
Commercial Food Waste Collection Service Charges

Report by Service Director Neighbourhood Services

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

17 December 2015

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 This report proposes that Scottish Borders Council agrees the undernoted recommendation for the following:

- **The collection of food waste from non-SBC customers, where requested, for the remainder of 2015/16 and for all commercial premises from 1st April 2016 at the proposed charge rate.**
- **The sale of biodegradable food waste liners and replacement food waste bin keys.**

1.2 In order to meet the requirements of the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012, the Council must, by 1st January 2016, arrange for a food waste collection service from any commercial premise (except in rural areas) which requests it. A charge for non-SBC Commercial Waste customers is required to fulfil this legal obligation and to recover SBC costs.

1.3 Following extensive consideration of the options available and the associated impacts, it has been agreed that existing SBC Commercial Waste customers can be provided with the service upon request at no additional cost until end March 2016. An addendum to existing general waste contracts is being made and the condition that there is no reduction in the level of their general waste contract during this period is applied thereby resulting in no subsequent loss of income to SBC. Regular monitoring of the new commercial waste service will take place to manage the service and ensure maximum levels of customer service.

1.4 A review of other Local Authority and private sector charges was undertaken along with an assessment of actual collection, haulage and treatment costs that would be incurred. Other Local Authority charges range from £2.18 to £11.99 for the uplift of a 140L wheeled bin. This review resulted in identifying the proposed charges for the new commercial service. These charges will form part of the 2016/17 Fees and Charges. Collection costs and tonnages will be monitored and a review carried out prior to April 2016 to ensure that proposed charges continue to cover SBC costs for 2016/17.

- 1.5 The food waste bins must be kept hygienic through the use of biodegradable liners and/or regular cleaning of the bin. SBC has purchased large biodegradable food waste liners which will be made available for sale at Council Contact Centres. In addition, where keys for the lockable lids on the bins provided are lost, these can also be purchased.

2 STATUS OF REPORT

- 2.1 With a view to recovering costs and in order to fulfil our legal duty from 1st January 2016 and provide a service upon request to non-SBC Commercial Waste customers, the charges proposed need to be agreed now.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 I recommend that approval is given to the following proposed commercial food waste collection charges with immediate effect:

- (a) The collection of food waste from non-SBC customers, where requested, for the remainder of 2015/16 and for all commercial premises from 1st April 2016 at the below charge rate.

Bin Size	Total Charge Per Week (exc vat)	Total Charge Per Year (exc vat)
140 Litre	£5.90	£306.96
23 Litre	£1.35	£70.23

Multiple collections in a week will be charged at multiples of the above figures, for example 2 x 140 litre bins collected once a week =£11.80 per week (exc vat).

- (b) The sale of biodegradable food waste liners and replacement food waste bin keys at the below charge rate.

Roll of 35L compostable liners(25 liners per roll)	£3.15 (exc vat) per roll
Food waste bin key	£5.00 (exc vat) Per key

4 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In order to meet the requirements of the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 and the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Council must, by 1st January 2016, arrange for a food waste collection service from any commercial premise which requests the service in the following towns:
- Galashiels (including Tweedbank)
 - Selkirk
 - Peebles
 - Hawick
 - Jedburgh

5 PROPOSED SERVICE

- 5.1 Existing SBC Commercial Waste customers in the above towns have been offered the service as an addendum to their existing general waste contract at no additional cost until the end of March 2016, on the condition that there is no reduction in the level of their general waste contract during this period, and therefore no subsequent loss of income to SBC.
- 5.2 Food waste businesses in the above towns have been identified, and those which express an interest in the service receive a visit by a member of staff to discuss the customer's needs. There are two sizes of food waste bins available, 140L wheeled bin and 23L caddy. The food waste collection vehicles are in the above towns a number of days each week for domestic collections and so the collection frequency from commercial customers will be determined by the customer's needs and the vehicle collection schedules. With the removal of food waste from the general waste bin we anticipate that commercial customers will require a reduction in their general waste contract for 2016/17. Monitoring of the general waste bins will be carried out during the remainder of 2015/16.
- 5.3 Collection costs and tonnages will be monitored and a review carried out prior to April 2016 to ensure that the proposed charges continue to cover SBC costs for 2016/17.
- 5.4 The introduction of the commercial food waste collection service aids the Council in diverting waste from landfill.
- 5.5 The food waste bins/caddies must be kept hygienic through the use of biodegradable liners and/or regular cleaning of the bin. SBC has purchased large biodegradable food waste liners which will be made available for sale at Council Contact Centres. In addition, where keys for the lockable lids on the bins provided are lost, these can also be purchased.

