

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 Projects and Business Services

Strategic Waste Manager

Refuse and Recycling Manager (Direct Services)

Start date: 1 March 2013

Reviewed 6/11/2013 and 4/2/14

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 because 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 and introducing a fee per household per calendar year for this service. The proposal 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. This review incorporates the findings of the consultation exercise approved by Cabinet

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
--------	---	------------	---	-----	---	----------------	---	--------------------	---	--------------------	---

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 customers having a new paid-for service.

It is considered that there may be some residents accessing this service who are disabled and older people 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.

In terms of implementation, the service is committed to developing a comprehensive communications plan that 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.

Bulky Household Collection

The collection of garden waste is included as an item of household waste too large to be disposed of through the domestic waste collection service and as such, it can be collected through the Bulky Household Collection service. This service is available to all residents

and is a charged for service.

Mobile Household Waste Recycling Centres

This option is being considered as an alternative for rural areas where households will no longer be eligible for the garden waste service.

Composting

The council encourages the use of composters to dispose of garden waste.

Payment Mechanisms

To ensure residents can continue to access the service, the Council will offer a range of various payment mechanisms.

Consultation results

The main issue highlighted in the consultation was the cost of the scheme. There was no evidence of a particular group being affected more than another. There are differences in preference with older people and disabled people in terms of use of payment methods

The consultation has also highlighted that younger people are more price sensitive to the scheme and are encouraged by the pricing initiatives while older customers are more likely to use the scheme regardless of payment schemes.

Decision: Proceed to full impact assessment – **Yes** **Date: 1st February 2014**

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.	<p>Consultation responses Male 895 (49%) Female 932 (51%) Total 1827</p> <p>Males are less likely to join the service than females</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="947 1380 1686 1509"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> <th>Don't</th> <th>Frequency</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Male</td> <td>30.0%</td> <td>62.0%</td> <td>8.0%</td> <td>870</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td>36.6%</td> <td>52.4%</td> <td>10.9%</td> <td>906</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Yes	No	Don't	Frequency	Male	30.0%	62.0%	8.0%	870	Female	36.6%	52.4%	10.9%	906	Development of the scheme includes a range of payment methods including discounts for early payment
	Yes	No	Don't	Frequency														
Male	30.0%	62.0%	8.0%	870														
Female	36.6%	52.4%	10.9%	906														

A higher percentage of females were undecided about whether they will use the service

	Yes	No	Don't know	Frequenc
Male	28.5%	64.6%	6.9%	452
Female	33.4%	55.4%	11.2%	536

Consultation shows females are more likely to join the scheme if a discount is made available for early payment:

	Yes	No	Frequency
Male	13.9%	86.1%	288
Female	22.2%	77.8%	315

Age

There may be an impact on older residents 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.

Consultation responses

Consultation responses show those below the age of 44 are less likely to use the service while those over 65 are more likely to use the service

	Frequency	Percentage
Under 44	446	24.4%
45-64	894	48.9%
65+	488	26.7%

Consultation shows older residents are less likely to join the scheme if a discount was offered as part of a £50 charge for three years

	Yes	No	Frequency
Under 44	16.0%	84.0%	306
45-64	7.9%	92.1%	190
65+	3.4%	96.6%	89

Likely to use online payment discounts:

The changes to the service and the 'assisted collection' service are effectively communicated to residents so they are aware of this support.

Bulky Household collection service is available to all residents at a charge

Possible introduction of Mobile Household Waste Recycling Centres in more rural areas

Age	Yes	No	Number
Under 44	22.9%	77.1%	310
45-64	13.9%	86.1%	194
65+	7.8%	92.2%	90

Consultation shows under 44s are more likely to use credit or debit cards and are less likely to use other methods. 65+ years old are more likely to use other methods of payment and less likely to use credit cards or debit cards. Those aged 45-64 are also less likely to use debit or credit cards online.

Payment methods other than credit and debit cards are effectively communicated (Direct Debit not available in Year 1)

	Online with a credit/debit card	Direct debit	Other	Num
Under 44	67.0%	17.6%	15.4%	182
45-64	37.7%	27.3%	35.1%	154
65+	25.0%	33.8%	41.2%	136

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.

There are no significant difference in responses with

The 2011 census shows that almost 24% of the county's population have a disability.

Around 12% of the population have caring responsibilities for others.

Consultation responses Disabled

Yes 289 (16%) No 1517 (84%) Total 1806

Consultation shows disabled people are more likely to use other methods and are less likely to use

The changes to the service and the 'assisted collection' service are effectively communicated to residents so they are aware of options open to them.

Bulky Household collection service is available to all residents

	regard to disability	credit or debit cards for payment																
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Online with a credit/debit card</th> <th>Direct debit</th> <th>Other</th> <th>Number</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Disabled</td> <td>25.4%</td> <td>28.8%</td> <td>45.8%</td> <td>59</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not disabled</td> <td>48.2%</td> <td>24.6%</td> <td>27.3%</td> <td>411</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Online with a credit/debit card	Direct debit	Other	Number	Disabled	25.4%	28.8%	45.8%	59	Not disabled	48.2%	24.6%	27.3%	411	<p>Possible introduction of Mobile Household Waste Recycling Centres</p> <p>Payment methods other than credit and debit cards are effectively communicated</p>
	Online with a credit/debit card	Direct debit	Other	Number														
Disabled	25.4%	28.8%	45.8%	59														
Not disabled	48.2%	24.6%	27.3%	411														
Race/Ethnicity	There is no evidence the new collection service has any disproportionate impact on race/ethnicity.	<p>Almost 97% of the county's population is white British.</p> <p>Consultation responses 99% of responses were from White British people, the remaining 1.0% reported as Other There were no specific consultation comments relating to race or ethnicity.</p>																
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.

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.

Potential impacts

It is considered that there may be some residents accessing this service who are disabled and older people 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.

Consultation responses

There are no significant differences between aggregated age groups, gender or disability status. There are differences in payment methods with older people and disabled people preferring to use methods of payments other than online.

Mitigating actions

- Bulky Household Waste Collection service available to all residents
- Effective Communication Plan to communicate changes and methods of payment
- Possible introduction of mobile facilities in rural areas
- Composting schemes

Action to be taken	Officer responsible	Target Date	In which plan will this action appear
The changes of service charges should be clearly communicated ensuring particular attention to customer needs	Communications and Marketing Team Leader	March 2015	Neighbourhoods Equality monitoring
A range of payment mechanisms should be offered as part of the new scheme	Head of Projects and Business Services	March 2015	Neighbourhoods Equality monitoring
When will this assessment be reviewed?	Date: September 2015		
Lead officer - sign off: Head Of Projects & Business Services			Date: 4 February 2014 <u>Reviewed</u> 7 November 2013
Service equality representative - sign off: Customer Relations Policy and Performance Manager			Date: 4 February 2014 <u>Reviewed</u> 7 November 2013 <u>Reviewed</u> 4 February 2014