

TEIGNBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING DATE 14 JANUARY 2020

PART I

Report Title	The Provision of Waste & Recycling Containers at New-Build Dwellings.
Purpose of Report	To consider introducing charges for the provision of waste and recycling containers at new-build household properties in the district.
Recommendation(s)	The Committee RECOMMENDS to the Executive that: (1) The charges as described in the report are introduced from April 1st 2020 and reviewed annually.

Financial Implications	<p>There are significant costs incurred by the Council to provide the necessary waste and recycling receptacles at new properties. The introduction of charges seeks to offset these costs.</p> <p>Please see Section 2.1</p> <p>Chief Finance Officer Email: Martin.Flitcroft@teignbridge.gov.uk</p>
Legal Implications	<p>Statutory provisions contained within the Environmental Protection Act 1990 enable the Council to charge occupiers for waste and recycling containers. However, this is subject to the occupier's consent. There is no power to impose such a charge.</p> <p>Please see Section 2.2</p> <p>Paul Woodhead Legal Services Team Leader and Deputy Monitoring Officer Paul.Woodhead@teignbridge.gov.uk</p>
Risk Assessment	<p>Please see Section 2.3.</p> <p>Waste & Cleansing Manager Chris.Braines@teignbridge.gov.uk</p>
Environmental/ Climate Change Implications	<p>Please see Section 2.4.</p> <p>Waste & Cleansing Manager Chris.Braines@teignbridge.gov.uk</p>
Report Author	<p>Chris Braines Waste & Cleansing Manager Chris.Braines@teignbridge.gov.uk</p>
Portfolio Holder	<p>Cllr Alistair Dewhirst</p>
Appendices / Background Papers	<p>None</p>

1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

Growth in housing within the district is increasing the demand on waste and recycling collection services.

One of the main costs is for the initial provision of waste and recycling containers to enable service participation. These costs are currently covered by the Council at approximately £50,000 per year (based on a rate of 620 new properties per year).

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 affords the Council a conditional power to charge occupiers for receptacles for household waste. If the occupiers decline to pay, the Council cannot impose a charge. However, it can require the occupier to provide their own receptacles which conform to the Council's specification(s).

The proposal is to charge the occupiers of new household properties for waste and recycling containers to cover the costs incurred by the Council.

A suite of containers will only be delivered once payment is received. The containers will remain the property of the Council.

The proposed charges for 2020/21, including VAT are as follows;

- **£80 per property for a full set of containers** (1 x 180 litre residual waste bin, 2 x 55 litre recycling boxes, 1 x food waste container, 1 x indoor food caddy and 1 x reusable paper sack). The charge does not include garden waste bins which would be provided separately as part of the subscribed service.

2. IMPLICATIONS, RISK MANAGEMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

2.1 Financial

The proposed charges will cover the costs of providing waste and recycling receptacles to new households occupied from 1st April 2020. There is the potential to generate £50,000 per year of additional income dependent on the numbers of new households arising. This approach was identified as part of the Council's BEST 2020 review program to help offset service costs.

Where communal bin stores are provided using alternative container combinations each property using that bin store would also be charged at the standard rate for a set of containers.

Continuing to provide receptacles to all new dwellings free of charge would result in an ongoing avoidable financial burden.

It is not proposed that any new charges are introduced for replacement containers at existing dwellings.

2.2 Legal

Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 enables the Council, as a Waste Collection Authority, to make charges for receptacles required for the collection of household waste and recycling subject to the occupier consenting.

The containers provided will remain the property of the Council and be linked to the property they were provided to. This ensures that following initial provision occupiers who have paid the 'set-up' charge (and any subsequent occupiers) will go on to benefit from free replacements of damaged, broken and missing containers (with restrictions) at that property in line with existing practises.

2.3 Risks

The existing online/digital replacement waste container process will be developed to confirm consent and take payment at initial point of contact, thereby minimising associated administration costs and ensuring swift delivery of containers.

This will require resource and technical input from the waste, BID and STRATA teams. Whilst it is anticipated that this will be completed prior to April 1st 2020 it will be dependent on availability of those involved.

There is a risk of challenge if a charge is imposed and there may be some negative publicity resulting from the proposed charge. This will be managed by the communications and waste team as required.

2.4 Environmental/Climate Change Impact

Successful participation in the waste and recycling service provided to households by the Council positively contributes to reducing our environmental and climate change impacts.

Sensible financial management of the service ensures it remains efficient and effective and stimulates higher levels of participation from residents.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Consideration was given to charging developers of new properties for waste and recycling containers. There is no legal provision contained within the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to support this approach however

4. CONCLUSION

The Council is under increasing financial pressure to reduce spending and generate income. Introducing this charge will help to offset the significant costs of providing waste and recycling containers to new properties as identified in the BEST 2020 program.