FILER ..... (Print name)

Cabinet Portfolio ..... CLEANING & WASTE .....

Signed: 

Date of decision: 5/4/16

Date of publication of record of decision: 15/04/16

**Date decision effective - that is 5 working days after the date of publication of the record of decision unless the decision is called-in for consideration by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel:**

22/04/16

**Note - See separate guidance on recording decisions at Appendix 1.**

# Equality Impact Needs Assessment



The Diversity Promise - *Making it Happen!*

Title of Policy/Service/Project	Garden waste collections review
Service Unit	Environment & Regeneration Services
Lead Responsible Officer and Job Title	Georgina Fry - Waste & Resource Projects Manager
Members of the Assessment Team:	Larry Austin, Sarah Speakman-Jones, Neil Rawlings
Date assessment completed:	13.07.15-31.07.15 Updated - 15.02.16

## About the Policy/Service/Project:

<p>What type of policy/service/project is this? Changing</p>
<p>What are the aims/objectives of the policy/service/project?</p> <p>As a result of increasing financial pressures, a review of the Garden Waste Collection Service has been undertaken.</p> <p>Bournemouth Borough Council has run a free garden waste collection since 2008. The services is now highly popular amongst residents with 31,800 households registered for the 2015 out of a total 45,000 properties with a garden in Bournemouth</p> <p>This service costs the Council circa £650k per annum and this figure is set to rise to a predicted £680k with the addition of the 865 households currently on the 2016 waiting list.</p> <p>Residents regularly report they would like to increase the collection capacity for garden waste, which is currently limited to one 140 litre bin per household and to extend the collection season.</p>

Our neighbouring authorities, the Borough of Poole Council and the Dorset Waste Partnership, along with many of Local Authorities, charge residents for garden waste collections to recover collection costs and deliver service enhancements.

The recommendations include:

1. Service enhancements to increase the collection capacity of garden waste offered per household and extend the collection season
2. The introduction of an annual membership fee for garden waste collection and other garden related benefits at the rate of:
  - £35 for one 140 litre wheeled bin
  - £50 for two 140 litre wheeled bins
3. Flat properties of four flat units or more will be offered communal garden waste bins following a site visit at a rate of:
  - £45 per 240 litre wheeled bin
  - £125 per 660 litre wheeled bin

**Are there any associated services, policies or procedures?** Yes

**If 'Yes', please list below:**

Current refuse and recycling collection services, assisted collections service, contamination policy, recycling communications and promotional services, Customer - Digital by Default, Corporate Communications

**List the main people, or groups of people, that this policy/service/project is designed to benefit and any other stakeholders involved?**

All Bournemouth's residents (householders, flat dwellers)

**Will this policy/service/impact on any other organisation, statutory, voluntary or community and their clients/service users?**

Staff at Millhams CRC

**Consultation, Monitoring and Research**



Where there is still insufficient information to properly assess the policy, appropriate and proportionate measures will be needed to fill the data gaps. Examples include one-off studies or surveys, or holding informal consultation exercises to supplement the available statistical and qualitative data.

If there is insufficient time before the implementation of the policy to inform the EINA, specific action points will be need to be clearly set out in the action plan. Steps must include monitoring arrangements which measure the actual impact and a date for a policy review.

#### Consultation:

#### What involvement/consultation has been done in relation to this (or a similar) policy/service/project and what are the results?

Consultation involved the immediate and wider project team consisting of:

Executive Director Environment & Economy, Director of Environment & Regeneration Services; Head of Operations, Strategic Operations Manager, Environmental Productivity & Business Analyst, Principal Fleet Engineering & Waste Services Manager, Senior Accountant for Environment & Regeneration Services, Refuse Manager, Senior Waste & Resource Officer, Service Director - Customer, Head of Strategic Finance; Risk Manager

Additionally a 'steering group' of Councillors was established to challenge, inform and review this project. This group consisted of Councillor Michael Filer, Councillor Robert Lawton, Councillor Mark Anderson and Councillor Mike Greene.

A full external consultation was completed as part of Bournemouth Municipal Waste Management Strategy (MWMS) <http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/BinsRecycling/GoGreen/BournemouthsWasteStrategy.aspx> which indicated residents would like more frequent garden waste collections.

