

Report of	Meeting	Date
Introduced by Executive Member(Resources)	Council	Tuesday, 30 January 2024

## Fees and Charges

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	No
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### Purpose of the Report

- To approve an uplift in garden waste collection charges.

### Recommendations

- To approve an increase of £5 per annum on the current annual garden waste charge.

### Reasons for recommendations

- To ensure fees and charges are at an appropriate level and the Council is able to manage its overall financial position.

### Other options considered and rejected

- To not increase charges. Given the current financial position this option was rejected as it would create further financial pressures for the Council.

### Corporate priorities

- The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

Housing where residents can live well	<b>A green and sustainable borough</b>
An enterprising economy with vibrant local centres in urban and rural areas	Healthy, safe and engaged communities

### Background to the report

- At the Executive Cabinet meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 members approved changes to the council's fees and charges as part of the annual review and budget setting process.

7. It was approved at the meeting for the Executive Cabinet to recommend to Council to approve an increase in garden waste collection charges of £5 per annum; as the recommendation would result in a change to the budget in excess of £100k, full Council approval is required.
8. The recommended increase of £5.00 to £37.50 per subscription will generate an additional £125,000 of revenue for the Council; this equates to an increase of just less than 10p per week per subscription. The current charge in 2023/24 has been benchmarked against other Lancashire District and Unitary authorities as detailed below; this position could change however as all authorities will review their fees and charges for 2024/25 with several already indicating a proposed increase.

<b>Local Authority Garden Waste 2023/24 Fees</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Chorley (25,000 subscribers)</b>	<b>32.50</b>
South Ribble	25.00
Lancaster	41.00
Wyre	35.00
Burnley**	40.00
Rosendale***	44.00
Fylde	35.00
Blackburn	40.00
Preston	35.00
Hyndburn	33.00
West Lancs	30.00
Pendle	41.00
Blackpool	40.00
Ribble Valley	0.00
**£35 for further bins	
***£30 for further bins	

9. The recommended fee of £37.50 per subscription would still mean that the fee charged by Chorley Council is at an average level compared to other authorities across the county, based on 2023/24 levels.

### **Climate change and air quality**

10. The work noted in this report does not impact the climate change and sustainability targets of the Councils Green Agenda and all environmental considerations are in place.

### **Equality and diversity**

11. None

## Risk

12. Should fees not be increased in line with this report there will be a further pressure in the Council's budget.

## Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

13. This report follows the Executive Cabinet report of 18<sup>th</sup> January proposing annual increases to fees and charges. The proposed charges for garden waste will generate £125k and thereby assist the Council in reducing its budget gap, whilst still remaining at a similar charge to neighbouring local authorities.

## Comments of the Monitoring Officer

14. The decision whether to increase fees or not for garden waste charges is a matter of discretion for the council. As ever we should exercise such a discretion in a reasonable manner. There is nothing of concern from a Monitoring Officer perspective with this report.

## Background documents

There are no background papers to this report

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