

## EXECUTIVE

LEADER: Cllr Jeremy Christophers

**DATE:** 1<sup>ST</sup> December 2015

**REPORT OF:** LORRAINE MONTGOMERY

**SUBJECT:** NOTICE OF MOTION: TEIGNBRIDGE GARDEN WASTE SCHEME

### PART I

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

**To keep the optional garden waste scheme charging administration as currently set i.e. as simple as possible to maintain the overall subscription cost as low as possible.**

#### 1. PURPOSE

This report considers the Notice of Motion presented by Councillor Hook at the Full Council meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

*"This Council notes that the new Garden Waste Charge is currently being introduced across the District.*

*The scheme, which is set to start on September 1st and run on an annual basis til the following August 31st, contains certain unfortunate and singularly wrong details.*

*There is no proportionate reduction for residents who may wish to join the scheme at some stage during the year, or indeed there is no equivalent refund available for those who, for whatever reason, may leave the scheme during the course of the year.*

*Therefore, this council will*

*a) undertake an immediate review of the details of this scheme as it impacts on our residents and*

*b) enable residents who, having paid up front to participate in the scheme, then move out of the district during the course of the year to receive a proportionate refund*

*c) enable new residents to the district to buy into the scheme with a proportionate charge on a per month basis, i.e. a part year subscription."*

At that meeting the Leader proposed it be considered by the Executive

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### 2. BACKGROUND

A report was taken to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014 for members to consider the options for development of the Council's waste recycling collection service. This Committee made a recommendation to the Executive, who on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2014 approved the 'Best Affordable' service delivery option for implementation. Integral to that approved service was a charged optional garden waste service.

Since then major improvements have been made to both the Forde Road depot and the Bulking Station, a new vehicle fleet has been procured, new operational staff recruited and the scheme has been successfully rolled out to over 60,000 households across Teignbridge.

The optional charged garden waste scheme has proved very popular. The expectation for take up is on track with 30% of households now included. This is very encouraging and will help offset the risk of the recycled materials market which is volatile and dependant on demand from countries such as China.

The percentage take up per Parish is shown in Appendix A.

### 3. BASIS OF THE CURRENT SCHEME

The charge for subscribing to the garden waste collection scheme at each phase of the roll out in September, October or November is the same. The logic behind that being:-

- Until residents join the new scheme they continued to receive the free garden waste collection. Therefore it is fairer that this charge remains the same because those joining in earlier phases would need to pay whilst others were still receiving free collections.
- Keeping the administrative procedures simple and as automated as possible it keeps the overall costs as low as possible. Currently the Council's scheme compares favourably eg. Mid Devon £47/year, Exeter City Council £38/year and Cornwall £35/ year plus £19.62 one off charge for a bin.
- Introducing a whole raft of proportional charges requires additional refinements to a simple automated process which will require a great deal of IT development and additional officer time, which adds cost that would need to be covered. The scale of householder movements in and out of the District over last year was over 6100 properties, that averages out to 120/week.
- Annual sign up discourages residents from signing up for busy gardening months only and then cancelling over the quieter winter months. Seasonal variations in rounds would operationally be very difficult to manage and costly to resource.

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- Many private sector companies have non refundable contracts for annual services, while some who may vary these contracts levy an administrative charge for in year changes.

### 4. MAIN IMPLICATIONS

The current charge has been built into the financial business case for the new recycling system and helps to cover the cost of providing the garden waste collections. This enables us to provide the weekly collections of food waste and the wider range of recyclables without a significant impact on the existing cost per household.

Whilst we are monitoring the ongoing financial implications of the new system, the full picture will only be truly understood once the first year is completed. Then the actual costs associated with the new fleet the new bulking station and staffing costs will be apparent.

The markets for recyclables are volatile so it would be premature to assume that any saving or additional income at this stage is surplus.

### 5. GROUPS CONSULTED

Finance department. Strata.

### 6. JUSTIFICATION

The current scheme is designed to keep the administration as simple as possible to hold the operational and administrative costs as low as possible for the overall scheme. Introducing complexities such as rolling subscriptions and part year refunds introduces a raft of additional administrative and IT costs that will ultimately increase the subscription cost and not be in the overall interest of residents.

**Lorraine Montgomery**  
**Business Manager – Open Spaces**

<b>Wards affected</b>	All
<b>Contact for more information</b>	Lorraine Montgomery – 01626 215852
<b>Background Papers (For Part I reports only)</b>	
<b>Key Decision</b>	N
<b>In Forward Plan</b>	Y
<b>In O&amp;S Work Programme</b>	N

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**Appendix A – Garden Waste Subscriptions by Parish (Nov 2015)**

<b>Parish</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Parish Total</b>
ABBOTSKERSWELL	306	45.27	676
ASHBURTON	505	26.65	1,895
ASHCOMBE	0	0.00	36
ASHTON	15	18.75	80
BICKINGTON	32	21.05	152
BISHOPSTEIGNTON	577	43.48	1,327
BOVEY TRACEY	1,265	35.62	3,551
BRIDFORD	58	24.37	238
BROADHEMPSTON	97	31.80	305
BUCKFASTLEIGH	403	23.38	1,724
BUCKLAND IN THE MOOR	4	6.78	59
CHRISTOW	141	37.60	375
CHUDLEIGH	636	31.47	2,021
COFFINSWELL	40	37.38	107
DAWLISH	2,155	30.54	7,056
DENBURY AND TORBRYAN	139	34.32	405
DODDISCOMBSLEIGH	29	22.83	127
DUNCHIDEOCK	42	34.71	121
DUNSFORD	81	27.09	299
EXMINSTER	533	28.40	1,877
HACCOMBE WITH COMBE	82	23.77	345
HENNOCK	135	16.34	826
HOLCOMBE BURNELL	45	17.37	259
IDE	68	25.95	262
IDEFORD	63	34.81	181
ILSINGTON	409	36.71	1,114
IPPLEPEN	494	43.68	1,131
KENN	144	28.51	505
KENTON	200	40.73	491
KINGSKERSWELL	910	39.58	2,299
KINGSTEIGNTON	1,564	33.07	4,730
LUSTLEIGH	44	14.67	300
MAMHEAD	9	16.36	55
MANATON	26	15.12	172
MORETONHAMPSTEAD	154	18.49	833

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NEWTON ABBOT	2,658	23.05	11,529
NORTH BOVEY	15	10.87	138
OGWELL	370	32.86	1,126
POWDERHAM	3	6.98	43
SHALDON	361	34.64	1,042
SHILLINGFORD	56	33.14	169
STARCROSS	232	27.65	839
STOKEINTEIGNHEAD	114	34.44	331
TEDBURN ST MARY	322	42.48	758
TEIGNGRACE	14	16.87	83
TEIGNMOUTH	2,267	30.28	7,487
TRUSHAM	19	21.11	90
WHITESTONE	58	18.65	311
WIDECOMBE IN THE MOOR	26	9.45	275
WOODLAND	8	12.70	63