



Committee and Date

Cabinet
17 July 2024

Item

Public



Chargeable Garden Waste Collection Service

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Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Cllr Ian Nellins		

1. Synopsis

This report seeks approval from Cabinet to implement a chargeable garden waste collection service and the temporary suspension of food waste collections.

2. Executive Summary

Chargeable Garden Waste Collection Service

- 2.1 Shropshire Council is facing unprecedented financial pressure, and we must make £62m of savings in 2024/25 to keep a balanced budget and our plans include difficult decisions. We must look at other ways of creating income so that we can protect essential frontline services for those residents most in need.
- 2.2 The collection of garden waste is not a service that the council must by law provide and if we do provide the discretionary service, we can charge a fee.
- 2.3. Whilst there is an option to stop the service, we believe that most of the residents who use the garden waste collection service would prefer for it to continue, but to continue providing the service we are proposing to introduce a charge.

- 2.4 Since not all residents need or want the service, to continue to offer garden waste collections we would provide this as an opt-in chargeable service.
- 2.5 We have looked at what other similar councils to Shropshire charge and on average this is £55 to £56 per year. Although 62% of respondents to the consultation said that the £52 proposed charge was not fair when this is compared with other councils it is below the average. Therefore, the proposal is to introduce an annual subscription charge of £56 which is in line with our neighbouring authorities and can be considered value for money.
- 2.6 Predictions on revenue have been based on a 70% participation or 96,905 of the 138,000 households who could use the service. Responses from the consultation indicate that this could be 55% or 76,139 households a reduction of circa 61,000 households. If this is used as a worst-case scenario then there is no alternative but to set the charge at £56 and even at that rate there would still be a potential shortfall in the expected revenue.
- 2.7 The number of respondents to the consultation represents 5.5% of the population and therefore taking a more optimistic approach to achieve 55% participation over 61,000 households who could subscribe would not but based on the demographic across Shropshire such a large drop could be considered unlikely.
- 2.8 The benefit of introducing a chargeable service in Shropshire is that the infrastructure in terms of bins, vehicles, staff, and treatment facilities are already in place and these costs fully understood so the introduction from an operational and customer point of view is straight forward.
- 2.9 A subscription window between August 2024 and March 2025 will give households the opportunity to pay for the service to continue. For those households that have not subscribed by the 1st October 2024 will have their garden/food collections stopped from that date.
- 2.10 In the first instance it is proposed that we use a sticker system where a resident will subscribe and pay. Once the payment has been made then a letter and a coloured sticker is sent. The resident will then need to place the sticker on the back of their bin (handle side) as soon as they get it, and the collection crews will only empty bins that have the correct coloured sticker.
- 2.11 There is no evidence to suggest that we will see any increase in fly-tipping because of a subscription service being introduced. We have spoken to other councils that have introduced similar schemes and they have not seen an increase. Importantly, fly-tipping is a crime, and anyone caught doing it could be prosecuted and face a large fine, although this is organic material and will naturally breakdown, posing no risk to the environment.

Food Waste

- 2.12 We cannot charge for food waste, so if we introduce a chargeable garden waste service, food waste collections will need to be suspended whilst we develop and introduce a new food waste collection service in 2026. Under the Environment Act 2021 all councils in England must introduce a weekly food waste collections to all properties from 2026.

- 2.13 Our waste collection contractor Veolia presently collect garden waste from 138,400 properties of the 149,000 in Shropshire and of these 97,000 also have food waste collections. However, the capture rate for food waste is low with only 2,300 tonnes (5.3%) of the total 43,000 tonnes of organic material we collect being food waste.
- 2.14 We remain committed to protecting and enhancing our environment and delivering on the aims and priorities as set out in our corporate plan. This includes continuing to encourage people to think about the impact of their actions on the environment and to 'reduce, reuse and recycle' their waste.

3. Recommendations

3.1 Cabinet agrees:

- a) An opt-in subscribed garden waste collection service is offered to individual properties every fortnight across Shropshire.
- b) The annual subscription fee for the service is £56.
- c) Detailed implementation of the scheme is delegated to the Executive Director – Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Environment and Transport
- d) Households that have not subscribed by the 1st October 2024 will have their garden/food waste collections stopped.

