

North Yorkshire Council

Environment Executive Members

01 November 2024

Review of Environmental Services Charges - 2025/26

Report of the Assistant Director – Environment and Transport

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Corporate Director of Environment and the Executive Member for Managing our Environment of charges made for waste services and to obtain approval to set charges for 2025/26.
- 1.2 To approve the proposed methodology for the review of fees in charges in future years.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 North Yorkshire Council is a unitary authority and is responsible for both the collection and disposal of household waste.
- 2.2 To enable residents to subscribe to the garden waste service for the 2025 season from early January 2025, a decision is required on the garden waste subscription charge for 2025/26. To meet this deadline, this decision is being brought forward along with a number of other Environment directorate fees and charges.

3.0 CHARGEABLE WASTE SERVICES

- 3.1 As a Waste Collection Authority, the council is required by law to arrange for the collection of household waste in its area. No charge will be made by the council for household collections, except in cases where the law provides that a charge may be made, and the council has decided to recover a reasonable charge for the collection of the waste.

3.1.2 Garden waste is a chargeable opt in service.

3.2 Bulky Waste.

- Oversize (“bulky”) waste is household waste that either exceeds 25kg in weight or does not fit in the general waste or recycling containers provided by the council. This includes items such as mattresses, sofas, and fridges. The council can recover a reasonable charge for the collection of bulky waste.

3.2.1 When considering the approach to charging several factors have been taken into account including:

- Cost of service provision – bulky waste service collection costs are ~£226,000 per annum. It is likely that collection costs will increase should government require councils to keep upholstered waste items that could contain Persistent Organic Pollutants (“POPs”) separate from other waste types. Two localities currently deploy refuse collection vehicles to collect bulky waste. To be compliant with government’s proposal, smaller vehicles will need to segregate POPs which have less capacity, no compaction, and are less efficient. The council received an income of ~£107,000 between April and September which equates to estimated £214,000 per annum.

- Service user impact – the proposed charge needs to consider the impact on service users. It is likely that some service users do not have access to a vehicle to deliver items to a HWRC free of charge, are lower income households, or are older residents who no longer drive and cannot manoeuvre bulky items. The proposed charge must not adversely affect groups with protected characteristics.
- Benchmarking – local authorities decide on what constitutes a reasonable charge. Appendix A illustrates that most neighbouring authorities charge less than the current average price in North Yorkshire of £17.50 per item, however each local authority has its own set of challenges and priorities. For example, the geography and rural nature of North Yorkshire inflates the council’s collection costs compared to urban authorities with higher housing densities and lower distances to travel. North Yorkshire Council may prioritise higher discounts to low-income residents by setting a higher standard charge.
- Fly tipping – the council needs to ensure that the price charged for bulky waste is affordable and does not lead to fly tipping. Appendix B shows the number of fly tipping incidents per locality area between April and June 2023 and April and June 2024. The categories of fly tipping most likely to include items which would be collected via a bulky waste collection are other household waste, and white goods / electricals. There is no correlation between the current cost per item and how likely these types of waste are to be fly tipped.

3.2.2 The proposal is to increase the charge by the inflationary rate of 3.2% and to round the charge to the nearest 50p or £1.

Table 1: Proposed bulky waste charging scheme

Proposed	Current	Proposed – per item	Current – per item
£36 (2 items)	£35 (2 items)	£18.00	£17.50

3.2.3 A concession of 50% will continue to be available for residents who receive council tax discounts relating to low income.

3.3 Container Charges

- North Yorkshire Council can provide waste containers (“receptacles”) to householders in a number of ways, including the council supplying free of charge, by charging the householder or by requiring the householder to provide receptacles to the Council’s specification. A combination of wheeled bins, bags, and boxes are currently provided to North Yorkshire residents dependant on their locality. A harmonised charging structure was agreed as part of the fees and charges setting for 2024/25 however, due to limited transformation resource, the new pricing structure has not yet been implemented.

3.3.1 It is proposed that the previously agreed charges of £34.00 per bin be increased by the inflationary rate of 3.2% rounded to the nearest 50p or £1, which would give a charge of £35.00 per bin.