Neighbouring local authorities that have implemented similar schemes have been consulted and advice offered has been used to shape proposed operational implementation

The Trade Unions and waste collection teams have also been consulted throughout the project development.

#### Advice from Corporate Equality & Diversity team:

10/11/15 - Compliant with Equality Act 2010 as we have considered impacts of service change

12/01/16 - Consult with DOTS Disability

04/02/16 - Follow advice from DOTS Disability Consultation - work up detailed costs for an exemption/discount policy for residents on low income

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Consultation with DOTS Disability - 19.01.16

**Conclusion** - Participants thought the Council should review the Equality Impact Needs Assessment and consider an alternative option to those it has already considered. This option should explore the feasibility of providing an exemption/discount to the charge for disabled/older people on low income who cannot physically make use of the free disposal points.

**Following Action** - Detailed costs worked up for an exemption/discount residents on low income to present to decision making member/group

**If you have not carried out any consultation, or if you need to carry out further consultation, who will you be consulting with and by what methods?**

Officers will continue to attend area forums, community groups and run road show events throughout 2015/16 to engage with residents regarding the services changes.

**Monitoring and Research:**

**What data, research and other evidence or information is available which is relevant to this EINA?**

Assessment of charging arrangements for garden waste by other local authorities; 19 authorities were surveyed including neighbouring authorities, high performing authorities and nearest neighbours statistically; 17 Local Authorities run garden waste collections and 13 currently charge for this discretionary service with others considering a similar approach

A consultation run by Newcastle City Council in 2011 reported that residents who currently receive a free collection were reluctant to accept a charge, whilst those who currently can't access the service would be prepared to pay for it. Borough of Poole Council also reported that residents initially reacted negatively to the introduction of charging but within the first year the number of those registered for the chargeable service had exceeded the previously registered households when collections were free - 17,000 when free, 21,344 in year one (2012), 22,306 in year four (2015).

Research has also included industry practitioners and advisors such as WRAP, CIWM,

Completed EINAs from Bournemouth and other local authorities- Newcastle, Brent, [Harborough District Council](#)

[Brent offer a 20% discount for OAPs and those in receipt of means tested benefits; As part of Brent's EINA they reviewed charges and exemptions offered by the seven London authorities finding five offered discounts for older residents with the exemption criteria ranging from over 60 to over 75 and the discount level ranging from 13-25%.](#)

[Harborough District Council considered offering a discount for residents on a low income and who have a limited ability to dispose of their garden waste for free such as residents on disability or age related benefits, however the discount was not introduced as it would incur an additional administrative burden and may have resulted in the scheme not making the necessary service savings.](#)

[Further research has been carried out into the exemption/discount policies of other Local Authorities. Exemptions were offered by two of the 19 Councils surveyed which included neighbouring authorities, high performing authorities and nearest neighbours statistically. One of these offered a 50% discount for the residents aged over 75 and the other offered 50% discount via a Corporate discount card for residents who are on low income, disabled or in full-time education.](#)

**Is there any service user/employee monitoring data available and relevant to this policy/service/project? What does it show in relation to equality groups?**

45,000 households have a garden in Bournemouth, as well as 2,077 flat blocks

Of the 183,491 residents in Bournemouth, 20.5% are under 19, 19.9% are aged between 60–84 years of age and 3.4% are over 85 years of age (*Bournemouth Age Structure, 2011 Census - Nomisweb*) - the average age of someone who gardens was 54 in 2009 and has increased by 6% since 1999 (Horticultural Trades Association, 2012).

21,333 households (25.9%) in Bournemouth have no car or van, which may limit their ability to dispose of garden waste for free at Millhams CRC.

21,379 households (26%) in Bournemouth contain a person with long-term health problem or disability (Census, 2011), which may limit their ability to dispose of garden waste for free at Millhams CRC or home compost.

26% (22,900) of Bournemouth's households are on low incomes (less than £20k pa) and 29,800 (16%) of Bournemouth's residents are on mean tested benefits, meaning little availability for spending on non-essential items.

Based on average Bournemouth household size of 2.17 residents; 13,732.72 (17%) households in Bournemouth are on mean-tested benefit; limited data available relating to access of these residents to a garden.