Report

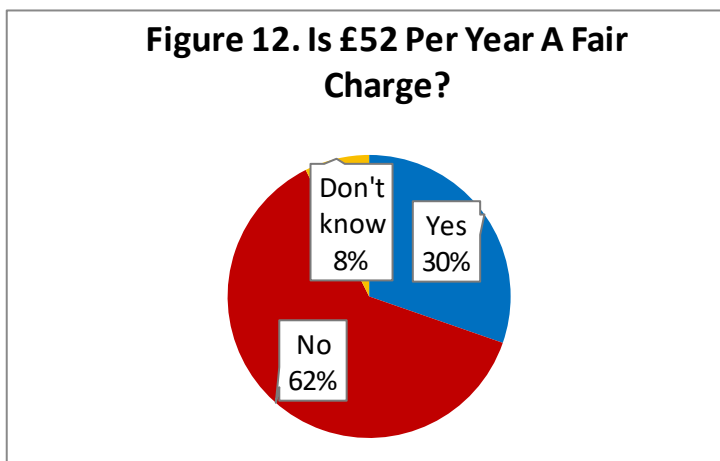
4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1 The benefit of the introduction of a chargeable service is that the service is already established, and we will be working from a top down rather than bottom-up position insofar that, we are not starting a new service from scratch and therefore don't have issues and risks around available resources or costs which with most councils restricts the number of customers resulting in long waiting lists.
- 4.2 This is not an issue in Shropshire as the infrastructure in terms of bins, vehicles and crews are already in place. The capacity of the vehicle needs to be full to maximise the efficiency of the service, as it is not cost effective to run half empty collection vehicles. As the existing service is operating efficiently even if households in some streets decide not to subscribe the collection vehicle will still need to go up the street to collect any paid for bins. We need as many of the existing households to subscribe to maintain the integrity and efficiency of the existing service.
- 4.3 Due to operational, contractual, and cost, it would be practical to maintain the existing service structure for at least 12 months including leaving all the garden bins out, this would give time for the new service to settle down allowing undecided households to subscribe later reducing the need to remove and then return garden bins.

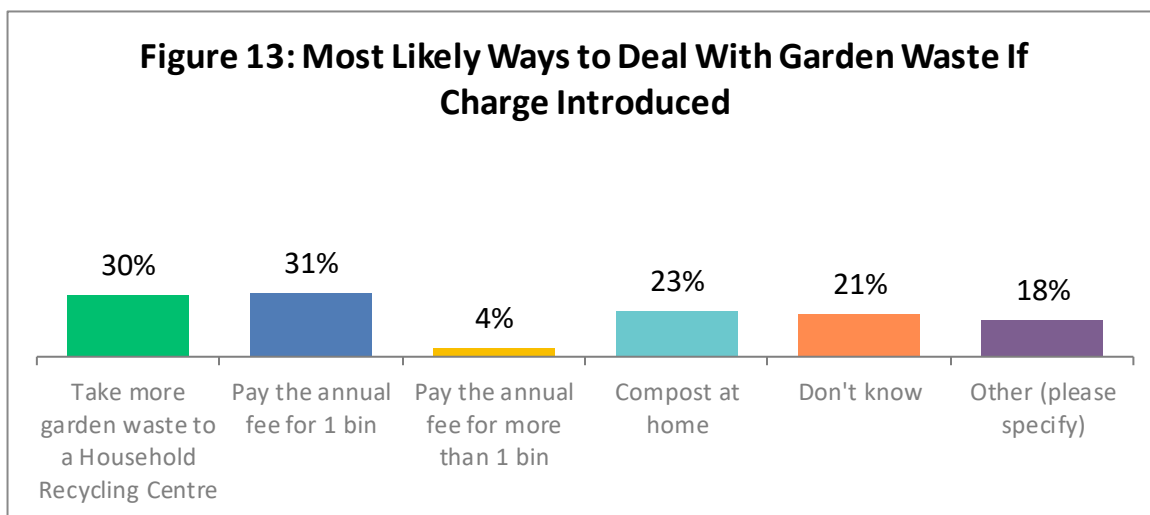
- 4.4 The suspension of the food waste collections will inevitably lead to the risk that subscribed garden waste customer may still place food into their garden bins, this will require proactive communications and engagement and may ultimately lead to contaminated bins not being emptied.

