

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 7
13 JANUARY 2015	Public Report

Report of the Executive Director of Resources

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BROWN BINS REVIEW

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update the committee on the 2014-15 charged garden waste service.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The committee note the contents of the report and provide any feedback they have on the service.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 Charging for garden waste collections enables the council to continue offering the service in a time when the council is under acute financial pressure. Therefore it contributes towards creating the UK's environment capital along with national indicators NI192 (Household waste recycled and composted) and NI193 (Municipal waste land filled).

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Full Council agreed as part of its budget deliberations in March 2014 to make the collection of garden waste a chargeable service. The service which was always discretionary became an opt-in, paid-for service from 27th May 2014.

It was possible to sign up for the service from 1st April. The annual fee for the service was £39. This was for an all year service, with monthly collections in the months of December and January.

A discounted fee of £36 was available until 20th May, as there was the option to pay by direct debit, to encourage early subscription.

Additional bins were available to purchase for £20.

Payment has been accepted on-line, by cash or cheque, and the facility to pay by direct debit was made available on a time-limited basis to help those residents wishing to pay in instalments.

A Peterborough specific offer for home composters has also been available, home composters delivered to your home for £14.99 as an alternative way of disposing of garden waste.

A further offer of a free bag of compost was available for collection from the Household Recycling Centre (HRC) this was made available to the first 1,000 residents who subscribed to the service.

Sign up for the 2014 -15 service closed on the 30th November 2014.

5. KEY ISSUES

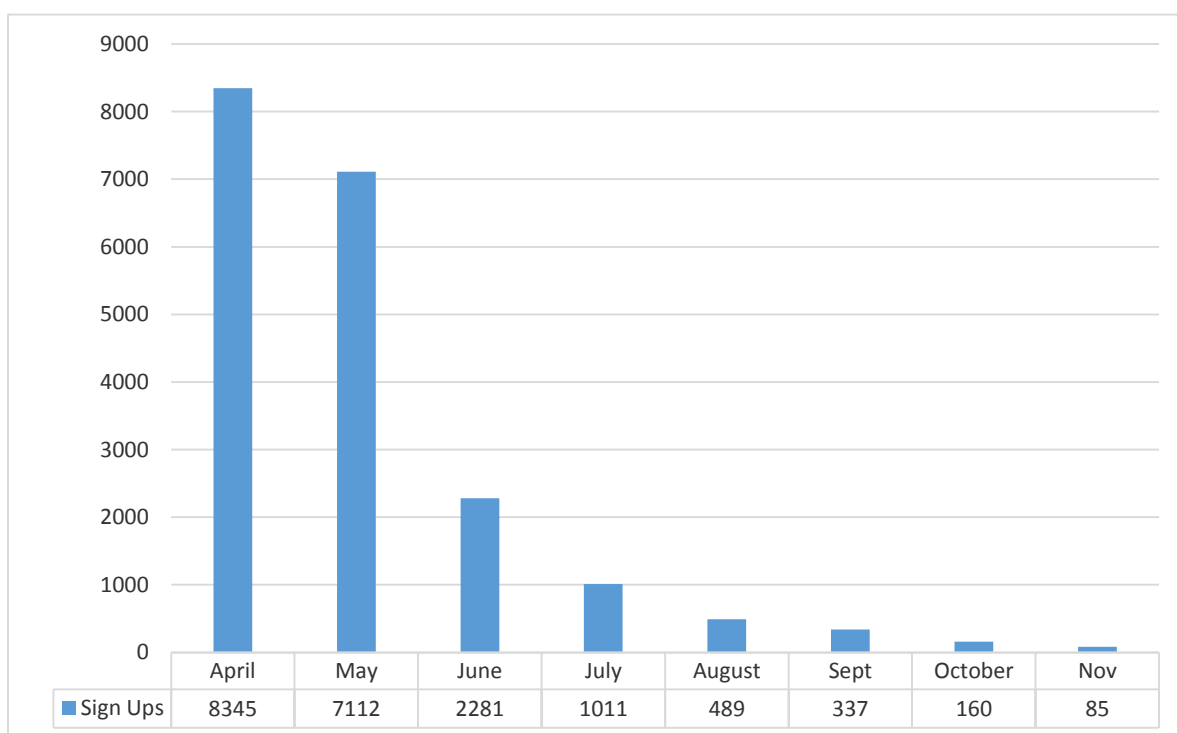
5.1 PARTICIPATION

As of the end of November 2014 there were:-

- 19,821 households signed up for the service;
- 1,398 requests for second bins to be provided