3.3.2 The cost is an administration fee, and all bins remain the property of the Council. If bins are damaged or fail, except in the case of deliberate misuse, they will be repaired or replaced free of charge. If while emptying a bin it becomes lost in the vehicle then the crews will record this, and the bin will be replaced for free. If a bin is stolen, then we will encourage households to try and locate it prior to requesting and paying the administration fee. If households request, and meet the eligibility criteria for additional capacity, payment of the administration fee, which will cover delivery costs, will be required prior to delivery of the bigger bins. We will not charge for the delivery of boxes or sacks and charges will not apply as part of any wholesale roll-out of new containers to an area/round.

3.4 Garden waste opt-in service

- The harmonisation of charges for the opt-in garden waste service have been phased over the last couple of years, due to legacy terms and conditions. 2025/26 will be the first year where the council is able to fully harmonise the charge for this non-statutory service.

3.4.1 The proposal is to increase the charge by the inflationary rate of 3.2% plus £1 and to round the charge to the nearest 50p or £1 which would give a charge of £49.00.

3.5 Future Fees and Charges

- It is proposed going forward, that the fees and charges contained in this report increase by inflation on an annual basis without approval, unless inflationary increases fail to cover the cost of the service in which case approval will be sought to vary the charges.

4.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 A lower inflationary increase could be applied to these charges however as waste collection authorities are able to make a charge under the Controlled Waste Regulations 2012, it is considered reasonable to apply an inflationary increase to the current charges.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The financial impact is set out in detail in the paragraphs above. In summary, this report proposes the financial impact shown in table 2. It is estimated that we will see around £300,000 of additional income from garden waste based on an assumption that sign-up levels will reduce by approximately 1.8% compared to 24/25 sales. The proposed MTFS saving for 25/26 of £100k will be reviewed once subscriptions open and the impact of the increased price is known. i

Table 2: Summary of financial impact

Waste Service	2024/25 est. income	2025/26 est. income	Difference (-cost/ +saving)
Bulky waste	£214,000	£221,000	+£7,000
Waste containers	£168,000*	£173,376*	+£5,376
Garden waste	£5,769,000	£6,065,578	+£296,578
Total	£6,151,000	£6,572,982	+£421,982

*Budgeted income

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The power to charge for these services is included in Table 3.

Table 3: Power to charge.

Waste Service	Power to charge
Bulky Waste	Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012, Schedule 1 (4) Table
Containers	Environmental Protection Act 1990 section 46 (4)
Garden waste	Controlled Waste Regulations 2012

7.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Consideration has been given to the potential for any adverse equality impacts arising from the recommendations (Appendix C - EIA Screening Form). It is the view that the recommendations do not have an adverse impact on any of the protected characteristics identified in the Equalities Act 2010.

8.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Consideration has been given to the potential for any adverse climate change impacts arising from the recommendation. As the price increases are small and in line with inflation, it is unlikely that there will be significant change to the current service demand in relation to bulky waste and garden waste collections as therefore it is unlikely there will be any changes to climate change implications. A Climate Change Impact assessment is included as Appendix D of this report.

9.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Environmental Services will develop a Household Waste and Enforcement policy to consolidate and harmonise approaches to bulky waste, replacement bins, contamination missed bins, side waste, fly tipping and enforcement etc which will include the proposed approach to charging.

9.2 A public consultation into the acceptance of commercial waste at the HWRCs was undertaken earlier this year. Following the outcome of the consultation, there may be changes to the service.

10.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 North Yorkshire Council is a unitary authority and is responsible for both the collection and disposal of household waste. To be fair and equitable to residents across the North Yorkshire Council area a common approach to waste fees and charges is required. It is proposed that the bulky waste service charges £35 for up to 2 items, each additional item charged at £17.50 with a 50% concessionary rate available on a means tested basis. Bins, subject to criteria, will be charged £34 including delivery. Residents opting to subscribe to garden waste collections will be charged £49/bin.