5. Financial Implications

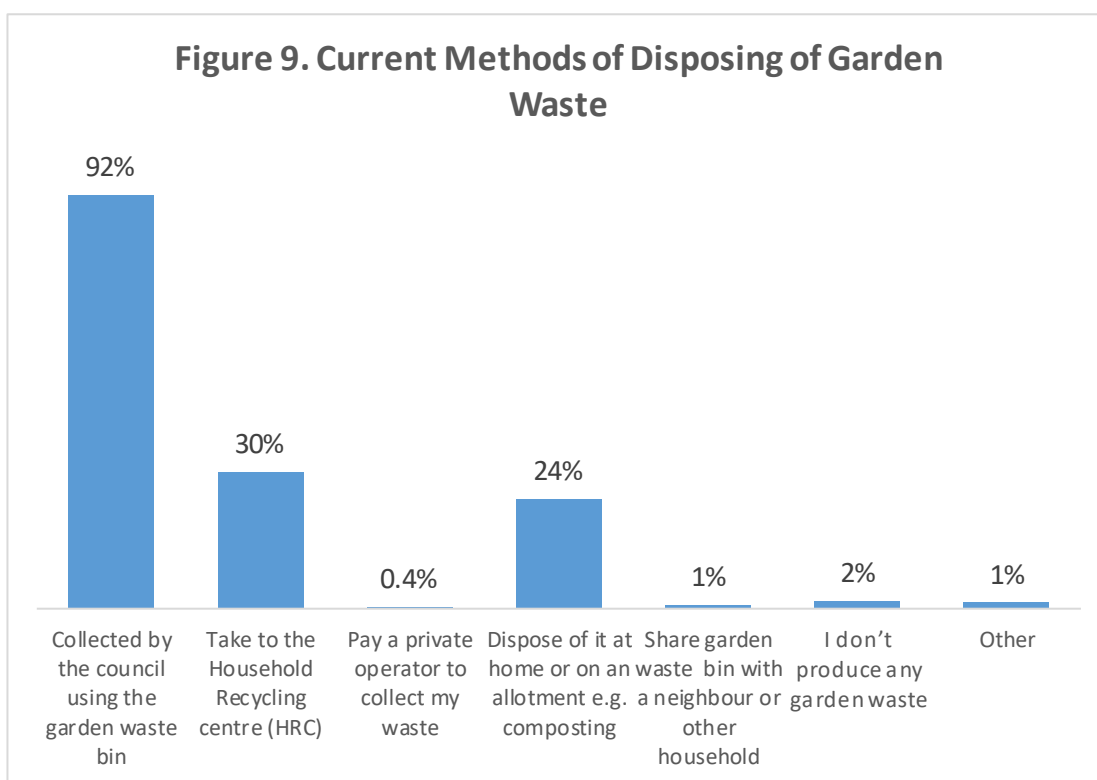
- 5.1 The number of households that may subscribe to the service is not an exact science and the cost model (appendix 1) runs various scenarios in terms of charge and participation, although 70% participation and a charge of £52 per annum have been used for estimated revenue purposes for the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).
- 5.2 We have looked at what other similar councils to Shropshire charge and on average this is £55 to £56 per year. Although 62% of respondents to the consultation said that the £52 proposed charge was not fair when this is compared with other councils it is below the average. Therefore, the proposal is to introduce an annual subscription charge of £56 which is in line with our neighbouring authorities and can be considered value for money.



- 5.3 If a charge was introduced then Figure 13 below shows that only 35% would subscribe to the service and if the 21% 'don't knows' were encouraged to subscribe this would give a participation rate close to 55%.



- 5.4 The reduction in participation of 55% would reduce the net benefit as shown in Appendix 1 -revenue/costs however, the number of respondents to the consultation was over 18,000 from population of 324,700 or 5.5% and randomised sample of 1,700 responses were analysed in depth to provide the best analysis of the results. Predictions on revenue have been based on a 70% participation or 96,905 using the service. Responses from the consultation indicate that this could be 55% or 76,139 households of those who could participate i.e. a reduction of circa 61,000 households. If this is used as a worst-case scenario then there is no alternative but to set the charge at £56 and even at that rate there would still be a potential shortfall in the expected revenue
- 5.5 The number of respondents to the consultation represents 5.5% of the population and therefore taking a more optimistic approach to achieve 55% participation over 61,000 households who could subscribe would need to not use the services but based on the demographic across Shropshire such a large drop could be considered unlikely.
- 5.6 The consultation also asked if respondents would be willing to pay more than the proposed £52 to keep all the Household Recycling Centres (HRC) open and whilst 58% said no the overarching response was that respondents want all the sites to be kept open. It is therefore a reasonable assumption that based on the charge of £56 and at least a 10% + increase in participation the additional revenue will be sufficient to cover some of the saving requirements to ensure all the HRCs can remain open.
- 5.7 The normal percentage variance in results from consultations can vary but in general this can be 5-10% but as shown in Figure 9 below 92% of respondents participate in the existing service so it is likely due to the demographic profile across Shropshire that 70% of households could eventually subscribe.



