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Chief Executive

Date: 05 November 2014

Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

To: **Members of the Scrutiny Commission**

Mr MR Lay (Chairman)	Mr MS Hulbert
Mr C Ladkin (Vice-Chairman)	Mr DW Inman
Miss DM Taylor (Vice-Chairman)	Mr R Mayne
Mr PR Batty	Mr JS Moore
Mr Bessant	Mr K Morrell
Mr PAS Hall	Mr K Nichols

Copy to all other Members of the Council

(other recipients for information)

Dear Councillor,

There will be a meeting of the **SCRUTINY COMMISSION** in the De Montfort Suite, Hinckley Hub on **THURSDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2014** at **6.30 pm** and your attendance is required.

The agenda for the meeting is set out overleaf.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Owen'.

Rebecca Owen
Democratic Services Officer

SCRUTINY COMMISSION - 13 NOVEMBER 2014

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

2. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 4)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2014.

3. ADDITIONAL URGENT BUSINESS BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

To be advised of any additional items of business which the Chairman decides by reason of special circumstances shall be taken as matters of urgency at this meeting.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive verbally from members any disclosures which they are required to make in accordance with the Council's code of conduct or in pursuance of Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. **This is in addition to the need for such disclosure to be also given when the relevant matter is reached on the agenda.**

5. QUESTIONS

To hear any questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.

6. CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS STRATEGY (Pages 5 - 10)

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Community Direction).

7. INTRODUCTION OF CHARGES FOR GREEN WASTE COLLECTION (Pages 11 - 16)

At the meeting of Council on 4 November, the recommendations in the attached report were supported, along with an additional recommendation that the matter be referred to the Scrutiny Commission prior to consultation and prior to any final recommendations to Council following the consultation process.

8. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH AS MATTERS OF URGENCY

Agenda Item 2

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMISSION

2 OCTOBER 2014 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Miss DM Taylor (Vice-Chairman, in the Chair)
Mr C Ladkin – Vice-Chairman

Mr PR Batty, Mr Bessant, Mr PAS Hall, Mrs WA Hall (for Mr K Nichols), Mr DW Inman, Mr R Mayne, Mr JS Moore and Mr K Morrell

Also in attendance: Councillor DC Bill MBE and Councillor Ms BM Witherford

Officers in attendance: Steve Atkinson, Graeme Chilvers, Edwina Grant, Simon D Jones, Rebecca Owen and Sharon Stacey

196 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Lay and Nichols, with the substitution of Councillor Mrs Hall for Councillor Nichols in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.

197 MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Inman, seconded by Councillor Moore and

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 28 August be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

198 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

199 CHANGES TO LOCAL POLICING

Superintendent Adam Street (Counties BCU) and Chief Inspector Neil Newell (Force Change Team) gave a presentation on changes to local policing in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, with Chief Inspector Jonny Starbuck also in attendance. The new model would take into account the diversity of the area and would also build on the strong partnerships already in place, particularly between the Hinckley and Blaby areas.

(Councillor Morrell entered the meeting at 6.37pm).

During the presentation and responses to members' questions, the following points were raised:

- The Chief Constable would lead a smaller force with a reduced number of units and sections
- Boundary revisions were also being undertaken
- There would be improved uses of technology which would further increase efficiency
- Levels of policing would be arranged based on risk, taking all factors into account

- Neighbourhood officers would focus on that role, with other specialist officers taking responsibility for crime and prisoner administration
- Dedicated officers would attend scheduled appointments, for example in non-emergency situations and to follow up on specific matters

Whilst understanding the requirement to make changes and to reduce costs of the service, many members felt that they had already seen a lot of change with regard to local policing, and each time the local support and visibility seemed to be diluted. Members were reassured that a lot of work had been put into this change programme, but also that it would be reviewed and stakeholders would be consulted in the course of this.

Members congratulated Inspector Jonny Starbuck on his new role and thanked him for his work for Hinckley & Bosworth.

