

## Appendix B

### Somerset West and Taunton - Fees and Charges 2019/20

#### Waste Services – Somerset Waste Partnership

This paper relates to the optional elements of the waste service provided by Somerset West and Taunton through the Somerset Waste Partnership.

Traditionally all partners try and set their fees in a universal fashion, the Senior Management Group of Somerset Waste Partnership and the Partnership Board have considered the cost increases proposed and believe that this still represents a good value for money service for those that chose to use it. Customers continue to have a choice over who supplies these waste removal services as there is no requirement on them to purchase this from SWP.

The increases proposed are based on the inflationary rate set within the collection contract with Kier, for 2019/20 this is expected to be an average of 3.7% for the overall contract with some collection services having slightly higher or lower increases.

Extra consideration was given to those customers who cannot store a green bin, they are already paying more by volume for the waste due to the price and capacity of the bags. Customers that use bags are also disadvantaged due to the taxation rules.

#### Legal Authority

- These are discretionary services leaving customers with choice.
- The charge for this service is set locally by each of the partners.
- There is no requirement for this to be a 'cost recovery only' and a 'reasonable charge can be made' however the proposal continues to have an element of subsidy in the admin and bin costs.

#### Charges

- Green waste bins and bulky items are classified as non-business for VAT purposes and as such no vat is payable on these services. The green waste sacks are standard rated (currently 20%) which is included in the price shown below.
- Asbestos collection charges cover a maximum of 16 full sheets or 1 tonne of material.

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- The table below is consistent with the other Somerset districts proposed pricing.

	Current £ (2018/19)	Proposed £ (2019/20)
Green Waste Bins	55.40	56.90
Green Waste Sacks x10	27.40	28.40
3 x bulky items	43.00	44.50
Subsequent items	11.90	12.30
Black bin replacements	25.80	26.70
Asbestos collections	235.10	243.60

### Discounts

There are no discounts provided through this service but there remains a subsidy to the public for the elements of administration and provision of bins (for green waste only).

### Budget Impacts

Any price increase has the potential to have an effect on the number of users of the service, however this is an area that has been expanding in its user numbers over the years. Increased customer numbers coupled with a cost neutral pricing strategy have meant that the subsidy provided by the council is relatively small.

It is not considered good practice to charge for the green waste bin as this may detract new or existing users, this waste would then likely find its way into the residual waste stream increasing the overall costs of the collection contract.

The price increases will allow for the service to continue on cost neutral basis in terms of the contract price paid to Kier, there remains a service subsidy in the bin costs, administration and postage associated with the respective services.

The proposed increase will not alter the net position on waste services as the increased charges are matched by the increasing costs of provision.

### Equality Impact Assessment

Please see attached Equality Impact Assessment form.

### Recommendation

Scrutiny is invited to make comments upon the proposed fees and charges for inclusion in the report to Executive.

**END**

**Chris Hall**  
**Localities Manager**