5.8 The expected revenue included within the MTFS is for a whole financial year, following the requirements of public consultation and the democratic decision-making process, the implementation of the chargeable service will inevitably be delayed to at least October 2024 and budget monitoring has been revised to reflect this.

5.9 To achieve the revenue for 2024/25 the paid for annual service will need to be introduced from 1st October 2024 to 1st October 2025, with a proposed fee of £56 and a payment window between August 2024 to March 2025 giving households eight months to subscribe and for their service to continue. Households that have not subscribed by 1st October 2024 will have their collections stopped.

5.10 Although households may wait until March 2025 to subscribe to the service the fee will still be £56 and they will only get the service until October, so it is better value for money to subscribe sooner rather than later.

5.11 Cost of Service/Unitary Charge (UC)

5.11.1 The present service is delivered by Veolia Environmental Services through the Integrated Waste Contract that was awarded in 2007. The contract cost is calculated from a series of detailed base case models which were agreed and set at the start of the contract. These waste flow models used existing known waste tonnage data and predicted future tonnages using assumptions about waste growth and the contractual obligations such as targets and key dates for bringing new services and facilities online.

The waste flow model then feeds a financial model to calculate a fixed base case cost. The services delivered through the contract are almost entirely paid for by an unadjusted unitary charge which is set on the base case model from 2007.

The cost of providing the present garden waste service formed part of the initial contract specification and is incorporated within the unitary charge.

5.11.2 A calculation* has been undertaken of the costs, risks, and benefits of stopping the garden waste collection service altogether considering:

- Removal of service results in 40% garden waste going into the residual bin.
- Contractual penalty charges that will be applied.
- Third party tonnage to Energy Recovery Facility reduced.
- Excess revenue share for third party tonnage reduced.
- Royalty payments reduced.
- Redundancy cost in year one.
- Reduction in recycling figure from 53.5% to 32%.

Therefore, the potential savings 2024/25 are circa £1.8m and in 2025/26 circa £2m*.

* These calculations have not been verified by Veolia, the removal of the garden waste collection service is a significant variation to the existing contract terms and would require complex negotiation.

5.11.3 This is a service that residents have told the council they want to continue therefore, our focus is on ensuring as many of the residents subscribe to the service as possible, so the existing integrity of the collection rounds remains in place as the chargeable service is rolled out. Once the service has readjusted to the new customer base, we can then consider negotiating a reduction of the UC to reflect this.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

6.1 The existing garden waste collection structure will stay in place for 12- 18 months to allow time for the customer base and associated cost of service delivery of the new structure to be established. Significant model of the carbon impact of the existing base case collections service (as now) have already been undertaken as part of the food waste delivery programme.

6.2 Local Partnerships applied the Waste & Resources Assessment Tool for the Environment (WRATE). This is a Life Cycle Assessment model developed by the Environment Agency specifically for the purpose of modelling municipal waste management system impact on the environment. The Kerbside Collection Tool (KAT) was also used to derive the vehicle mileages based on averages supplied by the current waste operator.

Base Line current services.

Collection Stream	Annual Distance (KM)	Total distance (Km)	Carbon Impact Kg CO2
Residual	588,245	2,104,119.78	4,921,352
Dry Recycling	948,794		
Garden Waste (free)	567,081		

- 6.3 The modelling undertaken was not specific to the garden waste collection service but represented the 'Life Cycle Assessment' results, and so consider the impact of vehicles and infrastructure as a proportion of their use and their life. For example, the impact of the Energy from Waste plant (including construction burdens and operational impacts) was assessed over a 25-year life and annualised to reflect a year's impact. As a waste management model, one of the key outcomes is the avoided impact of effective waste management, for example emissions displaced from extracting / processing of virgin materials versus secondary materials recovery for recycling. Similarly, energy recovery from waste can offset some of the emissions from fossil fuel-based alternatives.
- 6.4 All emissions relating to global warming impacts (e.g. methane, carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide) are converted to kg of CO₂ equivalent, over a 100-year timeframe. This is standard practice for models considering carbon impacts of waste management processes.
- 6.5 The overall result for Shropshire was a carbon impact of the whole waste services of – 2,273,226 Kg Co₂ so an overall positive position due to carbon offsetting and mitigation.
- 6.6 As the existing collection round structure will remain in place for at least 12 months there will be no significant reduction in emissions for the collection fleet however, once the customer base has settled then a restructure of the existing round will be required which will lead to a reduction in the number of vehicles and carbon emissions.