(Councillor Mrs Hall left the meeting at 7.31pm.)

200 HEALTH & WELL BEING

The Scrutiny Commission was informed of changes that had taken place over recent years in the planning and delivery responsibilities for public health. Rob Howard from Public Health at Leicestershire County Council and Dr Nick Wilmott, a local GP and West Leicestershire CCG representative, were in attendance. It was reported that there was a Health & Well-being Board, which was administered by Leicestershire County Council. Two district councillors, representing districts across the County, sat on this Board.

The 'Lightbulb' Project was discussed in some detail. The aim of this was to enable older people to stay in their own homes for longer, by providing adaptations, aids & equipment, affordable heating, occupational therapy co-ordination and support.

Whilst not relating directly to the matter under discussion, the issue of section 106 monies providing healthcare facilities (particularly in Barwell & Earl Shilton) was raised. Dr Wilmott assured members that the matter was on the radar of the CCG and that he would take the Commission's comments back to the Group.

It was further noted that the CCG would be reporting back to the Scrutiny Commission following its consultation exercise, at which point questions regarding the future of the hospitals could be put.

It was also reported that the voluntary & community sector had been commissioned to carry out projects on behalf of the council.

A member asked information on funding and allocation of money. It was agreed that this be sent to members following the meeting.

Members thanked those in attendance for their positive contributions and for the informative presentations.

201 CREDIT UNION - COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY - UPDATE

A report regarding communication and marketing options in relation to Clockwise Credit Union was presented to members, as requested by the Scrutiny Commission in March 2014. The importance of raising the profile was acknowledged and members were informed that the DWP was currently running a Credit Union Expansion Programme, with which Clockwise was involved.

The Scrutiny Commission highlighted the problems currently being experienced by one of the large lending companies, in having to write off a large amount of debt. It was suggested that this negative press be utilised to promote Clockwise, particularly with the Christmas period approaching.

With regard to advertising, it was noted that the Hinckley Times was providing coverage prior to an event in Hinckley on 20 October. Other marketing currently used included the Borough Bulletin, Community House Newsletters, Borough events, Partner Forums and networks and the HBBC staff newsletter.

It was suggested that other avenues, such as radio interviews, be explored. Officers drew attention to appendix 1 to the report which suggested use of social media, targeted door to door leafleting, linking with the Town Centre Partnership and engaging with key employers. A member suggested advertising Clockwise on the side of one of the authority's refuse vehicles and officers agreed to look into this option.

RESOLVED –

- (i) Current marketing strategies be continued and new methods of communication be explored;
- (ii) The provision of local access points and supporting arrangements be continued.

202 EQUALITIES UPDATE

The Scrutiny Commission was updated on the Council's actions to promote and ensure that equality and diversity were embedded within the authority and its activities and considered the report on the action plan which had been agreed with the Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC). An update had also been circulated prior to the meeting, which reported on a meeting with the Senior Lawyer at the EHRC. This meeting had had a positive outcome and, whilst the EHRC was happy with the progress made, the Chief Executive had agreed areas for further work and report.

RESOLVED –

- (i) The actions undertaken to deliver the action plan agreed with the EHRC be endorsed;
- (ii) The outcome of the meeting with the Senior Lawyer at the EHRC be noted and the recommended further steps be supported.

203 FINANCE, AUDIT & PERFORMANCE ANNUAL REPORT

The Scrutiny Commission received the Finance, Audit & Performance Committee Annual Report which had been endorsed by that Committee. Members highlighted an error in the political composition of the Committee in the report.

The complexity of some of the information provided to the Finance, Audit & Performance Committee was highlighted. A report was requested for a future meeting on staffing budgets, broken down by service area, including how these had changed over the last few years and any anticipated changes in future. It was requested that this contains actual figures and numbers rather than percentages.

RESOLVED –

- (i) The report be noted;
- (ii) A report on staffing budgets be brought to a future meeting.

