

**CABINET MEMBER DECISION**

Contact Officer: Nigel Harris  
Telephone: 01543 687549  
Date: 8<sup>th</sup> August 2018

**KEY DECISION: YES**

**HEADING: Garden Waste Subscription Rate for 2019**

**1. Decision:**

- 1.1 That the subscription rate for the Garden Waste Service in 2019 should remain at £36 per bin.

**2. Statement of Reasons:**

- 2.1 In April 2017, Lichfield District and Tamworth Borough Councils approved the introduction of a charge for the garden waste service from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018. The annual subscription charge for 2018 was set at £36 per bin and payable upfront in one instalment.
- 2.2 The charge for 2019 now needs to be determined so that the preparatory work for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the service can be completed on time.
- 2.3 The Lichfield Cabinet report (which was similar to the Tamworth Council report) approved that the Director of Place and Community, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Operational Services, Leisure & Waste were granted delegated authority to set the pricing for future years.
- 2.4 The decision to introduce the charge was made because of the severe financial pressure being imposed on local Councils by government funding cuts as part of its strategy to balance the large deficit in the national revenue budget. In addition to facing a cut in the revenue support grant the County Council gave notice that they needed to cut the amount of Recycling Credit paid to the District Councils for the diversion of garden waste from landfill in order to help alleviate their own financial pressures. As local authorities are not legally obliged to collect garden waste offering residents a subscription service was deemed to be the only option to safeguard its future provision.
- 2.5 Whilst the financial outlook remains extremely challenging the County Council has postponed the date it intends to start cutting the Recycling Credit until 2019/20 which has reduced the pressure on both districts to raise the subscription rate in 2019. In addition the first year of the service has been extremely successful with more than 39,000 subscriptions being purchased which is significantly higher than the 33,750 target contained in the budget. There is also strong evidence from other authorities which charge, that the higher the charge the lower the uptake so an increase could be

self-defeating. At £36 the charge would be below the national average which is currently £41.20.

**3. Any Alternative Options:**

3.1 Consideration was given to raising the charge however this was dismissed for the reasons given above.

Signed:  .....  
Cabinet Member - Operational Services, Leisure & Waste

Signed:  .....  
Director - Place and Community

Date of Decision: 15<sup>th</sup> August 2018