

Section 4 Integrated Impact Assessment

Summary Report Template

Each of the numbered sections below must be completed

Interim report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Final report	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 (Tick as appropriate)

1. Title of proposal

Garden Waste Collection Service – Full Cost Recovery

2. What will change as a result of this proposal?

Following its implementation in 2018, the annual charge for the garden waste service has remained at £25 per bin. This rate was proposed based on assumptions in the Business Case for the charge (including sign up levels, resourcing requirements and administration costs). It is recognised that this rate no longer covers the costs of administering the subscriptions and undertaking collections (chargeable under legislation).

The rate will increase to £35 per bin per year from summer 2021 with the service remaining an opt in service.

Individuals in the following groups will continue to be entitled to a free service:

Severely Mentally Impaired (currently receive full 100% Council Tax reduction)

Customers in receipt of Council Tax Reduction (for financial reasons)

Individuals in receipt of free garden aid

Users of the Tiphereth charitable service based within Colinton receive a variation on the normal service, using sacks. They register and pay in the same way as other customers, and are subject to the same exemption scheme.

3. Briefly describe public involvement in this proposal to date and planned

The review of the charging scheme is part of the Council's budget setting process, which is subject to public consultation.

4. Is the proposal considered strategic under the [Fairer Scotland Duty](#)?

Yes- we provide an exemption to those in receipt of Council Tax Reduction.

5. Date of IIA

15 January 2021

6. Who was present at the IIA? Identify facilitator, Lead Officer, report writer and any partnership representative present and main stakeholder (e.g. NHS, Council)

Name	Job Title	Date of IIA training
Louise Wood	Systems, Quality and Performance Manager	3 May 2018
Angus Murdoch	Technical Coordinator	3 May 2018

7. Evidence available at the time of the IIA

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected?
Data on populations in need	Yes	By increasing the charging for the removal of garden waste, groups of individuals who are in need may be affected, however, there are policies in place to ensure that these individuals can still receive a free garden waste uplift, such as Council Tax Reduction Scheme
Data on service uptake/access	Yes	The sign up levels in year one (at £25 charge) were higher than expected within the Business Case and these have increased over the subsequent two years. It is possible that the increase in rate may affect the sign up levels however the Council will aim to minimise this by ensuring communications are clear on the need for the increase
Data on socio-economic disadvantage e.g. low income, low wealth, material deprivation, area deprivation.	Yes	By increasing the charging for the removal of garden waste, groups of individuals who are in need may be affected, however, there are policies in place to ensure that these individuals can still receive a free garden waste uplift, such as Council Tax Reduction Scheme
Data on equality outcomes	Yes	As well as those in receipt of a free garden waste service due to accessing the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, individuals registered as Severely Mentally Impaired are also entitled to register for the service free of charge
Research/literature evidence	Yes	<p>Most authorities UK wide charge for the garden waste service, while some don't provide a service.</p> <p>In Scotland the number of authorities who charge is increasing. Charges range from £30- £45 per year, although some of those will likely increase next year.</p>
Public/patient/client experience information		There have been relatively few complaints about the charge itself (after the first year). Most complaints relate to the systems used, in particular the system of fixed registration windows

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected?
		and in the first two years the myGov system (no longer required). Edinburgh's system is flexible however in that a friend or relative is able to register you if you're not able to do it yourself.
Evidence of inclusive engagement of people who use the service and involvement findings	No	There is clear demand, based on complaints and enquiries to make the registration system more flexible, which is being investigated. The registration system has been changed so that customers no longer need to use a myGov account.
Evidence of unmet need	No	
Good practice guidelines	No	
Carbon emissions generated/reduced data	Yes	In the first year of charging there was a reduction in the tonnage of contaminated garden waste collected, which was beneficial from this point of view, as it reduced the wastage of materials collected.
Environmental data	Yes	In the first year of charging there was a reduction in the tonnage of contaminated garden waste collected, which was beneficial.
Risk from cumulative impacts	No	
Other (please specify)	No	
Additional evidence required	No	