(The Meeting closed at 8.35 pm)

CHAIRMAN

SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 13 NOVEMBER 2014

CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD STRATEGY UPDATE REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (COMMUNITY DIRECTION)



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update to Scrutiny and Overview Committee on delivery of the Clean Neighbourhood Strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Scrutiny and Overview Committee note and endorse the work of the Clean Neighbourhood Service.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Clean Neighbourhood Strategy (Appendix 1) was adopted in September 2013, and actions are planned and monitored through the Service Improvement Plan for Street Scene Services.

- 3.2 The Vision for Clean Neighbourhoods is:-
“Hinckley and Bosworth is a place with clean, tidy and litter free neighbourhoods where everyone takes responsibility for their waste and the surrounding environment”. Essentially the strategy makes Clean Neighbourhoods everyone’s responsibility and seeks active engagement from all residents and communities in achieving clean neighbourhoods for everyone. The Strategy is implemented through the 5 E’s....

- 3.3 **Efficient** - we will work efficiently and effectively to remove litter, dog fouling, fly-tipping, graffiti, fly posters, abandoned vehicles.

- 978 service requests were received during 2013/14. 17% for litter, 27% for dog fouling, 43% for fly tipping, and 13% for sweeping. Service requests can be seasonal and depend on the time of year e.g. sweeping requests increase during leaf fall, dog fouling always increases during the darker nights. Increases are also shown when environmental campaigns are running.
- The service standards and response times within the strategy are all being met with 2 exceptions: - weekly sweeping of village centres, annual sweeping of footpaths with high footfall. Improvements will be made to this service during the next year.
- Resident’s satisfaction has increased from 72% (2012/13) to 82% (2013/14) – annual HBBC resident’s survey.

Key efficiencies are:-

- Staffing reviewed, geographic areas revised, duplications removed, and the number of drivers increased to reduce reliance on agency staff. This has generated significant savings that have been reinvested within the team.
- Market cleansing carried out with reduced resources. Saving of £8,775
- Removal of labour intensive special collections and reallocation of resources to bulky collections. Net increase in income of £10,000
- Management of cleansing on Hinckley parks allowing us to proactively focus our resources on the worst sites resolving issues more effectively.

- Review of clinical waste collections reducing collection time by 2 hours per week
- Monitoring system revised to prioritise hotspots sites. Resources targeted to the worst areas. Monitored through TEN and meeting targets set.
- Procurement of telescopic handler used for loading waste, savings made from current hire charges of £6000.00 per annum.

3.4 **Education** – we will work with all ages and sectors of the community to increase awareness of the benefits of clean neighbourhoods and of the harm that litter, dog fouling and other forms of environmental nuisance can cause.

- ‘Keep it Clean’ brand and logo (see appendix 2) developed and used for all environmental campaigns, correspondence, posters, publicity and staff uniforms etc.
- Worked with 20 schools across the borough delivering litter work shops, litter presentations, dog fouling poster competitions, class presentations and assemblies.
- Working in partnership with Community Safety Team delivering Anti Social Behaviour busters.
- 30 published press articles highlighting our campaigns, community litter picks, dog fouling, fly tipping awareness etc. Good coverage received in the Hinckley Times, Leicester Mercury, Nuneaton Post, local parish newsletters and every edition of the Borough Bulletin.
- Utilising facebook and twitter as a way of communicating to our residents, has proved to be very effective but sometimes encourages negative responses to our campaigns. Ciggy Stardust our recent anti-cigarette litter campaign recently received 86 likes, comments and shares which is the most positive feedback the council has ever received on social media.
- New vehicle signage focussing on litter and promoting the income generating services we run.
- Three annual campaigns will run every year to ensure we are consistently targeting resident’s top 3 environmental issues. Highlights from the last years campaigns are:-

Dog Fouling (November – January)