11.0 RECOMMENDATION

11.1 It is recommended that the Corporate Director – Environment Services acting in consultation with Executive Member for Managing our Environment approves: -

- i. The proposals for fees and charges for 2025/26 as detailed in this report.
- ii. The proposal for the setting of future fees and charges

APPENDICES:

Appendix A – Bulky waste benchmarking

Appendix B – Fly tipping data

Appendix C – Equalities Impact Assessment screening document

Appendix D – Climate Change Impact Assessment

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None.

Michael Leah
Assistant Director Environment and Transport
County Hall
Northallerton
01 November 2024

Report Author – Aimi Brookes, Service Development Manager – Waste
Presenter of Report – Michael Leah, Assistant Director Environmental Services

Note: Members are invited to contact the author in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.

Bulky waste charges – Benchmarking

Local Authority	Charge	Charge Per Item	Concessions offered?
Leeds City Council	FOC	£0.00	N/A
City of York Council	£30 for 1 to 3 items £50 for 4 to 10 items	£10.00 £5.00	No
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	£20 for 1 to 3 items	£6.66	No
Darlington Borough Council	£22.90 for up to 6 items	£3.82	No
Stockton on Tees Borough Council	£23 for up to 6 items	£3.83	No
City of Doncaster Council	£25 for 1 to 4 items £41 for 5 to 8 items	£6.25 £5.13	Yes
Hartlepool Borough Council	£25 for up to 3 items	£8.33	Yes
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	£39 for 1 to 5 items	£7.80	No
Durham County Council	£20 for up to 3 items	£6.66	No
Northumberland County Council	£20.80 for 1 item £41.58 for 2 to 4 items £82.95 for 5 to 8 items	£20.80 £10.40 £10.37	Yes
Wakefield Council	£31.50 for up to 3 items	£10.50	No
City of Bradford Council	£50 for up to 3 items	£16.66	No

Fly Tipping Incidents

The number of fly tipping incidents per locality area between April and June 2023 and April and June 2024.

	NO. OF INCIDENTS	OTHER HOUSEHOLD WASTE	% OF TOTAL	WHITE GOODS / ELECTRICALS	% OF TOTAL
April to June 2023	719	330	45.90	78	10.85
April to June 2024	731	298	40.77	82	11.22

Initial equality impact assessment screening form			
<p>This form records an equality screening process to determine the relevance of equality to a proposal, and a decision whether or not a full EIA would be appropriate or proportionate.</p>			
Directorate	Environmental Services		
Service area	Central Waste Team		
Proposal being screened	Review of Environmental Services Charges		
Officer(s) carrying out screening	Aimi Brookes Jenny Lowes		
What are you proposing to do?	The proposal is to increase the charges for bulky waste collection charge and the provision of bins by the inflationary rate of 3.2%, rounded to the nearest 50p or £1. The opt-in garden waste service charge will increase by the inflationary rate of 3.2% rounded plus £1.		
Why are you proposing this? What are the desired outcomes?	<p>The bulky waste service collection costs are approx. £226,000 per annum and it is likely that these collection costs will increase. The council receives an income of approx. £214,000 per annum which does not meet the current costs of providing the service.</p> <p>The charges for garden waste are to cover the cost of collection and the charge for the provision of bins is to cover the purchase and administration of the delivery.</p>		
Does the proposal involve a significant commitment or removal of resources? Please give details.	No		
<p>Impact on people with any of the following protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, or NYCC's additional agreed characteristics</p> <p>As part of this assessment, please consider the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent is this service used by particular groups of people with protected characteristics? Does the proposal relate to functions that previous consultation has identified as important? Do different groups have different needs or experiences in the area the proposal relates to? <p>If for any characteristic it is considered that there is likely to be an adverse impact or you have ticked 'Don't know/no info available', then a full EIA should be carried out where this is proportionate. You are advised to speak to your Equality rep for advice if you are in any doubt.</p>			
Protected characteristic	Potential for adverse impact		Don't know/No info available
	No	Yes	
Age	x		
Disability	x		
Sex	x		
Race	x		
Sexual orientation	x		

