

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 16 JANUARY 2024**

**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 wastes.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Committee agrees to the application of reviewed charges for 2024/25, as detailed in Appendix 1.

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN**

2.1 The proposals contained in this report align with the following Council Plan priorities:

Caring for our place

- We will take action to mitigate against climate change by delivering our Transition to Net Zero Action Plan: 2022 to 2030 and leading on the delivery of a Sustainable Energy Climate Action Plan (SECAP) for Angus to reduce area wide emissions.
- We will deliver efficient waste services and encourage more recycling and cleaner streets.

**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 require businesses to take all reasonable steps to ensure the separate collection of:

- Metal, plastic, glass, paper and card.
- Food waste (except in rural areas) where over 5kg of food waste per week is produced.

3.5 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.

3.6 The requirement for businesses to recycle key dry recyclables and food waste (where applicable) is jointly enforced by local authorities and SEPA.

- 3.7 Household recycling collections will become dual-stream across Angus in three phases from April 2024, with paper and cardboard collected in a blue wheeled bin and cans and plastic bottles and containers collected in the existing grey bin (see Report [276/23](#)). Each recycling bin will be collected monthly (every 4 weeks), ensuring that a 240 litre recycling bin is collected each fortnight in line with the current frequency and capacity provided. Glass will be collected from an increased network of recycling points.
- 3.8 Commercial customers can make use of the same dual-stream recycling collections as households. Customers will be surveyed in advance of phased service revision to assess their requirements and will be provided with a blue bin free of charge, as provision has been funded by the Scottish Government's Recycling Improvement Fund.
- 3.9 Separate commercial cardboard collections will continue to be provided on a weekly basis, as the volume of cardboard presented by many customers would be difficult to store for a month (if presenting with the blue bin service). The commercial glass collection, as already in operation, will ensure that most businesses can make use of kerbside glass collection: businesses may also use recycling points for smaller volumes of glass.

#### 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 currently 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 2022/23 was £1,093,887.

### **5. PROPOSALS**

#### Overview of new charges

- 5.1 The proposed new charges for commercial waste services for 2024/25 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 11.3% (RPI May 2023) has been applied to collection costs across services, with the exception of mixed recycling where the 2023/24 cost has been frozen to reflect the expectation that the new dual-stream recycling service will result in saleable recyclables (as opposed to the current system where mixed recycling bears a disposal cost), thus will offset increased collection costs, encourage recycling and help retain custom in an extremely competitive market.
- 5.3 Other disposal costs have been adjusted appropriately in response to increases the Council will bear. Food waste disposal costs remain static and thus no increase is proposed, general waste disposal are projected to increase by approx. 5.6% and cardboard and glass by 11.3%. The revised charges have been rounded to the nearest 10p in line with normal practice for setting prices for the service and this in conjunction with the application of different disposal adjustments means the total percentage change will vary on individual charges.
- 5.4 The approaches outlined above aim to recover all costs involved in waste collection and disposal but at the same time ensure that we continue to provide competitive prices for our commercial waste services.

#### Bin rental charges

- 5.5 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, thus we do not incur any cost increases for bin provision. We can now provide plastic bins where 1100 litre bins are required as these are considerably cheaper to buy.

### **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.

### **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, Depute Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Director of Legal, Governance and Change 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 [276/23](#)
- Report 613/02
- Report [312/21](#)

**REPORT AUTHOR: Susanne Austin, Team Leader – Waste Strategy and Compliance**

**EMAIL DETAILS: [communities@angus.gov.uk](mailto:communities@angus.gov.uk)**

List of Appendices:

- Appendix 1 – Commercial Waste Charges for 2024/25



## Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Form

(To be completed with reference to Guidance Notes)

### Step 1

**Name of Proposal** (includes e. g. budget savings, committee reports, strategies, policies, procedures, service reviews, functions):

**Commercial waste charging report – setting charges for commercial customers requiring waste uplifts in 2024/25.**

### Step 2

Is this only a **screening** Equality Impact Assessment Yes

**(A)** If Yes, please choose from the following options **all** reasons why a full EIA/FSD is not required:

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| (i) It does not impact on people   | Yes |
| (ii) It is a percentage increase in fees which has no differential impact on protected characteristics | Yes |
| (iii) It is for information only   | No  |
| (iv) It is reflective e.g. of budget spend over a financial year                                       | No  |
| (v) It is technical  | No  |

If you have answered yes to any of points above, please go to **Step 16**, and sign off the Assessment.

