

SUBJECT:	Charging for refuse and recycling containers in the South Bucks District
REPORT OF:	Cllr Luisa Sullivan, Cabinet Member for the Environment
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Chris Marchant, Head of Environment
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WARD/S AFFECTED	All

Members of the Environment PAG are requested to advise the Portfolio Holder on the proposed recommendations below that will be considered by Cabinet

1. Purpose of Report

To introduce charges for refuse and recycling containers to residents in certain specified circumstances. To align South Bucks District Council's policy on this matter with services delivered in the Chiltern and Wycombe Districts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. That charges to residents for waste containers are introduced where they are lost, stolen, damaged by a resident or not present when a resident moves into a property.**
- 2. That the charges levied are in line with those already set for residents in the Chiltern and Wycombe Districts.**

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Councils have the authority under Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to specify which containers residents use for presenting their waste for collection and can require residents to pay a one off or annual cost for providing them.
- 2.2 The cost of providing all receptacles has to date been met by the District Council. Until 2003/4 this was the provision of relatively cheap black sacks for all properties, which was then partly replaced with a wheelie bin trial and subsequently the requirement for residents to supply their own sacks. In 2014 wheelie bins were supplied to all suitable properties and the cost of supplying them was covered by this Authority.
- 2.3 The Managers of properties of multiple occupancy that are not suitable for wheelie bin provision (or for a black sack collection in earlier years) pay for the hire of 1100l metal refuse bins which are inspected and repaired within the hire cost.
- 2.4 Members agreed in November 2016 to introduce charges to developers for the provision of new receptacles to new developments where the hiring of 1100l bins is not appropriate. This reduces the risk to the Authority of large single container orders being placed that have not been budgeted for.

2.5 The current costs of delivering containers are contained in the table below:

Table 1

Container	Service	Unit costs - purchase/delivery/ admin charge	Delivery & Admin costs	Total costs
240 litre black wheeled bin	Refuse collection	£19.00	£21.00	£40
240 litre black wheeled bin/blue lid	Recycling collection	£19.00	£21.00	£40
44 litre paper recycling box & lid	Paper collection	£5.00	£1.50	£6.50
23 litre food waste bin	Food waste collection	£4.00	£1.50	£5.50
5 litre kitchen caddy	Food waste collection	£3.00	£1.50	£4.50
Total cost per property if delivered separately		£50.00	£46.50	£96.50

2.6 Of the circa 150 wheelie bin, 100 recycling box and 190 brown and silver food waste containers ordered on average each month, the reasons for the order haven't always been recorded on Contender, the software used to place orders with Biffa. Using the data available and anecdotal evidence from the Admin team the main reasons for new containers being ordered are as follows, with whether or not a charge would be levied in line with current CDC/WDC policy:

Table 2

Reason for Replacement	Charge Proposed as per CDC/WDC Policy
New development	Developer charged – no charge to resident
Replace broken/Damaged Container	No charge if damage by contractor or wear and tear. Charged if damage caused by resident.
Stolen/Missing Container	Resident charged
Additional bin request (recycling)	Not offered by CDC/WDC. Please see para 2.9
Change of bin size	Exchange Fee – currently £7
Never had containers when moved in (new resident as opposed to new development)	Resident Charged (please note that residents are asked to leave bins behind when they move)

- 2.7 Members are asked to note that when residents request new bins for non-essential reasons that are not disclosed to the Admin Team, such as a bin being dirty, Biffa do not carry out the request on arrival. Residents must present damaged containers at the property boundary so that they can be checked to see that it is necessary to exchange them for a replacement. Almost all the bins replaced by Biffa are damaged beyond use or repair.
- 2.8 Second bins for recycling are not permitted in the Chiltern and Wycombe Districts. They are provided in the South Bucks District where a need is demonstrated and Officers are confident that a business is not being run from the property. Therefore no precedence has been set for whether or not South Bucks residents are charged for a second bin for recycling. It is proposed that a charge is made for second bins as per the charges below.
- 2.9 Charges for containers in the Chiltern and Wycombe Districts for next financial year have not yet been approved and the charges for this year are therefore shown in the table below:

Table 3

Container Type	Cost per item
Wheeled Bin and Delivery - 140 Litre	£40.00
Wheeled Bin and Delivery - 180 Litre	£40.00
Wheeled Bin and Delivery - 240 Litre	£40.00
Wheeled Bin and Delivery - 360 Litre	£40.00
Recycling Box and Lid - Delivered	£6.50
Recycling box and Lid - Pick Up Only	£4.80
Recycling Lid Only - Pick up Only	£1.50
Reusable Recycling Bag and Delivery	£5.50
Reusable Recycling Bag - Pick Up Only	£4.50
Outdoor Food Caddy and Delivery	£5.50
Outdoor Food Caddy - Pick Up Only	£4.50
Indoor Small 5L Food Caddy - Pick Up Only unless ordered with other containers.	£3.50
Bin Exchange Fee (for a different size)	£12.00

- 2.10 Although reliable figures for the number of residents that would be subject to a charge for a new or replacement bin are not available, the numbers are estimated to be low and the value of the costs to the Council that would be covered conservatively estimated as being in the region of less than £10k per year. This forecast would be reviewed after the first year of charging.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The introduction of charging is not only recommended to reduce the pressure on budgetary expenditure, but also to encourage residents to take greater responsibility for their containers, and to encourage residents to properly look for their 'missing' containers before seeking a replacement, thus reducing the demand for replacement containers. Increasingly, more local authorities are altering their

charging criteria for waste and recycling containers and are only providing them free when they are damaged by the collection crews or fall into the back of the collection vehicle. Adopting such an approach provides an opportunity to mitigate the ever-increasing financial cost of replacing containers.

3.2 The introduction of charges for bins will affect a minority of residents requesting new bins is not expected to make a significant difference to our budget. However it has been shown to deter spurious and time wasting requests for containers that do not actually need to be replaced and any income, however small, will make a difference to the overall waste budget. This will also align the policy for bin charging with that of CDC/WDC.

3.3 If approved, comprehensive FAQs will be published on the Council website, advising residents how to take greater care of their containers and explaining the reason behind the approach being advocated

4. Consultation

Not Applicable.

5. Options

The options are to continue providing all containers directly to residents for free or to charge as per the table in 2.9 (the relevant costs agreed in the 2019/20 budget).

6. Corporate Implications

- The Financial implications of this report are not significant and estimated to be in the region of up to £10k income which will offset costs and not be of net benefit to the Authority
- There are no Legal implications of this report as the power to charge is in line with legislation.

7. Links to Council Policy Objectives

This matter is related to the following local and national policy objectives:

- The Council's medium-term aim of helping to provide a clean and decent district where there is pride in, and ownership of, our surroundings and public spaces.

8. Next Step

If PAG Members are mindful to recommend to the Portfolio Holder that charges are introduced these will commence from April 2019 subject to Cabinet approval.

Background Papers:	None
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