Borough of Poole run an Access to Leisure & Learning Discount Scheme to offer residents who are on low income, disabled or in full-time education opportunities to take part in leisure and sporting activities at reduced costs. Residents that qualify for this card can receive a 50% discount on the garden waste collection service. In 2014 & 2015, 5% of Borough of Poole's garden waste registrations received this 50% discount via the Access to Leisure & Learning scheme.

The Council has considered the potential costs of introducing a 20%, 50% or 100% discount from Bournemouth residents on a low income (means tested benefit). Based on the 17% of Bournemouth residents on means tested benefits, receiving a 50% discount of their garden waste collections would cost the Council £90k, which would include the cost of collections and cost of administrating the discount.

Based on the 5% discount uptake identified in Borough of Poole's garden waste registrations, offering a 50% discount to residents of means tested benefits would cost the Council £25k, whilst offering a 20% discount would cost £14k.

A discount scheme would lead to:

- Price variations making the scheme more time-consuming and costly to administer (process and check evidence).
- The business case modelling of 20,000 registrations at £35 per property being compromised
- The system being open to abuse i.e. someone eligible for a discount paying a lower rate on behalf of their neighbour, someone eligible for a few months would receive the annual service at discounted rate

If there is a lack of information, what further information do you need to carry out the assessment and how are you going to gather this?

## Assessing the Impact

	Actual or potential benefit	Actual or potential negative outcome
Age	<p>All residents may access garden waste collections for a discretionary charge</p> <p>Residents may receive additional bin capacity and an extended collection season for garden waste disposal, meaning fewer trips to Millhams CRC, Wilverley Road CRC or Kings Park Garden Waste Drop-off Point</p>	<p>In some cases elderly residents have a lower income, meaning little availability for spending on non-essential items such as garden waste collections.</p> <p>Residents without access to a car (which is more common in elderly residents) will not be able to dispose of their garden waste for free unless they use a home compost bin</p>
Disability	<p>All residents may access garden waste collections for a discretionary charge</p> <p>Residents may receive additional bin capacity and an extended collection season, meaning fewer trips to Millhams CRC, Wilverley Road CRC or Kings Park Garden Waste Drop-off Point</p>	<p>Households with a disabled member are substantially more likely to have a low income than households where no one is disabled, meaning little availability for spending on non-essential items such as garden waste collections.</p> <p>Residents without access to a car will not be able to dispose of their garden waste for free unless they use a home compost bin.</p> <p>Residents who are unable to carry or lift garden waste</p>

	Actual or potential benefit	Actual or potential negative outcome
		may not be able to access Millhams CRC, Wilverley Road CRC or Kings Park Garden Waste Drop-off Point to dispose of their garden waste for free unless they are assisted to place garden waste in a vehicle or use a home compost bin
<b>Gender</b>	<p>All residents may access garden waste collections for a discretionary charge</p> <p>Residents may receive additional bin capacity and an extended collection season, meaning fewer trips to Millhams CRC, Wilverley Road CRC or Kings Park Garden Waste Drop-off Point</p>	
<b>Race</b>	<p>All residents may access garden waste collections for a discretionary charge</p> <p>Residents may receive additional bin capacity and an extended collection season, meaning fewer trips to Millhams CRC, Wilverley Road CRC or Kings Park Garden Waste Drop-off Point</p>	For those whose first language is not English, the collection charges and instructions may not be understood sufficiently to participate.
<b>Religion or Belief</b>	<p>All residents may access garden waste collections for a discretionary charge</p> <p>Residents may receive additional bin capacity and an extended collection season, meaning fewer trips to Millhams CRC, Wilverley Road CRC or Kings Park Garden Waste Drop-off Point</p>	
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	<p>All residents may access garden waste collections for a discretionary charge</p> <p>Residents may receive additional bin capacity and an extended collection season, meaning fewer trips to Millhams CRC,</p>	