- 59 park patrols, across four parks.
- 96 ‘Caught doing right cards’ handed out to dog walkers when seen using the bins, dog grooming and pet shop vouchers given as a prize.
- Over 500 ‘report it cards’ handed out.
- Over 1000 children received the responsible dog talk, 12 schools visited, over 100 entries for the poster competition, prize draw, tickets to Twycross Zoo
- Publicity, social media posts
- New signage focussing on residents “report it”
- Increase in enforcement

Litter (July – September)

- School litter workshops 3 completed, 10 primary schools arranged
- Which side of the fence are you litter experiment held at Richmond Park
- Cigarette Costume ‘Ciggy Stardust’ & signage ‘the world outside your car isn’t your personal ashtray’
- Butt Pouches (portable ashtrays) 200 distributed to known hotspots, pubs, shops, bookies.
- “Bin it to win it” town centre competition
- Cigarette stencils trial, monitored sites showed a reduction of 52 % less cigarette ends after the stencils where introduced. Stencils to be used in other hotspot areas.
- 4 Litter picks completed

- Vehicle Signage – ‘Have you dropped one’
- Publicity, social media posts
- Increased enforcement

Fly Tipping (March – May)

- Incident signage left at scene to highlight fly tip
- New signage, eyes poster
- Publicity, social media posts
- Business rates advice leaflet – How to dispose of your waste responsibly
- New CCTV equipment purchased and deployed at hot spots
- Increased enforcement

3.5 **Engagement** – we will encourage, support and work in partnership with local communities to improve the cleanliness of their neighbourhood

- 52 litter picking volunteers have now been registered. In 2015 we are looking at holding a community champion scheme highlighting what great work our volunteers are doing.
- Continual working partnership with Endeavour Integrated Community Protection Team Tactical Group, focusing on local issues, people and places.
- 21 Community litter picks within the last 12 months including Green Towers, St Martins High School, McDonalds, Scout groups, and Brownies.

3.6 **Environment** – we will act to remove the sources of litter and other nuisances and create environments where everyone can act responsibly to achieve a clean neighbourhood’s.

- 80 new litter bins installed to match demand
- Bin style reviewed to include a bin hood
- New lay-by bins in place at 18 sites across the borough
- Weed ripper, hedge cutters, back pack blower and town centre barrows all purchased to assist with environmental improvements.

3.7 **Enforcement** – we will use enforcement to change the behaviour of the minority of people who fail to take personal responsibility to keep Hinckley and Bosworth clean, tidy and litter free.

- 44 Fixed Penalty Notices issued during 2013/14, 20 to date this financial year. (13 littering, 5 dog fouling, 3 fly tipping)
- This year we have trained and authorised 1 new officer and 3 parish council staff to issue fixed penalty notices
- Dog fouling prosecution pending. If successful, publicity will be maximised.
- All fly tips which contain evidence are being fully investigated, if evidence relates to a name and address, this person / persons is invited in for an interview under caution
- The new CCTV equipment and new CCTV signage purchased (to comply with legislative changes). The CCTV is mainly used at hot spot fly tipping locations. Signage is deployed at all known hot spots.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [SJE]

4.1 The strategy is being delivered within existing budgets and so there are no financial implications arising directly as a result of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [EH]

S89 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA) places a duty on local authorities to keep highways, as far as is practicable, free from litter and refuse. The

Clean Neighbourhood Strategy and this update demonstrates the steps being taken and the approach of the Council to comply with this duty.

All legal implications with regards to the individual actions, outlined within the body of the report will be considered on a case by case basis by officers.

6. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Clean Neighbourhoods are identified as a corporate priority, contributing to the aim of creating a vibrant place to live and work..

7. CONSULTATION

None since the adoption of the strategy. However, prior to the adoption and to inform the development of this strategy we conducted a citizen’s panel survey, and held four focus groups. We also invited comments on the strategy from:

- Parish councils
- Parish Forum
- Residents who attended the focus groups
- VCS Hub
- Community groups who join in litter picks
- Schools we have worked with recently
- Project Endeavour partners
- Officers and staff involved in contributing to Clean Neighbourhoods.
- Wider consultation through website, and press release to local media.