Before introduction of the paid garden waste collection service, 80% of households (around 63,000 properties) had access to a fortnightly collection of which 250 had a second brown bin collection. This equates to a possible maximum 62,750 brown bin “lifts” each fortnight. As at the end of 30 November 2014, 19,821 properties had subscribed to the service and 1650 of these (i.e. 250 existing + 1,398 new second bins) which equates to 21,469 brown bin “lifts” each fortnight. This represents a take up of the paid garden waste collection service of 34.21%, if we assume all eligible households participated in the previous scheme.

The graph below illustrates the trend of sign-ups to the service since 1st April 2014.



5.1.2 The following table shows how people have chosen to pay – debit / credit card, cash /cheque and by direct debit.

Debit / Credit Card	16003
Direct Debit	3141
Cash Office	677

5.1.3 The table below of the total sign up by round and area up to the end of November 2014.

Round	Areas	Numbers
Tues Blue	Werrington, Newborough, Peakirk, Glinton, Northborough, Maxey, Elton, Helpston	3704
Wed Blue	Millfield, New England, Central, Old Fletton	1274
Thu Blue	Dogsthorpe, Welland, Parnwell, Eastfield, Eastgate	2216
Fri Blue	Walton, Gunthorpe, Paston, Eye, Thorney	2472
Tue Red	Bretton, Bainton, Barnack, Ashton, Ufford, Southorpe, Sutton, Upton, Wansford, Thornhaugh, Wittering, Wothorpe	2436
Wed Red	Longthorpe, Ravensthorpe, Westwood, West Town, New Fletton, Woodston	2679
Thu Red	Ortons	2825
Fri Red	Hamptons, Stanground	2215
TOTAL		19821

5.2 The number of free bags of compost that were collected from the Household Recycling Centre by residents as of the end of November 2014 were 334.

The number of home composters purchased by residents as of the end of November 2014 were 568 (only 14 composters were sold the month prior to the reduced composters being introduced).

5.3 IMPACT ON WASTE ARISING AND FLY TIPPING

5.3.1 WASTE ARISING

The table below compares food waste, dry recycling, garden waste (kerbside and household recycling centre) and black bin waste for June – Oct 2013-14 against the same months in 2014-15 (June 2014 being the first full month of the charged garden waste collection).

It should be noted that at present there is only five months' worth of data and further analysis will be required when more information is available.

	Food			Recycling			Combined Garden Waste			Black Bin Landfill		
	2013-14	2014-15	Difference	2013-14	2014-15	Difference	2013-14	2014-15	Difference	2013-14	2014-15	Difference
June	375.5	288.14	-87.36	1075.04	1257	181.96	1780.04	1482.2	-297.84	2494.86	3035.87	541.01
July	361.6	315.8	-45.8	1404.4	1431.34	26.94	1766.64	1332.46	-434.18	2893.82	3473.99	580.17
August	393.6	299.84	-93.76	1279.08	1311.79	32.71	1879.18	1163.82	-715.36	2821.74	3165.32	343.58
Sept	352.4	275.22	-77.18	1217.78	1278.26	60.48	1578.18	1472.1	-106.08	2553.7	3068	514.3
Oct	371	331.84	-39.16	1463.7	1412.84	-50.86	1666.4	1154.94	-511.46	2960.22	3379.54	419.32
Total	1854.1	1510.84	-343.26	6440	6691.23	251.23	8670.44	6605.52	-2064.92	13724.3	16122.7	2398.38

The total of the four waste streams above combined in 2013 -14 was 30688.9 tonnes compared to 30930.3 tonnes in 2014-15 which is a difference of plus 241.43 tonnes.

