

Equalities and Diversity Impact Assessment

NS17.9A

Review of Garden Waste



Durham County Council – Altogether Better equality impact assessment form

NB: Equality impact assessment is a legal requirement for all strategies plans, functions, policies, procedures and services. We are also legally required to publish our assessments.

You can find help and prompts on completing the assessment in the guidance from page 7 onwards.

Section one: Description and initial screening

Section overview: this section provides an audit trail.

Service/team or section: **Projects and Business Services**

Lead Officer:

**Head of Service, Projects and Business Services
Strategic Waste Manager
Refuse and Recycling Manager (Direct Services)**

Start date: 1 March 2013

Subject of the Impact Assessment: (please also include a brief description of the aims, outcomes, operational issues as appropriate)

In order to achieve agreed savings targets as a result of budget reductions, a review of the Garden Waste Service has taken place to enable the Council to determine the future provision of this service.

Background

Currently garden waste is collected on a fortnightly basis from 151,700 households within the County free of charge. The current garden waste scheme does not cover all households (223,800 households) across the County; 68% of all properties across the County currently have access to a garden waste collection service.

Proposal

The proposal involves operating the scheme based on 16 collections per year, per household between the months of April and November and introducing a £20 fee per household per calendar year for this service. The proposals involves offering the scheme to households within a defined geographical area of the county to ensure it is viable and economically effective.

Who are the main stakeholders: General public / Employees / Elected Members / Partners/ Specific audiences/Other (please specify) –

Elected Members, General public – County Durham Residents, Durham County Council Employees, Partners

Is a copy of the subject attached? No

A copy of the subject can be obtained by contacting the Strategic Waste Manager

Initial screening

The screening has focussed on the impact of introducing a charge to the service.

Prompts to help you:

Who is affected by it? Who is intended to benefit and how? Could there be a different impact or outcome for some groups? Is it likely to affect relations between different communities or groups, for example if it is thought to favour one particular group or deny opportunities for others? Is there any specific targeted action to promote equality?

Is there an actual/potential negative or positive impact on specific groups within these headings?

Indicate :Y = Yes, N = No, ?=Unsure

Gender	N	Disability	Y	Age	Y	Race/ethnicity	N	Religion or belief	N	Sexual orientation	N
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What evidence do you have to support your findings?

The proposed charge for the service has been kept at a relatively low level in order to ensure the viability of the scheme whilst minimising the impact of introducing a charge for this service.

It is considered that there may be some residents accessing this service who are disabled and elderly who may be relying on others to tend their gardens but who use the service to dispose of this waste. These residents may not be able to use an alternative means of disposing of this waste and will therefore have to pay the cost of receiving this service.

The consultation exercise will enable the service to identify any impacts on the protected characteristics.

In terms of implementation, the service is committed to developing a comprehensive communications plan which will ensure that the service information is accessible to all residents; including those with learning disabilities and sensory impairments.

Assisted Collection Service

Those residents requiring an 'assisted collection' service will continue to receive this service.

The assisted collection service ensures that residents who are unable to present their wheeled bin at the collection point, due to ill health, infirmity or disability, and without other occupants (16 years and over) in the household to assist them, are placed on the 'assisted collection' register. Residents who are on the 'assisted collection' register will have their garden waste wheeled bin collected by a collection operative from an agreed location, emptied into the collection vehicle and then returned to that same location. Registration is subject to an application process and approval from the Council; applications for assisted collection and bin storage/collection arrangements may be assessed by home visits and/or telephone calls.

Payment Mechanisms

To ensure residents can continue to access the service, the Council will offer, in line with the council's fees and charges arrangements, a range of various payment mechanisms.

Decision: Proceed to full impact assessment – **Yes** **Date: 1st March 2013**

If you have answered 'No' you need to pass the completed form for approval & sign off.

Section two: Identifying impacts and evidence- Equality and Diversity

Section overview: this section identifies whether there are any impacts on equality/diversity/cohesion, what evidence is available to support the conclusion and what further action is needed.

	Identify the impact: does this increase differences or does it aim to reduce gaps for particular groups?	Explain your conclusion, including relevant evidence and consultation you have considered.	What further action is required? (Include in Sect. 3 action plan)
Gender	There is no evidence the new collection service has any disproportionate impact on gender.		
Age	There may be an impact on the elderly who rely on others to tend their gardens and who may be required to take up the new scheme as they will not have access to any other options to dispose of the waste.	The consultation exercise will explore this impact.	Results of the consultation exercise to be taken into account in the final report. The changes to the service and the 'assisted collection' service are effectively communicated to residents so they are aware.

Disability	There may be an impact on disabled residents who rely on others to tender their gardens and who may be required to take up the new scheme as they will not have access to any other options to dispose of the waste.	The consultation exercise will explore this impact	Results of the consultation exercise to be taken into account in the final report. The changes to the service and the 'assisted collection' service are effectively communicated to residents so they are aware.
Race/Ethnicity	There is no evidence the new collection service has any disproportionate impact on race/ethnicity.		
Religion or belief	There is no evidence that the new collection service has any disproportionate impact on residents' religion or belief.		
Sexual Orientation	There is no evidence that the new collection service has any disproportionate impact on residents' religion or belief.		

How will this promote positive relationships between different communities?
N/A

Section three: Review and Conclusion

Summary: please provide a brief overview, including impact, changes, improvements and any gaps in evidence.

Action to be taken	Officer responsible	Target Date	In which plan will this action appear
Results of the consultation exercise to be taken into account in the report finalising the implementation of the revised scheme	Strategic Waste Manager	November 2013	Neighbourhoods Equality monitoring
The changes of service charges should be clearly communicated ensuring particular attention to customer needs	Communications and Marketing Team Leader	March 2014	Neighbourhoods Equality monitoring

When will this assessment be reviewed?	Date: August 2014
Are there any additional assessments that need to be undertaken in relation to this assessment?	Any staff related issues will addressed through an additional EiQA
Lead officer - sign off: Head Of Projects & Business Services	Date: 23 August 2013
Service equality representative - sign off: Customer Relations Policy and Performance Manager	Date: 23 August 2013