6 RESEARCH

- 6.1 Extensive research was undertaken of other Local Authority practices to gather data on operational practices, charging level and bin sizes. Other Local Authority charges range from £2.18 to £11.99 for the uplift of a 140L wheeled bin.
- 6.2 A collection pilot was carried out early in 2015 with six food businesses in Galashiels and Peebles. Over a six week period food bins were weighed and recorded and feedback provided by the businesses.

- 6.3 SBC costs (collection, bin purchase, bulking, haulage and treatment) have been calculated and the proposed charges developed to cover these expenditures whilst aiming to be commercially competitive, see Appendix 2.

7 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Financial

The proposed charges have been developed to cover SBC costs in terms of containers, collection costs and disposal costs.

7.2 Risk and Mitigations

- (a) Should the recommended charges not be approved there is a risk that SBC will not recover costs incurred resulting in a subsequent budget pressure.
- (b) Should the recommended charges not be approved there is a risk that SBC will not meet its legal obligation in terms of being able to make a food waste collection service available to businesses (i.e. non-SBC customers).

7.3 Equalities

Having in place an agreed charge which will allow SBC to provide a food waste collection service to non-SBC customers in the five towns if requested will ensure equal access to services.

7.4 Acting Sustainably

Economic, social and environmental effects have been identified in appendix 1. The driver for the provision of this service is legislative therefore the impacts outlined in appendix 1 should be accepted.

7.5 Carbon Management

- (a) The provision of a commercial food waste collection service will have no additional impact on carbon emissions as collection vehicles are already travelling to and through the towns to collection household food.
- (b) The introduction of the commercial food waste collection service will divert food waste from landfill and lead to subsequent carbon reduction impacts.

7.6 Rural Proofing

- (a) It is anticipated that the introduction of a commercial food waste collection service may create an access and equality issue as it will only be available in urban areas in line with the requirements of the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012.
- (b) The adverse impacts of introducing the commercial food waste collection as per the proposed solution should be accepted since the provision of the service is a mandatory requirement and the areas to receive the service have been stipulated by Scottish Government. In addition, budget is only available to cover the costs incurred from providing the service in the stipulated areas. Commercial premises in areas not stipulated by the Scottish Government can request the service from

another service provider.

7.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

No changes to be made.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Service Director Strategy and Policy, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR, and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Jenni Craig

Service Director Neighbourhood Services

Signature

Author(s)

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Background Papers:

Previous Minute Reference:

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Appendix 1

Impacts of implementing food waste charges

Impact	Type of Impact
Ensures compliance with the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012.	Social
Represents best value to the Council.	Economic
Charges proposed cover the Council's costs and ensures no adverse budget implications during an already challenging financial period.	Economic
The service will only be delivered to specified towns and therefore is not equitable.	Social
Reduces the amount of waste sent to landfill and therefore the costs and carbon emissions associated with this activity.	Economic, Social

Impacts of not implementing food waste charges

Impact	Type of Impact
In breach of the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012. Exposes the Council to potential litigation and fines.	Economic, Environmental
No reduction in the amount of waste sent to landfill therefore no decrease in the carbon emissions and costs associated with this activity.	Environmental
The Council will be exposed to the cost of delivering the service, resulting in a budget deficit.	Economic

Appendix 2

Breakdown of proposed food waste collection charges

Bin size (L)	Estimated Ave. weight bin (Kg)	Rental charge		Service/admin charge		Disposal charge		Total charge	
		Per wk	Per Yr	Per wk	Per Yr	Per wk	Per Yr	Per wk	Per Yr
140	60.00	£0.43	£22.26	£0.48	£24.96	£5.00	£259.74	£5.90	£306.96
23	9.86	£0.05	£2.60	£0.48	£24.96	£0.82	£42.67	£1.35	£70.23