8. In summary, what impacts were identified and which groups will they affect?

Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights	Affected populations
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<p>Positive The registration system is flexible in allowing people to register for a friend or relative who can't do it themselves.</p> <p>Edinburgh is currently the only Scottish Council with a chargeable service which operates an exemption scheme.</p> <p>Negative The myGov system is too complicated for some people however using that system is no longer mandatory.</p>	<p>People who live with certain disabilities or long term medical conditions</p> <p>People with low income or material wealth</p> <p>People who live with certain disabilities or long term medical conditions</p>
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<p>Environment and Sustainability including climate change emissions and impacts</p> <p>Positive The charge led to a reduction in tonnages of contaminated garden waste being collected</p> <p>The introduction of a charge has allowed the Council to continue providing the service and increase the collection frequency.</p> <p>Negative The increased charge could reduce participation in the service but to date it is not clear that charging has caused this to happen because of other factors. 2019 had a hot, dry summer which impacted tonnages during the main growing period, while there was a service suspension in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>Overall we feel that people who want to actively (and properly) use the service have continued to do so.</p>	<p>Affected populations</p>
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<p>Economic including socio-economic disadvantage</p> <p>Positive Edinburgh is currently the only Scottish Council with a chargeable service which operates an exemption scheme.</p> <p>Negative</p>	<p>Affected populations</p> <p>People with low income or material wealth</p>
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A charge is a barrier to using the service, but is offset by the exemption scheme	People with low income or material wealth
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9. Is any part of this policy/ service to be carried out wholly or partly by contractors and if so how will equality, human rights including children’s rights, environmental and sustainability issues be addressed?

Part of the service is delivered by Tiphereth who specifically work with vulnerable young people: www.tiphereth.org.uk

10. Consider how you will communicate information about this policy/ service change to children and young people and those affected by sensory impairment, speech impairment, low level literacy or numeracy, learning difficulties or English as a second language? Please provide a summary of the communications plan.

The use of the service is not relevant to children and young people. The approach taken for communications includes a range of methods including radio adverts, emails, social media, website and lamppost wraps, and takes into account literacy requirements.

11. Is the policy likely to result in significant environmental effects, either positive or negative? If yes, it is likely that a [Strategic Environmental Assessment](#) (SEA) will be required and the impacts identified in the IIA should be included in this.

No; the increase in the charge could potentially reduce participation but this is likely to be marginal. The introduction of a charge itself seems to have been associated with an improvement in the quality of material collected. Registration levels have increased each year.

12. Additional Information and Evidence Required

If further evidence is required, please note how it will be gathered. If appropriate, mark this report as interim and submit updated final report once further evidence has been gathered.

13. Specific to this IIA only, what recommended actions have been, or will be, undertaken and by when? (these should be drawn from 7 – 11 above) Please complete:

None. The existing policies and procedures already take into account the impacts identified, e.g. by offering an exemption scheme, and using a range of communication methods.

It's possible that following the COVID pandemic, there may an increase in people who receive Council tax Reduction as a result of job losses, however the systems are in place to cope with this.

Specific actions (as a result of the IIA which may include financial implications, mitigating actions and risks of cumulative impacts)	Who will take them forward (name and job title)	Deadline for progressing	Review date

14. Are there any negative impacts in section 8 for which there are no identified mitigating actions?

No

15. How will you monitor how this proposal affects different groups, including people with protected characteristics?

We'll be able to see how many people register as exempt from payment, and whether this increases,

16. Sign off by Head of Service/ NHS Project Lead

Name Gareth Barwell, Head of Place Management

Date 10 February 2021

17. Publication

Completed and signed IIAs should be sent to strategyandbusinessplanning@edinburgh.gov.uk to be published on the IIA directory on the Council website www.edinburgh.gov.uk/impactassessments