**(B)** If you have answered No to the above, please indicate the following:

Is this a full Equality Impact Assessment	No
Is this a Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment	No

If you have answered Yes to either or both of the above, continue with Step 3.  
If your proposal is a **strategy** please ensure you complete Step 13 which is the Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment.

**Step 16: Sign off and Authorisation.** Please state name, post, and date for each:

Prepared by: Susanne Austin, Team Leader – Waste Strategy and Compliance  
11/12/23

Reviewed by: Doreen Phillips, Senior Practitioner - Equalities  
12/12/23

Approved by: Graeme Dailly, Service Leader – Environmental Services  
12/12/23

## Commercial Waste Charges for 2024/25

## Proposed charges for co-mingled recycling collections for 2024/25

<b>Recycling bin per uplift - charge for collection and disposal</b>		
<b>Size of bin (litres)</b>	<b>Proposed charge</b>	<b>Current charge</b>
1280	£6.40	£6.40
1100	£5.90	£5.90
660	£4.70	£4.70
360	£3.70	£3.70
240	£3.30	£3.30
140	£3.10	£3.10

<b>Recycling bin per uplift - charge for collection only*</b>		
<b>Size of bin (litres)</b>	<b>Proposed charge</b>	<b>Current charge</b>
1280	£2.70	£2.70
1100	£2.70	£2.70
660	£2.70	£2.70
360	£2.70	£2.70
240	£2.70	£2.70
140	£2.70	£2.70

\*The Council is only permitted to recover the cost of collection (and not disposal) from certain premises, for example schools and hospitals.

## Proposed charges for food waste collections for 2024/25

<b>Food waste bin per uplift - charge for collection and disposal</b>		
<b>Size of bin (litres)</b>	<b>Proposed charge</b>	<b>Current charge</b>
140	£8.10	£7.50
23	£3.50	£3.20

<b>Food waste bin per uplift - charge for collection only*</b>		
<b>Size of bin (litres)</b>	<b>Proposed charge</b>	<b>Current charge</b>
140	£5.40	£4.80
23	£3.00	£2.70

## Proposed charges for glass collections for 2024/25

<b>Glass bins charged per bin per annum</b>		
<b>Size of bin (litres)</b>	<b>Proposed charge</b>	<b>Current charge</b>
240	£46.70	£41.90

**Proposed charges for cardboard collections 2024/25**

<b>Cardboard charged per premise per annum</b>		
<b>Charge per premise</b>	<b>Proposed charge</b>	<b>Current charge</b>
	£14.70	£13.20

**Proposed charges for general waste collections 2024/25**

<b>General waste container per uplift - charge for collection and disposal</b>		
<b>Size of bin (litres)</b>	<b>Proposed charge</b>	<b>Current charge</b>
1280	£28.80	£26.30
1100	£24.80	£22.70
660	£16.20	£14.80
360	£9.30	£8.60
240	£6.30	£5.80
140	£4.60	£4.20
Sacks	£3.60	£3.30

<b>General waste container per uplift - collection only*</b>		
<b>Size of bin (litres)</b>	<b>Proposed charge</b>	<b>Current charge</b>
1280	£19.20	£17.20
1100	£16.40	£14.80
660	£10.40	£9.40
360	£6.00	£5.40
240	£4.10	£3.70
140	£3.10	£2.80
Sacks	£2.50	£2.30

**Proposed charges for bin rental 2024/25**

<b>Bin rental charges per week</b>	
<b>Size of bin (litres)</b>	<b>Proposed charge</b>
1280	£3.00
1100 (metal)	£2.50
1100 (plastic)	£1.50
240	£0.50

**NB Bin rental charges are inclusive of VAT (unlike collection and disposal charges which are VAT exempt).**