Anecdotally it is understood that Cambridgeshire County Council have seen a 2 – 6% increase in waste from its constituent District Council's over the last year, this is across mixed garden and food combined and landfill waste.

The above table demonstrates that we have seen an increase in both residual waste (black bins) and recycling (green bins) during the period. This is partly due to the increase in population as well as the gradual improvement in peoples feeling of wellbeing with the improving economic conditions.

It also shows a drop in the Food Waste (Hungry Harry) service with an extra 343 tonnes of food going in the black bin that could have been diverted from landfill in the grey food caddies. This taken with the increase above would equate to around 480 tonnes of additional material in the black bin during this period.

Accepting that we would have seen this increase regardless of the implementation of the chargeable Garden Waste scheme then we can deduce that for the period of this report an additional 1,575 tonnes of garden waste have gone into the black bins. This has resulted in an extra £118,000 in treatment costs for the period.

Composition Analysis.

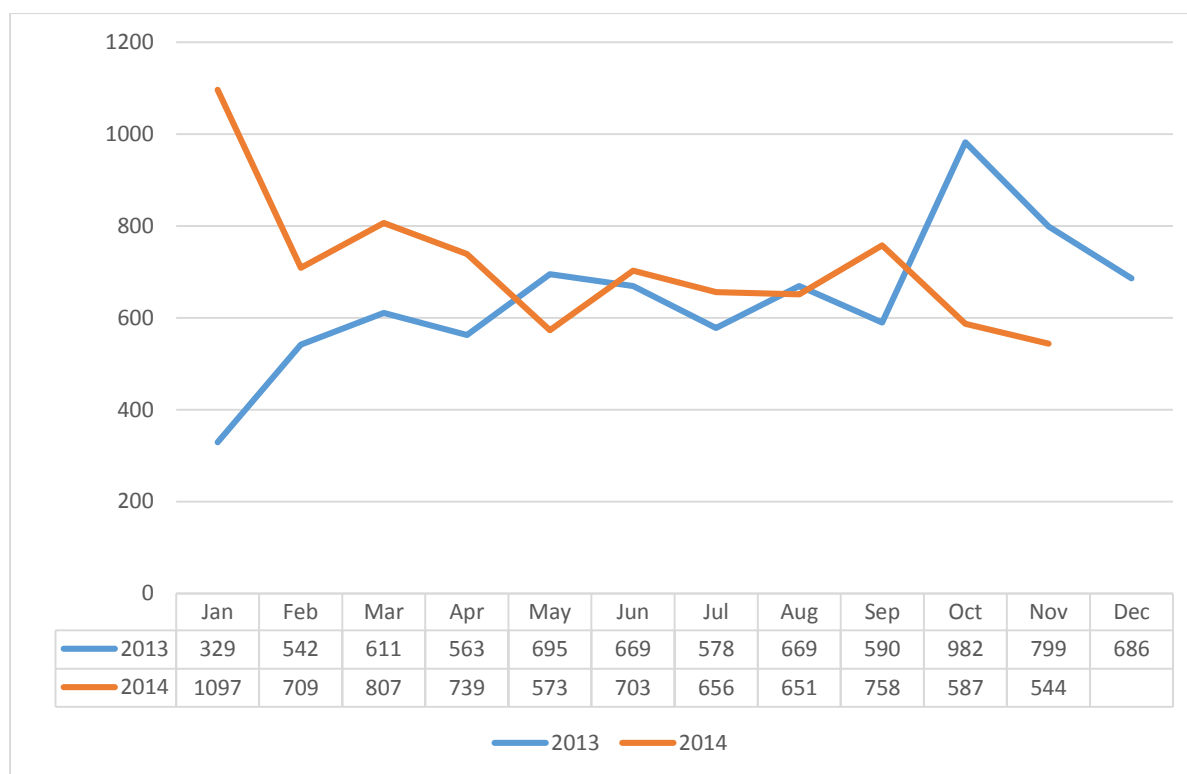
The Council recently commissioned an analysis by specialists on the composition of waste and recycling presented by a representative sample of 240 homes across a two weekly collection cycle. It should be noted that although representative of waste presented it is, by definition, a snapshot view of waste presented.

