

INCREASE IN WASTE CHARGES

Budget Saving £80k

This option will increase the cost of the Environmental Reciprocal Improvement Carrier (ERIC) service from the current fee of £20 to £26.50 per visit to recover the cost of the service.

This option will review the existing policy for replacement bins and increase the existing charge for replacement wheelie bins, tighten up on number of free wheeled bins being distributed to residents and also ensure costs are recovered from bin warranties.

RATIONALE FOR SAVINGS

The Council has a statutory duty to provide all services discussed within this option under Section 45 of the Environment Protection Act (Part 2) 1990. However, the Council may levy a reasonable charge for the collection element of this waste to recover its costs.

So far in 2012/13, Wirral Council has seen a drop in calls from the equivalent months in the previous year of around 13% for the ERIC service. Similar decreases have also been reported by other Merseyside authorities (even those that offer a free service). The low number of fly-tipped "white goods" items reported through Streetscene compared to other waste streams also supports the view that the borough is being trawled for these items as they currently have a net value within the waste industry.

Net income can expect to increase by £30k pa from an increase to the ERIC service.

An estimate of increased net income of £50k pa as a result of the Bin Charging Policy Review.

IMPACT

There may be an increase in complaints from customers and an increase in fly tipping.

If there is a fall in demand for the services then income targets will not be met.

Residents unable to afford a new bin; this could lead to contamination of other bins and fly tipping.

MITIGATION

The service will still run but with changes to the conditions of those entitled to a free replacement wheelie bin.

Instances of fly tipping and abandoned bins will need to be monitored.