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

8.1 It is the Council’s policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

8.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time, and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer’s opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

8.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Increased environmental nuisance resulting in limited focus on preventative elements of the strategy	Where possible resolve each service request to prevent a further recurrence Ensure staff focus on all of the 5 E’s to ensure prevention of nuisance in the longer term	Lisa Kirby

9. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

This strategy delivers clean neighbourhoods across the Borough. The needs of residents in different communities have been captured and incorporated through the focus groups. We have also focused our three environmental campaigns on Litter, Dog Fouling and Fly Tipping due to the numbers of incidents and reports we receive from our residents.

10. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications
 - Environmental implications
 - ICT implications
 - Asset Management implications
 - Human Resources implications
 - Planning Implications
 - Voluntary Sector
-

Contact Officer: Lisa Kirby x 5971 & Caroline Roffey x5782
Executive Member: Cllr Bill Crooks

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COUNCIL – 4 NOVEMBER 2014

INTRODUCTION OF CHARGES FOR GREEN WASTE COLLECTION
REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (COMMUNITY DIRECTION)



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise Council of a reduction in funding from Leicestershire County Council for recycling credits for green waste collections from 2015/16 (and the real possibility of further reductions in dry waste recycling credits from 2018/19).
- 1.2 To explain the potential for the introduction of a charge for green waste collections.
- 1.3 To seek agreement to consult stakeholders on a proposal to introduce a charge for green waste collections from 2015/16.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That Council agree to a consultation on the introduction of charges for green waste collections, from 2015/16 as outlined in this report.

3. **BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

- Changes in Leicestershire County Council Funding
- 3.1 Since 2006 Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council has received recycling credits from Leicestershire County Council. These credits are a mechanism under section 52 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA 1990) by which waste disposal authorities (Leicestershire County Council) can provide incentives to waste collection authorities (Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council) to implement effective collect recycling arrangements, thus reducing landfill and saving Leicestershire County Council incurring disposal costs and landfill tax charges. The rate payable for 2014/15 is £49.97 per tonne.
- 3.2 Leicestershire County Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (February 2014) identifies the need to make a saving from "Revised Payment Mechanism for Recycling Credits" and details the following budget reductions from current expenditure levels:
 - 2015/2016 - £1,480,000
 - 2016/2017 - £1,665,000
 - 2017/2018 - £1,850,000
- 3.3 Leicestershire County Council have advised they intend to cease payment of recycling credits for green waste from 31 March 2015. They are able to do this if they direct Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council to use a green waste treatment site. In doing so Leicestershire County Council will then be responsible for the waste treatment costs.
- 3.4 Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council collected 10,988 tonnes of green waste during 2013/14. The net impact of this reduction in funding from Leicestershire County Council would be reduction £345,792 per year (based upon 2013/14 tonnages). This is credit income of £549,070 being offset by gates fees of £203,278 that will no longer be charged for.
- 3.5 Leicestershire County Council have also indicated that in the future they may also reduce the recycling credits payable for dry recycling . If these were totally removed

then the potential additional annual funding loss is estimated at £484,109 (based on 2013/2014 tonnages). Therefore the total impact on this Council's budget would be around £830,000.