7. Background

- 7.1 The council continues to face significant financial pressures and it is therefore essential that the council looks at alternative sources of revenue generation, the alternative would be to cut essential frontline services.
- 7.2 In accordance with Section 45 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, as amended, a 'waste collection authority' has a duty to collect household waste however, garden waste is not specifically defined and therefore local authorities do not have a statutory duty to provide a free garden waste collection. The Controlled Waste (England & Wales) Regulations 2012 sets out the powers for local authorities to charge for the collection and disposal of certain waste. Schedule 1 Paragraph 4 of the Regulations set out that a council may charge for the collection of household garden waste.
- 7.3 Whilst the collection of garden waste is not a statutory duty this service was included within the specification for the letting of the Integrated Waste PFI contract as the significant amount of garden waste collected presently circa 43,000 tonnes per annum improves the contract recycling rate.
- 7.4 The purpose of the Government investment through PFI to support waste treatment infrastructure in the UK was based on the European Waste Framework Directive which sets out ambitious targets for recycling and recovery of waste by 2025 from all member states requiring them to achieve a recycling rate of up to 55%. Similar targets were subsequently included within all relevant waste PFI contacts including Shropshire.

- 7.5 There is no specific legislation that dictates what a council can charge, the fees for garden waste can vary from between £30- £90 and are set on each council's individual circumstances such as, cost of providing the service, local budget constraints and demand. The revenue generated can be used to offset other budget pressure and support the delivery of existing services. The benefit in Shropshire is that the infrastructure in terms of bins, vehicles, staff, and treatment facilities are already in place and these costs fully understood so the introduction from an operational and customer point of view is straight forward.
- 7.6 Residents will only pay for the service if they opt- in to the scheme and it remains free for residents to dispose of their garden waste at our Household Recycling Centres (HRC) and we remain committed to protecting and enhancing our environment and delivering on the aims and priorities as set out in our corporate plan. This includes continuing to encourage people to think about the impact of their actions on the environment and to 'reduce, reuse and recycle' their waste.
- 7.7 There is no evidence to suggest that we will see any increase in fly-tipping because of a subscription service being introduced. We have spoken to other councils that have introduced similar schemes and they have not seen an increase. Importantly, fly-tipping is a crime, and anyone caught doing it could be prosecuted and face a large fine, although this is organic material and will naturally breakdown, posing low risk to the environment.

7.8 Potential Customer Base

- 7.8.1 Our contractor Veolia presently collects garden waste from residential properties through 240 litre wheeled bins and from Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and flats through 1100 litre euro bins. However, the introduction of a chargeable service will mean for operational and charging reasons, not all properties will be suitable for us to collect from.

The total number of potential customers based on the information from Veolia's in cab system 'Echo' of individual properties that they collect 240ltr bins is estimated at 138,436 as shown in the table below.

Green Waste only collection	Individual Properties
Bridgnorth	24,470
Oswestry	18,940
Total	43,410
Green Waste & Food	
Shrewsbury	54,638
North Shropshire	21,434
South Shropshire	18,954
Total	95,026
Total customer base (present)	138,436

7.9 Ineligible properties

7.9.1 If a property is ineligible for garden waste collections this is often because of one of the following reasons:

- They are in a flat that is not currently registered as having a garden bin or being able to fit one in at the property without causing a hazard to others.
- They are in a narrow street where typically residents don't have gardens.
- They have 'sack' collection, and we don't provide this service for garden waste.
- The property may have a planning or legal restriction on being able to present a wheeled garden bin.

7.9.2 In the first instance due to operational and charging reasons, we will be unable to add HMOs and flats onto Phase 1 of the scheme, so 11,464 of these properties will have their service suspended.

Communal Collections 1100ltrs	Flats & HMOs
Bridgnorth	1,630
Oswestry	1,260
Total	2,890
Shrewsbury	5109
North Shropshire	2015
South Shropshire	1450
Total	8,574
Service removed	11,464

7.9.3 Once the service is established, we can then consider options for these properties to participate for example the housing provider or letting agent would need to arrange the garden waste subscription and the management of this unless individual residents come to an agreement with their neighbours to share the cost.

7.10 Non- Participating Properties

7.10.1 If residents choose not to subscribe to the scheme, we will continue to encourage them to reduce, reuse and recycle their waste as much as possible, and this includes trying [home composting](#).

