

ITEM No ...21.....

REPORT TO: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 7 DECEMBER 2020

REPORT ON: CHARGING FOR GARDEN WASTE PERMITS - 2021

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

REPORT NO: 326-2020

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek approval for continuing with the current charge for garden waste permits during the calendar year 2021.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Committee is asked to note the content of this report and approve to continue with the existing charge of £35 per permit for collections scheduled to take place during 2021.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with the approval of the above recommendation. As noted in the latest revenue monitoring report for financial year 2020/21, the higher than anticipated take up in the scheme has resulted in additional income through permit sales. If the charge is retained at £35 per permit and demand remains at the same level then this additional income will continue to be generated although moving forward this is expected to be offset by additional collection costs due to the greater than expected number of households using the service.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 A permitting scheme for domestic garden waste collections was introduced during the financial year 2019/20 (Article II of the minute of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee on 21 February 2019, Report No: 49-2019 refers). The annual charge was set at £35 per bin with collections commencing 2nd March and ending on 4th December 2020, with participating households receiving 20 fortnightly collections over the course of the year.

4.2 The scheme was initially based on an estimated 40% household permit uptake of properties with garden waste bins equating to a projected 16,866 permits purchased. During the course of the year 23,817 permits were purchased, providing greater than anticipated permit sales income.

4.3 Support for the scheme is evidenced by the strong uptake from householders, with many householders purchasing multiple permits. To sustain the scheme during the second year of operation it is proposed to retain the charge of £35 per permit.

4.4 It is proposed to send reminders to customers who purchased permits online and offline via an electronic reminder or letter to facilitate the renewal of permits in advance of collections starting in March 2021. Going forward, it is anticipated more customers will purchase permits electronically, minimising communication costs and improving internal system efficiencies.

4.5 Social media will also be used extensively to advertise the 2021 permit renewals with additional reminders also noted on the 2021 collection calendars.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Council Management Team has been consulted in the preparation of this report and agree with its contents.

Elaine Zwirlein
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

Tony Boyle
Head of Environment

25 November 2020