

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 19 JANUARY 2021

REVIEW OF COMMERCIAL WASTE SERVICES AND CHARGES

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES

ABSTRACT

This report brings forward proposals for adjusting charges levied by the Council for the collection and disposal of commercial wastes.

1. RECOMMENDATION

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee agrees to the:

- (i) application of reviewed charges for 2021/22, as detailed in Appendix 1;
- (ii) retention of collection and disposal charges for larger (1100 and 1280 litre) general waste bins at 2020/21 prices, for the reasons detailed in section 5;
- (iii) retention of bin rental costs at 2020/21 prices, for the reasons detailed in section 5;
- (iv) revision of the charging mechanism for commercial waste bulky uplifts to bring it in line with the system used for household bulky waste collections.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN/CORPORATE PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plans:

PLACE

- A reduced carbon footprint
- An enhanced, protected and enjoyed natural and built environment

This report also aligns to the Council Plan 2017-2022 priority for the council to be effective and efficient, specifically for our services to represent best value and to be focused on the greatest need.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The council, as the waste collection authority under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, has a duty to collect commercial and industrial wastes where requested to do so by premises in Angus.

3.2 The Act requires the council to recover reasonable costs for both the collection and disposal of waste from a commercial or industrial premise.

3.3 In some cases, the council is only permitted to recover the cost of collection (and not disposal) from a premise, for example, residential homes, schools, or hospitals may only be charged for collection.

3.4 The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 introduced a mandatory requirement for businesses to present key recyclable materials and food waste for separate collection i.e. businesses are now legally required to recycle their waste.

- 3.5 The provisions of the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 that are relevant to the Council's commercial waste customers are listed below.
- Businesses must take all reasonable steps to ensure the separate collection of metal, plastic, glass, paper and card.
 - Businesses (except in rural areas) which produce over 5kg of food waste per week must take all reasonable steps to ensure that their food waste is collected separately.
- 3.6 With regard to food waste collections, businesses in Angus towns only are required to have a separate collection, as for the purposes of the regulations all other locations (with the exception of Barry), have been termed by Scottish Government as rural and are thus exempt from the requirements of the regulations.
- 3.7 The requirement for businesses to recycle key dry recyclables and food waste (where applicable) is jointly enforced by local authorities and SEPA.

4. CURRENT POSITION

Existing collection services

- 4.1 The Council offers the following commercial waste collection and disposal services:

Materials collected	Receptacle	Frequency of collection	Availability
Paper, cans, plastics, glass and cardboard	Materials co-mingled in wheeled bin	Fortnightly	Full coverage across whole council area
Glass bottles and jars	Mixed coloured glass in a wheeled bin	Weekly	In all but the most rural locations
Cardboard	Flat-pack or option of a wheeled bin	Weekly	Towns only
Food waste	Wheeled bin or caddy	Weekly	In towns and villages
Garden waste*	Wheeled bin	Fortnightly	In all areas except the glens
General waste	Wheeled bin	Weekly in towns, fortnightly in rural locations	Full coverage across whole council area

*Commercial customers can make use of the chargeable household garden waste service.

Commercial waste charging – exempt groups

- 4.2 The Environmental & Consumer Protection Committee agreed (Report No. 613/02) that charity, voluntary and youth groups should have a single bin collected without charge, and where additional containers are required, uplifts would be charged for.
- 4.3 Report 613/02 referred to exempt groups receiving a similar service to households and at the time of that report households received a weekly collection of a 240 litre general waste bin. The current household service is now applied for exempt groups who are offered free of charge waste and recycling collections on the same basis as households in their area i.e. fortnightly collection of a 140 litre general waste bin and a 240 litre recycling bin, plus food waste collections where applicable.
- 4.4 Where an exempt group wishes to receive weekly general waste collections or make use of a larger bin, collections would be charged at the current commercial waste rate. Similarly, if a group wished to make use of the garden waste service, they would be charged at the usual subscription rate.
- 4.5 Where more than one exempt group share premises, each group would be entitled to the collections outlined in 4.3.

Wheeled bin charging system

- 4.6 The commercial collection system is based on the use of differing sized wheeled bins. All bins are charged per uplift to reflect the variable frequency of collection days on offer. A sack system is provided as an alternative only in approved situations e.g. where there is no space for a bin, or the business produces very little waste.
- 4.7 Charges are based on an annual service beginning in April each year, payable either in full in advance, or by monthly direct debit. The total commercial waste collection/disposal income for 2019/20 was £955,602.

Commercial waste bulky uplifts

- 4.8 A commercial waste bulky uplift service, chargeable on an hourly rate, is currently available to commercial customers. In practice however this service is rarely requested of the council.

5. PROPOSALS

Overview of new charges

- 5.1 The proposed new charges for commercial waste services for 2021/22 are detailed in Appendix 1.
- 5.2 The proposed charges reflect the total costs to the council for collection, processing and disposal of waste and recyclables. A base increase of 3% (using the May 2020 RPI, as per the council-wide approach) has been applied to both disposal and collection costs across all services, with the exception of the proposed retention of charges at the 2020/21 level for larger general waste bins and bin rental. The revised charges have been rounded up to the nearest 10p in line with normal council budget setting practice and the actual percentage change will therefore vary on individual charges.

Retention of 2020/21 general waste charges for larger bins

- 5.3 Uplift costs are based on average weights which are used to calculate the expected disposal costs for the different sizes of bins. More accurate information from a national study, and from a neighbouring authority, has shown the average weights of 1100 and 1280 litre general waste bins are lower than our charging model assumed.
- 5.4 In order to take account of this, a freeze on general waste charges at the 2020/21 level for 1100 and 1280 litre bins is proposed. This should move us closer to the national average, as per a benchmarking exercise against other Scottish local authorities. It will also assist with the retention of existing customers and attraction of new customers.

Retention of 2020/21 bin rental charges

- 5.5 Bin rental charges were introduced in 2020/21 however there has been little uptake in this service, which would have been primarily directed at new customers. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant disruption for businesses and limited the potential for new custom.
- 5.6 To assist with the attraction of new custom in 2021/22 it is proposed that bin rental costs remain at the 2020/21 level.

Revised charging mechanism for commercial special uplifts

- 5.7 It is considered that offering a simple online system, using the same charges and payment mechanism that exists for household uplifts could attract more commercial customers and generate additional income. It may also assist with the prevention of fly tipping by providing commercial premises with a convenient means of arranging disposal of large items that do not fit in the bin. Charges for 2021/22 would be £28.20 for an initial three items and thereafter individual items could be added at £8.60 each. These charges would adequately recover the costs for collection and disposal.
- 5.8 The option for commercial traders to make use of this service as a responsible and cost-effective method of waste disposal will be advertised using social media, and within the letter

to existing commercial waste customers with their offer of service for 2021/22, to be mailed in February 2021.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The proposed charges for all commercial waste collections are based on full cost recovery for waste collection and disposal costs. Any additional income realised will contribute towards the associated revenue costs e.g. costs for waste disposal and processing/sorting of mixed recycling.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Finance and the Director of Legal and Democratic Services were consulted in the preparation of this report.

NOTE: The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

- Report No. 613/02

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List of Appendices:

- Appendix 1 – Commercial Waste Charges for 2021/22