If home composting is not an option, it remains free for residents to dispose of garden waste at our HRCs. Garden waste should not be placed in either the general waste bin or recycling bin and if they are found to contain garden waste they will not be emptied.

7.11 Food Waste Collections

7.11.1 Brown areas shown in Figure 1 denotes garden and food waste service (with residents encouraged to mix food waste with the garden waste), whereas the green area denotes garden waste collection only.

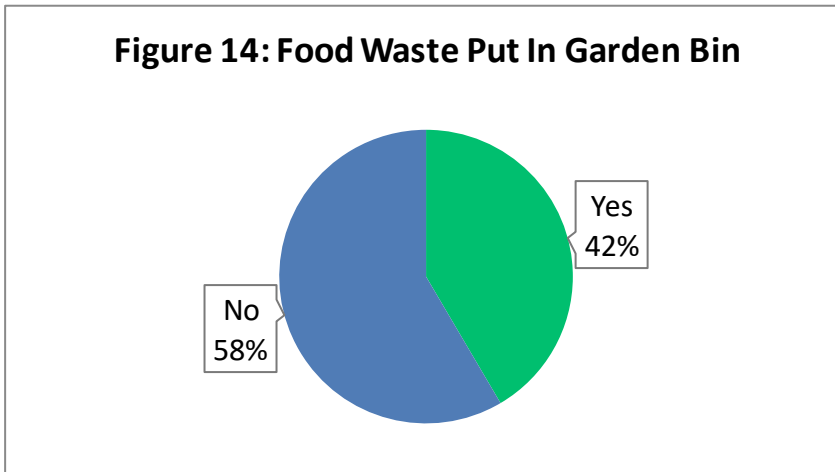
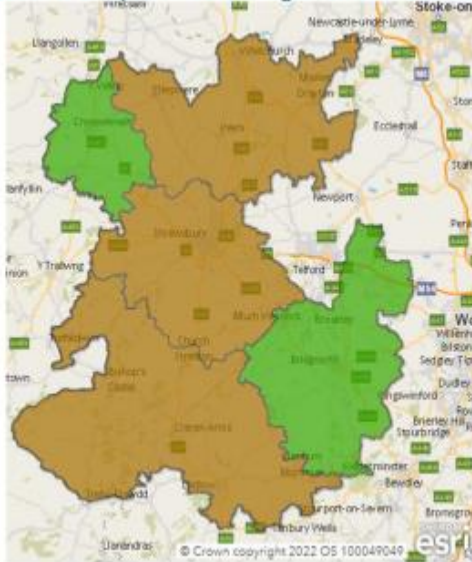


Figure 1 - Breakdown of Shropshire Council's garden and food waste service areas.

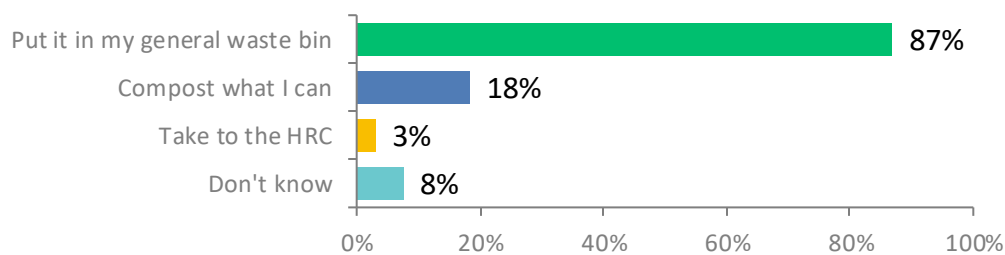


7.11.2 Of these less than 50% of respondents are putting food waste into their garden bin.

7.11.3 As set out within the Environmental Act 2021, there is now a statutory requirement for all Local Authorities in England to provide a weekly food waste collection to all households by 2026. We have been working with the DEFRA food waste programme and have now developed several collection options, this is supported by both capital and revenue grants to support the development and delivery of our preferred option.

7.11.4 As a charge cannot be made for the collection of food waste, the properties where food waste is collected with garden waste (Figure 1 - approximately 75% of all Shropshire properties) will have the service suspended and food waste will need to go into their general waste bin, this does not appear to be an issue as shown in the consultation response in Figure 16.

Figure 16: How Respondents Would Dispose of Food Waste If No Longer Collected with Garden Waste



7.11.5 The proposed suspension of food waste collections will only be until 2026 when all properties in Shropshire will receive a new food waste collection service.

