

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 24 JANUARY 2023**

**REVIEW OF COMMERCIAL WASTE SERVICES AND CHARGES**

**REPORT BY GRAEME DAILLY, DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**ABSTRACT**

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

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee agrees to the:

- (i) application of reviewed charges for 2023/24, as detailed in Appendix 1;
- (ii) delegation of authority to the Director of Infrastructure and Environment to deviate from set charges (though still ensuring cost recovery) where this will allow us to bid for larger or longer-term contracts;
- (iii) retention of bin rental costs at 2022/23 prices, for the reasons detailed in section 5.4; and
- (iv) introduction of charges to developers for the provision of wheeled bins at new housing developments as detailed at sections 5.5-5.7.

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN**

Priority 4: Our Council – We want Angus Council to be efficient and effective

- We will develop a commercial approach where appropriate, to make the most of our limited resources.

**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 waste 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 commercial waste collection and disposal services as tabled below.

Table 1 Commercial waste and disposal services provided

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 this 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 waste charging system is based on a combination of collection charges and bin capacity i.e., larger bin sizes will cost more as there is more waste to dispose of. 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 fixed and 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 2021/22 was £1,032,640.

#### Household bin provision

- 4.8 Angus Council currently provides waste receptacles to all households as tabled below and outlined in the council's bin policy (Report [312/21](#)). Only households that have registered and paid for a garden waste collection receive the service and only households in towns and villages are provided with a food waste collection service.

Table 2 Container provision for household waste and recycling services

Service	Capacity (in litres)	Colour	Frequency
Mixed recycling	240	Grey	Fortnightly
Garden waste	240	Green	Fortnightly
Food waste	23 (also 7 litre indoor caddy provided)	Brown	Weekly
Non-recyclable (general) waste	140	Purple	Fortnightly

## 5. PROPOSALS

#### Overview of new charges

- 5.1 The proposed new charges for commercial waste services for 2023/24 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. Following a review of costs, a base increase of 11.7% (RPI May 2022) has been applied to collection costs across all services, and disposal costs have been frozen where we have seen no cost increase (mixed recycling and food), or RPI adjusted to reflect actual costs (general waste at 50% of 11.7% and cardboard and glass at 11.7%). The revised charges have been rounded up to the nearest 10p in line with normal council budget setting practice and this, in conjunction with the application of different disposal adjustments, means the percentage change will vary on individual charges.

#### Delegated authority for Director to amend prices for larger or longer-term contracts

- 5.3 Most of Angus Council's commercial waste customers are either small businesses or council-run premises. Increasingly in recent years chains and larger businesses operate via waste management companies which may sub-contract a waste service provider. Angus Council has struggled to win contracts due to an inability to be flexible, hence delegated authority is sought to offer a price that covers more than one year, or to reduce pricing slightly in order to win a larger contract; costs would always be covered and the expectation is this would increase income, even if only marginally.

#### Bin rental charges

- 5.4 Bin rental charges were introduced in 2020/21 however there has been little uptake in this service. It is proposed that rental costs remain unchanged on the basis that refurbished metal bins are used for rental purposes for 1280 litre bins meaning we do not incur any cost increases for bin provision. We will provide plastic bins where 1100 litre bins are required as these are considerably cheaper to buy.

#### Bin provision at new developments

- 5.5 In line with many other local authorities across the UK it is proposed that we begin charging developers for the provision of household waste containers at newly built properties.

- 5.6 Developers will be charged £68 per new property for the relevant containers (1 x 240 litre grey bin, 1 x 140 litre purple bin, and one each of indoor and outdoor caddies) where the dwellings are built in an area receiving the food waste service. Where properties do not receive the food waste service, the cost per property will be £62.
- 5.7 Where large communal bins are requested in preference by the developer and provided in agreement, the developer will be charged the cost of an 1100 or 1280 litre bin at the time of ordering.

## **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 be required to recover associated revenue costs e.g. costs for waste disposal and processing/sorting of mixed recycling.
- 6.2 The introduction of a charge to developers to cover the provision of household waste containers is expected to generate in the region of £24,000. This is based on a review of the number of new houses built over previous years.

## **7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

A screening Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached to the Report.

## **8. CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth 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 613/02
- Report [312/21](#)

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List of Appendices:

- Appendix 1 – Commercial Waste Charges for 2023/24