Introduction of charges

- 3.6 Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council can make a charge to residents for the collection of green waste. A charge is already made by Blaby District Council, Charnwood Borough Council and Melton Borough Councils in Leicestershire. It is likely that other districts in Leicestershire will also consider introducing a charge to offset the loss of funding from Leicestershire County Council. The deputy leader of the County Council has stated that districts need to consider charging for the collection of green waste.
- 3.7 Charges and participation rates from other councils in Leicestershire are included in appendix 1. Melton Borough Council was the most recent to introduce a charge. The reduction in recycling was not significant as the residents who do not pay for the service now take their garden waste direct into the household waste and recycling centres.
- 3.8 To offset the reduction in funding by Leicestershire County Council, Officers have considered a number of options and suggest the following change to this service from 1st June 2015, subject to appropriate consultation (see Legal Implications below).
- introduction of a £30 per year charge for green waste collection (1 wheelie bin x 23 collections per year – no collections from early December to mid January)
 - £20 charge for a second bin
 - No reductions for part year (payment is for 1st April – 31st March)
 - No discounts available to minimise costs
- 3.9 The consultation will ask residents if they want the service to stop, or if they want the service to continue with a charge for those who choose to continue to use the service.
- 3.10 Should the charge not be introduced then the budgets for other discretionary services from 2015/16, and onwards, may need to be reduced to make up this funding shortfall.
- 3.11 Scenarios for the number of properties paying for the service are given within the financial implications.
- 3.12 The introduction of this change would require an upgrade to the current payment systems. These have already been planned and budgeted for within the Councils Channel Shift Project.
- 3.13 Wheelie bins no longer required would be collected from residents during Autumn 2015.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [KP]

- 4.1 The recommendations in this report relate to the approval of a consultation exercise to consider implementation of green waste charging. The cost of this exercise will be met from existing budgets.
- 4.2 The remainder of the financial implications provide details of the potential financial impact of any decision to implement charging following the proposed consultation and any future decisions. Any decision to implement charging should be taken in the context of the wider financial pressures outlined in the Budget Strategy for 2015/2016

and the potential need to reduce discretionary services to fill this gap should charging not be introduced.

- 4.3 If charging was approved, and in order to meet the gap created by the reduction in funding of recycling credits, a charge of £30 for the first bin and £20 for subsequent bins is proposed. A recent benchmarking report produced by the Internal Audit, outlined that this charge is consistent with those other East Midlands Councils currently levying a similar charge.
- 4.4 The following table summarises the income and expenditure associated with this suggested charge. The “associated expenditure” reflects the cost of administering the charge (e.g. printing, finance and other support services). It should also be noted these figures are showing a full year impact of the charge. Given timescales it is not envisaged that this will be achieved in 2015/2016 (probably implementation is likely for summer 2015). The upfront one-off costs associated with implementing the scheme in year 1 are estimated at £100,000.

	30% Take-Up	40% Take-Up	50% Take-Up
	£	£	£
Income	(427,500)	(570,000)	(712,500)
Additional associated expenditure	143,117	147,179	151,242
Overall Position (surplus)	(284,383)	(422,821)	(561,258)
Reduction in LCC funding	345,792	345,792	345,792
Net budget impact (income)/cost	61,409	(77,029)	(215,466)

- 4.5 Due to the fixed nature of the expenditure cost and the variability of income volumes, the percentage uptake is critical to the success of proposal. Once demand for the service is determined it will be possible to reduce the number of collection crews and make further reductions in the cost of operating the service.
- 4.6 Should a decision be made to consider charging, a further report detailing all financial implications will be produced.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [EH]

- 5.1 A council may make a charge for the collection of green or garden waste under Section 4 of the First Schedule of the Controlled Waste (England and Wales) regulations 2012.
- 5.2 As a Best Value authority the council is under a general Duty of Best Value to “make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.” The government guidance issued on this goes on to state:

“Under the Duty of Best Value, therefore, authorities should consider overall value, including economic, environmental and social value, when reviewing service provision...”

To achieve the right balance – and before deciding how to fulfil their Best Value Duty – authorities are under a Duty to Consult representatives of a wide range of local persons; this is not optional..”

- 5.3 Under the duty to consult we are required to conduct consultation with:

- (a) Representatives of persons liable to pay any tax, precept or levy to or in respect of the authority,
- (b) Representatives of persons liable to pay non-domestic rates in respect of any area within which the authority carries out functions,
- (c) Representatives of persons who use or are likely to use services provided by the authority, and
- (d) Representatives of persons appearing to the authority to have an interest in any area within which the authority carries out functions

This will need to be undertaken, and the responses considered, prior to any decision being implemented.

