



# Standardising the Cost of Waste Collections from Places of Worship

<b>Report No:</b>	<b>CAB/WS/19/010</b>	
<b>Report to and date:</b>	<b>Portfolio Holder for Operations for a decision</b>	25 June 2019
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Peter Stevens <b>Tel:</b> 01787 280284 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:Peter.Stevens@westsuffolk.gov.uk">Peter.Stevens@westsuffolk.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Lead officer:</b>	Mark Walsh Assistant Director (Operations) <b>Tel:</b> 01284 757300 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:Mark.Walsh@westsuffolk.gov.uk">Mark.Walsh@westsuffolk.gov.uk</a>	

**Decisions Plan:** A Notice of Intention containing the purpose and background to the decision expected to be made by the Portfolio Holder for Operations will be published on 17 June 2019.

**Wards impacted:** All wards

**Recommendation:** **It is recommended that West Suffolk Council adopts a consistent charging regime for places of worship, as set out in section 2 of Report No: CAB/WS/19/010.**

## **1. Background / Context**

- 1.1 Places of worship are defined as creating household waste under the Controlled Waste Regulations 2012 and as such are entitled to the same collections as households where required, incorporating a fortnightly collection of residual and recyclable waste in a 240L wheeled bin. For some places of worship this capacity is not enough so they have also arranged additional collections or larger capacity bins for which they are charged.
- 1.2 There are currently 188 places of worship in West Suffolk, 122 of which are receiving waste collections from West Suffolk Council.
- 1.3 Only nine places of worship have current service contracts with West Suffolk Council for additional capacity and collections. The remaining 113 places of worship have collections within the above criteria and therefore do not currently pay anything towards them.
- 1.4 An inconsistent approach has developed across West Suffolk over time. Some places of worship decided to have two 240L residual collections, others decided to have alternate weekly collections of residual and recycling, whilst others were provided with the service on request. 62 places of worship also receive garden waste collections, which are all currently provided free of charge.
- 1.5 Currently if a place of worship requests a waste collection from West Suffolk Council in addition to the household collections, the lower trade waste charge will apply for the additional collections.

## **2. Proposals**

- 2.1 West Suffolk Council provides waste collection services to a wide variety of customers, and as part of this, the Council promotes the waste hierarchy to minimise waste and promote recycling. Places of worship are included in these principles and whilst their waste is classified as household waste, it can be generated through a variety of sources. As such to support the above principles it is important that:
  - Green waste is placed in the brown bin or composted on-site and not placed in the black bin;
  - Any waste resulting from work by a contractor is removed by the contractor or is subject to a separate charge; and
  - Waste generated from commercial activity rather than place of worship activity is classed as commercial waste and is charged for.
- 2.2 To offer consistency in service charging across west Suffolk, the following charging regime for places of worship customers is proposed:
  - Places of worship are eligible, where appropriate, to receive the household waste collections free of charge. This is the collection of waste associated with POW activity and not for any commercial activity;

- Places of worship are to be charged for garden waste collections from April 2020 onwards; and
- Places of worship are to be charged for additional collections from April 2020, at the prevailing lower trade waste rate.

- 2.3 All premises receiving additional capacity collections should be put on notice of having additional charges applied prior to the new financial year 2020/21. Arrangements for changing capacity and collection frequency to reduce costs to places of worship will be explained and advice given on a case by case basis. This is to ensure that no unnecessary cost burden is placed on places of worship.
- 2.4 To bring collections from places of worship in line with other household waste collections, the same charge for each garden waste bin should be applied (£43 in 2019/20). Notice of the charge should be made as soon as possible and applied at the next subscription year (2020/21).
- 2.5 Of the nine places of worship currently signed up to receive additional collections, seven could realise savings based on the above proposal.

### **3. Alternative Options**

- 3.1 West Suffolk Council could continue to provide collections as per the current practice, however there is a disparity in service provision that the places of worship receive.
- 3.2 Should any place of worship not agree to West Suffolk Council's schedule of rates, they are able to go to the private sector for their waste collections. In practice, due to the reduced rates able to be offered by the Council, it is highly unlikely that they will find a cheaper alternative.

### **4. Risks and implications arising from the proposal**

#### **4.1 Financial**

- 4.1.1 The additional cost for the places of worship range from £43-£450 per annum per customer. This cost includes garden waste collections and is shared between 76 individual premises.
- 4.1.2 In total there are 25 places of worship who currently receive a garden waste collection but do not have a residual or recycling collection. They are entitled to request an alternate weekly collection of residual waste and recycling at no cost, placing more demand on our operational service. However, as set out in the principles above, it will not be possible for a brown bin to be exchanged with a black bin.

#### **4.2 Legal Compliance**

- 4.2.1 West Suffolk Council has a statutory duty to provide alternate weekly collections of residual waste and recycling, if requested, from places of worship.

4.3 Environmental

4.3.1 The risk of places of worship not disposing of their waste correctly is low.

4.3.2 Places of worship with small amounts of garden waste may wish to compost onsite rather than pay for collections. There are subsidies available for home composting units. As with householders, places of worship would be encouraged to not dispose of garden waste within their residual waste collections.

**5. Appendices**

5.1 **Appendix 1** – Summary of changes to collections.