	Actual or potential benefit	Actual or potential negative outcome
	Wilverley Road CRC or Kings Park Garden Waste Drop-off Point	
Transgender	All residents may access garden waste collections for a discretionary charge  Residents may receive additional bin capacity and an extended collection season, meaning fewer trips to Millhams CRC, Wilverley Road CRC or Kings Park Garden Waste Drop-off Point	
Any other factor/ groups e.g. socio-economic status/carers etc	All residents may access garden waste collections for a discretionary charge  Residents may receive additional bin capacity and an extended collection season, meaning fewer trips to Millhams CRC, Wilverley Road CRC or Kings Park Garden Waste Drop-off Point	Transient populations such as migrant workers or students may not be willing to commit to an annual service charge
Human Rights	All residents may access garden waste collections for a discretionary charge  Residents may receive additional bin capacity and an extended collection season, meaning fewer trips to Millhams CRC, Wilverley Road CRC or Kings Park Garden Waste Drop-off Point	

**Stop - Any policy which shows actual or potential unlawful discrimination must be stopped, removed or changed.**

If impacts have been identified include in the action plan what will be done to reduce these impacts, this could include a range of options from making adjustments to the policy to stopping and removing the policy altogether. If no change is to be made, explain your decision:

## Action Plan

Issue identified	Action required to reduce impact	Timescale	Responsible officer	Which Business Plan does this action link to e.g. Service Equality Action Plan/Team Plan
<p>In some cases elderly residents have a lower income, meaning little availability for spending on non-essential items such as garden waste collections.</p> <p>Residents without access to a car (which is more common in elderly residents) will not be able to dispose of their garden waste for free unless they use a home compost bin.</p>	<p>Residents are encouraged to home compost to help mitigate the financial impact and manage garden waste arisings.</p> <p>The Council supports a national promotional offer for home compost bins that includes home delivery, which will be promoted alongside the garden waste collections.</p> <p>The cost of offering a discount is considered disproportionate to the impact and is therefore not recommended.</p>	From service introduction	Georgina Fry	Environment & Regeneration Services Plan/ Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2011-2026 Waste Prevention Action Plan
<p>Households with a disabled member are substantially more likely to have a low income than households where no one is disabled, meaning little availability for spending on non-essential items such as garden waste collections.</p> <p>Residents without access to</p>	<p>Residents are encouraged to home compost to help mitigate the financial impact and manage garden waste arisings.</p> <p>The Council supports a national promotional offer for home compost bins that includes home delivery, which will be promoted alongside the garden waste collections.</p> <p>The cost of offering a discount is considered</p>	From service introduction	Georgina Fry	Environment & Regeneration Services Plan/ Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2011-2026 Waste Prevention Action Plan



<p>a car will not be able to dispose of their garden waste for free unless they use a home compost bin.</p> <p>Residents who are unable to carry or lift garden waste may not be able to access Millhams CRC, Wilverley Road CRC or Kings Park Garden Waste Drop-off Point to dispose of their garden waste for free unless they are assisted to place garden waste in a vehicle or use a home compost bin.</p>	<p>disproportionate to the impact and is therefore not recommended.</p>			
Issue identified	Action required to reduce impact	Timescale	Responsible officer	Which Business Plan does this action link to e.g. Service Equality Action Plan/Team Plan
<p>For those whose first language is not English, the collection charges and instructions may not be understood sufficiently to participate.</p>	<p>Any language barriers will be mitigated by the well designed and flexible communications strategy that will include pictorial and translated summary leaflets where needed</p>	<p>From service introduction</p>	<p>Georgina Fry</p>	<p>Environment &amp; Regeneration Services Plan</p>
<p>Transient populations such as migrant workers or students may not be willing to commit to an annual service charge</p>	<p>Residents are encouraged to home compost to help mitigate the financial impact and manage garden waste arisings.</p> <p>Garden waste can be taken to Millhams Community</p>	<p>From service introduction</p>	<p>Georgina Fry</p>	<p>Environment &amp; Regeneration Services Plan/ Municipal Waste Management Strategy</p>

	Recycling Centre and Kings Park drop-off point on Sunday (9am-1pm) for free disposal			2011-2026 Waste Prevention Action Plan
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**Bournemouth Borough Council  
Disability Consultation Service**

**Chargeable Garden Waste Service Consultation**

**19<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

DOTS Disability C.I.C.

Littledown Centre, Chaseside, Bournemouth BH77DX

01202 771336 [www.dotsdisability.co.uk](http://www.dotsdisability.co.uk)

## 1.0 Introduction

DOTS Disability was engaged by Bournemouth Borough Council (BBC) to consult with disabled people with regard to the introduction of a Chargeable Garden Waste Service.

