

**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER  
DELEGATED AUTHORITY FROM  
EXECUTIVE/COUNCIL/COMMITTEE   
DELEGATED POWERS OUTLINED IN  
THE CONSTITUTION**



<b>DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION TAKEN BY:</b>	Strategic Director of Environment & Operations
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<b>IN CONSULTATION WITH:</b>	Executive Member
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<b>PORTFOLIO AREA:</b>	Environment
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**SUBJECT: Increase in Garden Waste Collection Charges**

**1. DECISION**

To increase garden waste collection charges by £5.00 per annum for collections in 2024.

**2. REASON FOR DECISION**

The cost associated with the delivery of the garden waste collection service have significantly increased, including vehicle costs and staffing and fuel costs. The Council is also having to manage financial challenges due to inflationary pressures on budgets which are unfunded.

**3. BACKGROUND**

Residents have a statutory right to have their general refuse collected, but Councils do not have to provide a free garden waste collection service. As a result, many Councils across the country have introduced a charge for garden waste collection.

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council introduced a charge for garden waste collection in 2016/17 in order to recover the costs of providing a collection service for those residents who have a garden and who want the Council to remove their green waste.

Since starting the garden waste collection service, the Council has always offered an 'early bird' discount of £5.00 for residents who subscribe to the service before the end of January each year. Those residents who subscribe to the service from 1 February or thereafter each year, pay an additional £5.00 charge. The garden waste collection charges for 2023/24 are:

£35.00 – including an early bird discount for residents who subscribe to the service by 31 January  
£40.00 – charge residents who subscribed to the service on or after 1<sup>st</sup> February.

The garden waste collection charges for 2024/25 are:

£40.00 – including an early bird discount for residents who subscribe to the service by 31 January

£45.00 – charge for residents who subscribe to the service on or after 1 February

A benchmarking exercise has been conducted with other surrounding local authorities to compare garden waste collection charges in 2023/24, the results of the benchmarking exercise are presented in the table below:

Benchmarking Green waste charges 2023/24	Blackburn with Darwen	Hyndburn	Rossendale	Pendle	Burnley	Blackpool	Preston
Sign up before end of January 2023	£35	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Full charge from 1 February 2023	£40	£33	£44	£41	£40	£40	£35

It should be noted that the other local authorities in the surrounding area may decide to increase their garden waste collection charges in 2024/25.

#### 4. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

An option to not increase charges for garden waste collection was considered, this was rejected because the costs of delivering the service have increased, including increased vehicle, staffing and fuel costs.

*Further information is available via the following link [ ] or from the report author*

#### 5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The increase in garden waste collection charges and the additional income generated aligns with the Council's Corporate Plan and the supporting mission to tackle the budget challenge.

#### 6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The additional £5.00 charge would generate an additional £66,000 income in 2024/25 if the Council maintains the same level of subscriptions received in 2023.

#### 7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Local Authorities can legally make a charge for the collection of garden waste under the Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012.

#### 8. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

This is an existing service, the resources required are already in place.

#### 9. CONSULTATIONS

The Executive Member for Environment has been consulted on the increase in charges. A benchmarking exercise on garden waste charges has also been completed.

#### 10. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of the officer with delegation and any Member who has been consulted, and note of any dispensation granted should be recorded below:

<b>VERSION:</b>	<b>1</b>
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<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Martin Eden/Joanne Byrne</b>
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<b>DATE:</b>	15 November 2023
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<b>BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:</b>	
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