7.12_Charging Benchmarking

CIPFA Family Group

Authorities	Bin/Sacks	Frequency	Charge
Herefordshire	Sacks collected with general waste	Fortnightly	£6.50 five sacks
Cheshire East	240	Fortnightly	£56
Cornwall	240	Fortnightly	£65
	140		£49
	70 Litre sack		£30
North Somerset	240	Fortnightly	£55
Wiltshire	240	Fortnightly	£66
Cheshire West & Chester	240	Fortnightly	£50
East Riding of Yorkshire	240 garden & food	Fortnightly	Free
Northumberland	240	Fortnightly	£52
Bath & North East Somerset	240	Fortnightly	£52.25
	sack		£3.30
Stockport	Bulky & garden arranged collections		£112 per hour
	240 garden & food	Fortnightly	Free
South Gloucestershire	240	Fortnightly	£30
Central Bedfordshire	240 & sack	Fortnightly	Free
Isle of Wight	240 & sack	Fortnightly	£102
Solihull	240	Fortnightly	Free extra bin
			£91.50
Warrington	240	Fortnightly	£42

Average	240	Fortnightly	£54
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Neighbouring Authorities

Authority	Bin	Frequency	Charge
Malvern Hills	240	Fortnightly	£85
Wyre Forest	240	Fortnightly	£65
Cheshire East	240	Fortnightly	£56
Shropshire	240	Fortnightly	£56
Cheshire West/Cheshire	240	Fortnightly	£50
Powys	240	Fortnightly	£50
South Stafford	240	Fortnightly	£45
Stafford BC	240	Fortnightly	£42
Average	240	Fortnightly	£56

7.13 Proposed Charge & Costs

7.13.1 A detailed analysis of the potential net benefit of several charging options have been included in Appendix 1.

7.13.2 With the benchmarking average charge by neighbouring authorities being £56 it seems reasonable that the proposed charge of £56 demonstrates value for money and provides additional revenue to cover the risk that the participation rates are lower than the anticipated 70% used to profile revenue. Whilst the consultation results indicated this could be as low as 55% that would mean that over 62,000 households would not use the service, but based on the demographic across Shropshire such a large drop could be considered unlikely. The expectation is that the participation rates will be closer to 70% and the addition revenue can be used to cover some of the savings' gap for the Household Recycling Centres ensuring that they can all remain open.

7.13.3 Set up and running costs will include the following:

System development, maintenance, advice, support

There will be a requirement for a significant amount of investment and support to existing systems, especially when considering a potential customer base of over 96,000. However, it is proposed not to link the customer database into the Veolia's in cab system 'echo' in the first instance due to the added cost, time, and complexity of integrating different systems, this will only be used to log non presented or missed bins.

Removal unwanted bins & deliveries

It is proposed that for 2024/25 all the bins remain in place to simplify the process and reduce the risk of returning lots of bins only for them to be sent out again should residents change their minds working on the principle that 'I have a bin I might as well use it'. How many bins that will need to be returned in 2025/26 we will better understand over the next 12 months.

Loss of income and Veolia compensation

Now all garden waste is either collected at the kerbside or is taken to the HRC, the introduction of a chargeable service will result in several properties no longer participating and whilst we will encourage home composting and use of the HRC it is inevitable that some garden waste will end up in the general waste bin and go to the ERF.

Therefore, Veolia have provided estimated additional contractual payment charges based on 33% increase in the general waste, 33% to HRC and 34% home composting (lost).

Stickers print & deliver.

In the first instance it is proposed that we use a sticker system where a resident will subscribe and pay. Once the payment has been made then a letter and a coloured sticker is then sent. The resident will then need to place the sticker on the back of their bin (handle side) as soon as they get it, and the collection crews will only empty bins that have the correct coloured sticker.

Additional Admin staff

At least two FTEs worth of resource will be required to deal with customer enquiries, service issues and missed bins, and this is likely to increase when renewals of subscriptions are due.

Charge

The benchmarking clearly shows that a charge of £56 per bin is value for money. Further consideration will be required to consider if the £56 is a flat rate irrespective of when you subscribe, some councils do have reduced rates depending on when households subscribe.

Additional bin

There is the option for residents to have additional garden bin collected on the same day as their first garden bin. This could be restricted to 1 or 2 but they will also need to pay for a separate subscription for each bin.

