**Garden Waste Service going forward**

The Council is moving from a free Green Waste Service which is currently available to only 60% of the properties in the District, to an opt-in service where residents subscribe and pay a fee to access the service. This will be offered to all suitable properties in the district which will mean that the remaining 40% of homeowners with gardens who have not previously received the service, will do so.

The garden waste optional subscription service is to be rolled out in two phases, the first phase starting June 2017 (for those properties currently on the scheme) with the second phase starting in Spring 2018 (for those properties not currently on the scheme). This is necessary because there are 6 vehicles and crews currently delivering the service to the 60% of the district. We know that some people will not ‘buy into’ the new scheme which will free up some resources. What we do not know is how many will not, so by rolling out the new service in this phased way will enable us to see take up, and then redirect the freed up resources to service the new areas in 2018.

The cost for an annual subscription (licence) in the first year is going to be £23.40 per bin (Late June – early December, and is at a reduced rate as the 1st year does not represent a full season). In 2018 the subscription service will cost £39 and start from mid-March to early December.

Collections will remain suspended for the winter (early December – mid March). This is because when we have previously collected over that period the amount collected was small, but the cost per week remained the same. Consequently, if we are to keep costs down we need to continue to suspend the service during this period.

Collection days are likely to change as there will not be as many people taking up the service on the existing routes, and we need to ensure that the vehicles and crews are used in the most efficient way. This is likely to happen in 2018 at the start of the season and notice will be given. It is also likely that the collection day will change from the same day that household waste is collected. This is necessary to maximise the use of the vehicles and crews.

The current green sacks service is going to be replaced and for those properties where there is insufficient storage for a bin or are inaccessible to our vehicles, the proposal is to make available compostable sacks in sufficient numbers to reflect the size of a wheelie bin and the number of collections in a season, for the same cost as a bin subscription. This will be an improvement on current service as the green sacks are not compostable and all the green waste generated through the current scheme goes to landfill. The new sack will be collected as part of the green waste scheme and be composted.

Payment will be required in advance and customers will be encouraged to pay online, though other options will be available.

Residents will be able to share a bin - we would just need one person to sign up and pay.

Every bin will be payable so if someone wants more than one bin they will pay the service cost for each. There is no plan to discount for second or third bins.

Householders that sign up for the service will be issued seasonal identity tags which will be fixed to the bin. One tag for each bin ‘purchased’.

There will not be a change in charge through the year so it is advisable for householders to sign up early to benefit from the service for as long as possible.

Crews will also have in-cab communication systems on board which will notify them as they go down a street which, households have signed up to the scheme and which have not. They will also be able to use the system to record what we call ‘exceptions’ i.e. bins not left out, assisted bin collection etc.

For those who do not wish to enter into the scheme, the Council will be offering reduced rate compost bins. Alternatively, residents will be able to use the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC’s) located within the district.

Garden waste will not be accepted in household waste bins (black lidded bins) and should the crews find such waste in these bins then they will not be emptied.

The Council will still undertake assisted collections (providing the resident has signed up).