Two wheelchair users, an electric wheelchair user, a mobility scooter user, a person who walks with the assistance of a walking frame and a person with a learning difficulty took part in the consultation. The meeting was facilitated by Jonathan Waddington-Jones, DOTS Disability.

The participants welcomed the opportunity to be consulted.

## 2.0 Background

Bournemouth Borough Council has run a free garden waste collection since 2008. The service is highly popular amongst residents with 31,800 households registered for the 2015 scheme. Residents regularly report they would like to increase their collection capacity for garden waste, which is currently limited to one 140 litre bin per household, and to extend the collection season. The current service costs the Council circa £650k per annum and this figure is set to rise to a predicted £680k with the addition of 865 households currently on the 2016 waiting list.

In 2015 Cabinet approved the introduction of a chargeable garden waste service. It was argued that revenue from charges will enable the service to be extended, the service costs to be met and potentially a surplus generated to invest in waste and recycling services. An Equality Impact Needs Assessment (EINA) was carried out to inform the Cabinet decision. This identified impacts relating to disability:

*“In some cases residents with a disability have a lower income, meaning little availability for spending on nonessential items such as garden waste collections.*

*Residents without access to a car will not be able to dispose of their garden waste for free unless they use a home compost bin.*

*Residents who are unable to carry or lift garden waste may not be able to access Millhams CRC, Wilverley Road CRC or Kings Park Garden Waste Drop-off Point to dispose of their garden waste for free unless they are assisted to place garden waste in a vehicle or use a home compost bin”.*

DOTS Disability have now been asked to consult on whether these measures go far enough to offer appropriate alternatives for disabled residents on a low income.

### 3.0 Discussion

Participants in the consultation noted that they are being asked for their views on the chargeable garden waste service after the decision to introduce it has been made. They were therefore unclear about the extent to which they can influence the decision.

Each of the participants attached great value to the garden waste collection service:

*“I don’t know where I’d be without it”*

*“It’s really important to me”*

Participants noted that there are enormous pressures on local authority budgets, the majority of which is spent on Adult Social Care and Children’s Services. They recognised that there is not a statutory duty for local authorities to collect garden waste for free, but noted that precedence for this service provision is longstanding and it has become highly valued.

The majority of the participants live on means tested benefits, but were nevertheless comfortable about paying an annual charge of £35 (or £50 for 2 bins) in order to continue to receive a service which would be enhanced. However, they also thought that there may be other disabled people living on means tested benefits who would struggle to pay for the service. They also thought some older people may be affected.

Participants were not sure that a home compost bin was a particularly practical alternative solution/reasonable adjustment to home waste collection and they noted that the free disposal points for garden waste is simply not an option for some disabled people.

Participants thought the Council should review the Equality Impact Needs Assessment and consider an alternative option to those it has already considered. This option should explore the feasibility of providing an exemption/concession to the charge for disabled/older people on low income who cannot physically make use of the free disposal points. Several participants pointed to the assisted collection service as a potential means of identifying some of the residents who *might* be eligible for an exemption/concession were it to be introduced.

If after further consideration an exemption/concession is not made, participants indicated that they thought it better to have a paid for garden waste collection service than no service at all.

Participants also agreed that council tax payers without gardens (which will also include some disabled people on low income) should not be funding services that are discretionary to provide and that they are unable to access, as they have been to date.