- 5.4 Best practice taken from other authorities who have implemented this shows a consultation undertaken on the imposition of charges (often with other “options” to be ranked) for members of the public to comment on.
- 5.5 Failure to comply with this duty would leave any decision open to challenge.

6. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Green waste collections contribute to the corporate plan aim of reducing our impact on the environment. A reduced take up of the service will inevitably reduce the Councils recycling rate, and therefore the Council may not meet the target of 50% recycling by 2017 set within the Leicestershire Waste Strategy (Hinckley and Bosworth’s current recycling rate is 56%). However the introduction of a charge at Melton Borough Council did not result in a significant reduction in the recycling rate as residents continued to recycle through the Household waste and Recycling sites.
- 6.2 Introducing a charge will enable the Council to continue to deliver this service without the need to make savings in other areas.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Leicestershire County Council has suggested District Councils consider introducing a charge to offset the reduction in Leicestershire County Council funding.
- 7.2 39% of respondents to the citizen panel survey January 2010 indicated they would use a chargeable green waste service (a £10 charge was given).
- 7.3 Respondents to the summer 2012 residents survey placed a chargeable green waste service within the bottom 2 priorities (a £15 charge was given).

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 It is the Council’s policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.
- 8.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer’s opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.
- 8.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Impact on customers – introduction of a charge	Apply a charge which is reasonable and in line with other councils. Ensure alternatives to this service are promoted to residents.	Caroline Roffey
Adverse impact on reputation of the Council	Communications strategy to ensure reasonableness of charge is communicated and the impact on other council services of not introducing this charge.	Caroline Roffey
Capital and revenue: Low participation means income does not cover cost of service.	Seek to reduce costs a every opportunity. Review service after first year of operation.	Darren Moore
Impact on environment: reduction in recycling rate	Promote alternative methods of recycling to residents to reduce amount of green waste which ends up in the black bin.	Darren Moore

8.4 The following opportunities have been identified:

Opportunity description	Positive actions to increase likelihood / impact
Additional income resulting from a higher than anticipated participation	Strong promotion of the service Affordable charge in line with other Leicestershire Councils Easy payment methods
Reduction in future costs of the service	Reduction in service demand means no additional green waste rounds will be needed. IT will be possible to reduce the number of rounds by 1 once the new service is embedded.

9. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 A flat charge is recommended to ensure residents all have equal access to the service despite their geographical location.

9.2 Discounts are not available for those in receipt of benefits due to the additional costs which will be incurred validating eligibility for discounts, and processing different payments.

9.3 Those who do not pay for the service will be able to continue to recycle their green waste in the following ways:-

- Home composting
- Using a mulch mower to grass cycle (grass cuttings are chopped very finely by the mower and then pushed down into the lawn preventing the need for their collection and removal)
- Taking green waste to the Household waste and recycling sites (Barwell and Whetstone are the nearest for our residents)

10. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications
- Environmental implications (reduced recycling performance)

- ICT implications (payment system upgrade – channel shift project)
- Asset Management implications
- Human Resources implications (addition staff to assist with payments / customer service built into costs)
- Planning Implications
- Voluntary Sector

Background papers: None

Contact Officer: Caroline Roffey x5782

Executive Member: Councillor Bill Crooks

**Appendix 1:
Charges for green waste collection**

Local Authority	Charge 2014/15	% of properties using the service	Comment
Blaby District Council	£27	52%	Lower charge of £18 available for 140l bin.
Melton Borough Council	£47	34%	Charge introduced 2 years ago. Service administered by contractor.
Charnwood Borough Council	£26	41%	Discounted rate of £17 for direct debits.
Leicester City Council	£30	3%	Service in first year of operation (not offered in any form previously)
Gedling District Council	£34	28%	21 collections pa (Nottinghamshire)
Rushcliffe District Council	£30	70%+	Income over £950,000. Expanding into adjacent local authority areas. (Nottinghamshire)