Gender reassignment	x		
Religion or belief	x		
Pregnancy or maternity	x		
Marriage or civil partnership	x		
NYCC additional characteristics			
People in rural areas	x		
People on a low income	x		
Carer (unpaid family or friend)	x		
Does the proposal relate to an area where there are known inequalities/probable impacts (e.g. disabled people's access to public transport)? Please give details.	No, for residents who are on a low income and receive a council tax discount a concession of 50% will continue to be available for bulky waste collections.		
Will the proposal have a significant effect on how other organisations operate? (e.g. partners, funding criteria, etc.). Do any of these organisations support people with protected characteristics? Please explain why you have reached this conclusion.	No		
Decision (Please tick one option)	EIA not relevant or proportionate:	x	Continue to full EIA:
Reason for decision	<p>It is not proportionate to conduct a full EIA with regard to these charges:</p> <p>For residents who receive council tax discounts relating to low income a concession of 50% will continue to be available for bulky waste collections.</p> <p>Alternative options for bulky waste are available free of charge and are promoted through the council's website Bulky waste North Yorkshire Council including reuse through charities and the council's reuse directory avoiding any payment. Free disposal and reuse of items is also available at all 20 HWRCs.</p> <p>Alternative free or low cost options for the disposal of garden waste are available and promoted through the council's website Composting North Yorkshire Council. Free disposal is also available at all 20 HWRCs. Small amounts of garden waste can also be disposed of in the residual waste bin provided it does not make the bin too heavy or overloaded.</p> <p>Replacement bin charges reflect the Council's collection and delivery costs. Most of these charges will fall to the developer. For householders, if bins are damaged or fail, except in the case of deliberate misuse, they will be repaired or replaced free of charge.</p>		

Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)	Michael Leah
Date	24/10/2024

Climate change impact assessment – Initial Screening Form

The intention of this document is to help the council to gain an initial understanding of the impact of a project or decision on the environment. This document should be completed in consultation with the supporting guidance. Dependent on this initial assessment you may need to go on to complete a full Climate Change Impact Assessment. The final document will be published as part of the decision-making process. If you have any additional queries, which are not covered by the guidance please email climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk

Title of proposal	Review of Environmental Services Charges
Brief description of proposal	Annual review of environmental services charges for garden waste and bulky waste collections, and for the provision of waste and recycling containers for domestic properties.
Directorate	Environmental Services
Service area	Central Waste Team – Service Development
Lead officer	Aimi Brookes – Service Development Manager - Waste
Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the impact assessment	Tracey Flint – Service Improvement Officer – Waste

Appendix D


The chart below contains the main environmental factors to consider in your initial assessment – choose the appropriate option from the drop-down list for each one.

Remember to think about the following;

- Travel
- Construction
- Data storage
- Use of buildings
- Change of land use
- Opportunities for recycling and reuse

Environmental factor to consider	For the council	For the county	Overall
Greenhouse gas emissions	No effect on emissions	No Effect on emissions	No effect on emissions
Waste	No effect on waste	No effect on waste	No effect on waste
Water use	No effect on water usage	No effect on water usage	No effect on water usage
Pollution (air, land, water, noise, light)	No effect on pollution	No effect on pollution	No effect on pollution
Resilience to adverse weather/climate events (flooding, drought etc)	No effect on resilience	No effect on resilience	No effect on resilience
Ecological effects (biodiversity, loss of habitat etc)	No effect on ecology	No effect on ecology	No effect on ecology
Heritage and landscape	No effect on heritage and landscape	No effect on heritage and landscape	No effect on heritage and landscape

If any of these factors are likely to result in a negative or positive environmental impact then a full climate change impact assessment will be required. It is important that we capture information about both positive and negative impacts to aid the council in calculating its carbon footprint and environmental impact.

Decision (Please tick one option)	Full CCIA not relevant or proportionate:		Continue to full CCIA:	
Reason for decision	This is a change in the annual cost of current services to residents and business's not a change in policy. It is not likely to impact on the services involved and therefore a full CCIA is not required.			
Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)	Michael Leah			
Date	24/10/2024			