

## **GARDEN WASTE KERBSIDE RECYCLING SERVICE**

### **BUDGET SAVING £1M**

The garden waste service is currently provided to 112,000 households who currently receive a free fortnightly collection. Around 21,000 tonnes of garden waste are currently recycled, contributing 15% of Wirral's overall 40% recycling performance. The Council propose to introduce an opt-in charge for the service of £35 per year, in order to fully recover the collection costs.

### **RATIONALE FOR SAVINGS**

This service is not a universal service but is funded by all tax payers of Wirral.

The Council has a right to charge for the collection of separately collected garden waste under The Controlled Waste Regulations, 1990 (Amended 2012) Schedule 2.

Charging for the collection of garden waste is a "Priority Delivery Option" in the Joint Recycling and Waste Management Strategy for Merseyside and as such has been subject to public consultation and a sustainability appraisal. Nationally, districts that charge for garden waste produce less waste that is sent to landfill overall, indicating that charging for this service encourages waste prevention behaviour amongst residents.

### **IMPACT**

There will be a fall in Wirral's recycling performance of 3-5%, however, the impact of on the pooled Merseyside Recycling target (50% by 2020) will be less as some people will take their garden waste to the Household Waste Recycling Centres.

There will be a significant increase in customer contacts via the Streetscene Call Centre to enquire about the new service or to complain about the charge.

There may be small increase in fly tipping as a result of introducing a charge.

Anticipated savings are based on 30,000 households joining the service, with the potential of this increasing to 40,000 in the medium term.

### **MITIGATION**

Officers have requested a "financial package" to ensure the Council is fully resourced to manage the commercial element of the service.

Take-up and performance forecasts have been modelled on other local authorities who have introduced charges.

Additional funds have been identified to intensify the promotion of home composting, including expanding our successful workshops that help residents learn how to compost successfully.

Customers will be provided with “terms and conditions” of the service to ensure their customer rights are protected and the Council mitigates service delivery risks.