Appendix 1: Garden Waste Review 2015 - Systems used by other Councils											
Councils	Region	No. of Households	Recycling Rate 13/14	GW collections	Container Type	No of hhlds served	Collection Frequency	Collection Season	Charged for	Exemption/ Discounts Offered (for residents on low income)	
Bournemouth Borough Council	Dorset	88,100	46.83%	Yes	140l bin	31,800	Fortnightly	Apr-Nov	No		
Surrounding Local Authorities	Poole Borough Council	Dorset	67,400	39.80%	Yes	240l bin	22,306	Fortnightly	Mar - Nov	Yes - £31.80 per year; £37.55 for 2016	Yes; 50% discount of residents with a Access to Leisure & Learning Card (residents on low income, disability or in full-time education)
	Dorset Waste Partnership	Dorset	196,870	53.94%	Yes	240l bin	35,558	Fortnightly	All year	Yes - Wheeled bins cost £41 (£45 for 2016) and compostable sacks cost £31	No
	New Forest District Council	Hampshire	80,260	29.11%	Yes	Garden sacks 20l		Fortnightly	All year with no collections between 14th Dec - 11th Jan	Yes - 1 x bag £29.00 for full year, £24.00 for half year, £18.00 for quarter year 2 x bags £45.00 for full year, £37.00 for half year, £28.00 for quarter year	No, only discount for part year registrations
	Wiltshire Council	Wiltshire	220,000	44.02%	Yes	180l bin	58,000	Fortnightly	All year except 2 weeks over Christmas	Yes- £40 per year	No, only discount for part year registrations
	Somerset Waste Partnership	Somerset	346,991		Yes	180l bin or sack		Fortnightly	All year except 2 weeks over Christmas	Yes - £48 wheeled bin, £25 for 10 sacks	No
Nearest Neighbour Statistically	Cheltenham Borough Council	Gloucestershire	53,900	45.41%	Yes	240l bin or reusable sacks	14,500	Fortnightly	All year	Yes - new customers £36 but usually £38 and £12.50 for 10 sacks	No
	Worthing Borough Council	West Sussex	75,000	33.70%	Yes	240l bin or 70l reusable sacks		Weekly	All year	Yes - £62 a year but can vary in price depending on when you join the scheme in the year. Sacks are 80p.	No, but sacks can be purchased at 80p each
	Eastbourne Borough Council	East Sussex	48,040	35.00%	Yes	240l bin	29,102	Fortnightly	All year	No	N/A
Top Performing Local Authorities 2013/14	South Oxfordshire District Council	Oxfordshire	57,340	65.71%	Yes	240l bin		Fortnightly	Mar - Jul	Yes - £35 per year	No
	Rochford District Council	Essex	34,920	65.47%	Yes	Mostly 140l with a few 240l from former scheme	34,828	Fortnightly	All year	No	N/A
	Vale of White Horse District Council	Oxfordshire	51,730	65.27%	Yes	240l bin		Fortnightly	All year	Yes - £37 per year	No
	Three Rivers District Council	Hertfordshire	36,550	62.44%	Yes	240l bin and additional at charge	36,550	Fortnightly	All year	No but residents may opt in for a second 240l bin which is charged at £74	N/A
	Stockport MBC	Stockport	126,290	61.11%	Yes	240l		Weekly	All year	No collected with food waste	N/A
Similar Authorities	Southend-on-Sea Borough Council	Essex	79,140	52.31%	Yes	240l bin or sacks		Fortnightly	All year	Sacks (roll of 10) £6.05; 240l bin (to purchase) - £26.40; 39 weeks(Mar-Dec) - £36.50; 52 weeks (Mar-Mar) - £48.70	No
	Hastings Borough Council	East Sussex	42,500	27.14%	Yes	240l bin	5,700	Fortnightly	All year except 2 weeks over Christmas	Yes - £45 per year	No
	Torbay Council	Devon	65,250	41.31%	No	Collection points		Monthly	Feb - Nov	No	N/A
	Chichester District Council	West Sussex	55,130	39.50%	Yes	240l bin	11,282	Fortnightly	All year except 2 weeks over Christmas	Yes- £48.60 by DD or £55.75 by card	No
	Richmond Borough Council	London	82,550	43.29%	Yes	240l bin	13,391	Fortnightly	All year	Yes - £60 per year per bin or £50 if paid by dd, sacks £1.40 per sack + £1.35 postal charge	Yes - over 75 - 50% discount
	Brighton and Hove Council	East Sussex	126,430	25.80%	No	One bag of GW each week with refuse				N/A	N/A

Collections	
Yes	17
No	2
	<b>19</b>

Charges		Exemption	
Yes	13	Yes	2
No	5	No	11
N/A	1	N/A	6

	240l	180l	140l
Other Council charges	£37.55	£40.00	£26.00
	£45.00	£48.00	£45.00
	£38.00		£24.00
	£62.00		£36.00
	£35.00		
	£37.00		
	£36.50		
	£45.00		
	£48.60		
	£60.00		
Average charge	<b>£44.47</b>	<b>£44.00</b>	<b>£32.75</b>