The headline findings of this study are as follows:

- Over 60% of the waste presented in the black bin could be removed and placed into containers already in use to collect recyclable and compostable wastes in Peterborough.
- Kitchen organic waste makes up 28.3% of the contents of the average black bin collected in Peterborough
- Garden organic wastes make up 17.3% of the contents of the average black bin collected in Peterborough
- If the Council and its partners Amey were able to improve the success of both the food waste scheme and the garden waste scheme so that half of the garden and food waste being put in the black bin were diverted then around £470,000 could be saved from the treatment budget.

5.3.2 FLY TIPPING

The table below provides a comparison of levels of fly tipping in 2013-14 compared to 2014-15



As can be seen above there has not been a major impact so far on the level of fly tipping since the introduction of the charged garden waste collection.

5.4 FINANCIAL IMPACT

5.4.1 As can be seen in the February 2014 Medium Term Financial Strategy the aim of removing the free garden waste scheme was to save £804,000, as such this amount was removed from the authority budget for 2014 /15 and the full saving has been realised.

5.4.2 Costs of Running the Scheme

Operational Costs	£521,184.87
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This covers the operational cost of the brown bin collection service.

Residual Waste impact	£150,000.00
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We recognised at the start of the scheme there would be some financial impact on the residual service as residents, disgruntled about and therefore reluctant to pay, used the black bin to dispose of relatively small quantities of garden waste. (There has always been some garden waste in the back bin).As such there was need to support the existing residual waste service due to increased tonnage, which meant on occasions extra vehicles and longer working hours have been required.

Admin Costs	£40,000.00
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This cost covers the Serco fee for operating the call Centre and Cash office function to allow residents to sign up via Cash, Cheque, Debit Card and Direct Debit.

Income from the Scheme

Income	£731,081
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Overall Financial Outcome

Net outcome	£19896.13
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5.5 Forward Look

5.5.1 It is clear that residents are still putting items in their residual waste stream (black bin) that could and should be recycled. This is backed by the composition analysis, with 60% going to landfill that could have been recycled.

5.5.2 We are currently (through phase one of the Clean and Green campaign) reminding and empowering residents of the need and how to use the correct waste streams at their disposal. We have sent out new bin hangers detailing the new recycling materials and also reminded residents of what they can recycle. There have been two road shows in the City Centre offering free food waste bags. Thought provoking posters have been displayed through the City Centre advising resident on the current costs to the authority of not doing the right thing and recycling effectively.

Phase two of the campaign will emphasise that the authority has enforcement powers at its disposal to require residents that persistently refuse to use appropriate receptacles for the right waste.

5.5.3 The analysis suggests that we need to ask the question – would it be appropriate, given the provision of the weekly food collection and fortnightly dry recycling bin, to move to prohibit the use of the black bin for organic and / or otherwise recyclable materials?

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Ward / City Wide Impacts - the implications of introducing the charge for garden waste had a city wide impact and was not limited to a particular ward. Brown bins would now only be picked up from residents who had paid the subscription charge.

Legal – the council is not obliged to collect garden waste separately, therefore there were no legal implications.

Financial – see section 5

Corporate Priorities – see section 3

Environment Capital – see section 3

Discrimination and Equality – none see Equality Impact Assessment Ref: EIA-13-0039

Other

Crime and Disorder – none

Property – none

Procurement – none

Human Resources – none

ICT – none

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 3rd February 2014 Medium Term Financial Strategy

8. NEXT STEPS

8.1 The 2014 -15 charged garden waste service will continue until the 22nd May 2015 and then the 2015-16 service will commence.

Impact on levels of waste and fly tipping will continue to be monitored.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

9.1 3rd February 2014 Medium Term Financial Strategy

Equality Impact Assessment Ref: EIA-13-0039

10. APPENDICES

None