We presently have 1,800 households that have a paid for second garden bin and a process will be required for them to continue to receive collections up to their renewal date, these are from date of request and payment and not from the start of the financial year.

7.14_Payment Mechanisms

7.14.1 Existing Income Management System

Shropshire Council are currently in the process of implementing a new Income System, which offers a flexible, secure and compliant payments platform for customer- present, customer- not- present and self- service payments.

For online payments for Garden waste collection subscriptions, customers will be presented with a page where they add their property address and number of subscriptions required. They will then enter their payment details. Customers will also be able to make telephone payments via our customer service centre.

7.14.2 **Direct Debt**

The council do not presently have a paperless system for setting up direct debits although the move to Pay 360 will allow for both paperless direct debit and recurring card payments as this functionality is being built into the new system and would potentially be available at the first annual renewal date in 2025.

There will also be no requirement for a debit recovery process, if residents do not pay, they will not get a sticker and their bin will not be emptied.

8. **Additional Information**

8.1 **Consultation**

8.1.1 Communications and Promotion

The consultation was promoted widely. An initial press release was published on the Shropshire Council newsroom website and all of its social media channels, including Facebook, X, Instagram, LinkedIn and NextDoor. Other local media outlets also publicised the consultation, including BBC Radio Shropshire and the Shropshire Star. All Shropshire Councillors were involved in promoting the consultation in their areas, and posters were hung in Shropshire libraries, Shropshire Local, town and parish councils, and other public locations across the county. Finally, and most effectively for the purposes of response rates and several emails were sent to the 63,260 subscribers on the council's recycling/waste list.

8.1.2 Methods of Analysis

There were several opportunities throughout the survey for respondents to provide open-ended comments. With over 18,000 responses, and over a dozen questions that required qualitative analysis (in-depth reading and identification of themes within extensive comments), the Feedback and Insight Team determined that capacity required that a randomized sample of responses should be analysed in depth in order to provide the best analysis for the purposes of this report.

Therefore, a random sample was selected of 1,700 responses, and these were used to derive the themes and redacted quotes presented in this report. These responses were all read initially to identify common themes, and each response was tagged for the inclusion of these themes. Tables are presented that represent the presence of the most common themes, and anonymised examples of these themes are provided below where appropriate. Some of the comments will have multiple themes identified within them, and so the "count" in tables represents the number of occasions when a theme was referenced, rather than the total number of comments. The percentage represents the frequency of that theme's reference among the total number of references.

8.1.3 The consultation report proceeds in seven sections:

- **Section 1: Background and Methods** (this section) provides an overview of Shropshire Council's current budget situation that is the backdrop to the green waste proposals under consultation as well as a brief description of the methods employed in analysing the results of the consultation.
- **Section 2: Respondents** presents the number and types of responses to the consultation received from the public, as well as identifying demographic characteristics of respondents.
- **Section 3: Current Garden Waste Disposal** details responses to questions around how residents currently dispose of their garden waste. This information can help decision-makers to gain a sense of current public use of the service.
- **Section 4: Introducing Charges for Garden Waste** details responses to questions around the proposed charges and how respondents would respond to the introduction of a charge for their green waste, as well as the impacts that this change might have on residents.
- **Section 5: Suspending Food Waste Collections** includes responses to questions about current use of food waste collections through the garden waste bin, as well as detailing respondents' sense of the impacts that suspending this collection until April 2026 would have.
- **Section 6: Additional Feedback** provides an in-depth analysis of open-ended comments from survey respondents on the proposals, as well as an analysis of all written feedback provided to the council through emails and other letters sent in response to the consultation. This section includes details of suggested alternatives to the proposals.
- **Section 7: Summary and Conclusion** highlights the report's key findings.

9. Conclusions

- 9.1 It is clear from the council's financial position that continuing to provide a service to all households irrespective of whether they want or need it, and the provision of that service is not a statutory duty insofar that the council do not have to provide it, is just not sustainable.
- 9.2 With the provision within the legislation allowing the council to charge for the collection of garden waste and most other authorities doing so, then there is really no alternative if residents want the service to continue.
- 9.3 Whilst there is the option to just stop the service, this would have major impact on the integrated waste contract and require a significant amount of time and effort to reach an agreed position with Veolia in terms of costs, penalties, and eventual savings.
- 9.4 The only change to the households that subscribe is that they will have to remove their food waste from their garden waste bin and the service will continue as normal.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Local Members - All

Appendices

Appendix 1 Cost/Revenue

Appendix 2 Garden Waste Consultation Report June 2024
