Bath & North East Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

Equality Impact Assessment / Equality Analysis

Budget Proposals

This template has been developed for the specific purpose of analysing the equality impact of proposals that have been put forward as part of budget setting. Use this template to identify what impact or likely impact the proposal will have on people with protected characteristics.

Title of savings proposal	W12 Garden waste bin charges - 3-year profile			
Growth or Savings/Income?	Savings / Income	**FTE Reduction/Increase**	No staffing change proposed.	
Brief Description and Aim *(no more than 100 words)*	Increase the annual garden waste bin subscription from £75 in 2026/27 to £80 in 2027/28, followed by annual increases of 5%. The 3-year plan ensures coverage of collection costs only whilst generating additional income for this discretionary service. Garden waste will continue to be taken free of charge at our household recycling centres.			
Budget Reduction / Growth Value *(note year 2 value is the increase/decrease on year 1)*	**Year**	**2027/28**	**2028/29**	**2029/30**
	Value (£000)	165	50	50
Directorate/Service area and Cabinet Portfolio	Place / Waste & Fleet.			

Impacts to Service Delivery *(no more than 100 words)*	No change to collection frequency or service coverage is proposed. Subscription, payment and renewal information would be updated to reflect the revised annual charges. Some households may choose not to renew because of the increased cost. Clear, timely communications would explain the charges and alternative options, including home composting where suitable and taking household garden waste to recycling centres without a disposal charge. Subscription levels and customer feedback would be monitored.
Delivery Risk Rating (High/Medium/Low) *(Please detail reasons and actions to reduce risk)*	Low. The increase can be implemented through the existing annual subscription process. The main risk is reduced take-up, which could affect forecast income and increase demand for alternative disposal options. Our three recycling centres offer an alternative free option for garden waste generated by homes in the district. Clear communication on the changes would assist residents plan according to their needs.
Do the aims of this proposal link to any other budget proposals? *(no more than 100 words)*	No
Consider whether this proposal has any knock-on impacts to other services. If so, please provide service and detail *(no more than 100 words)*	Council Connect may receive additional enquiries about charges, renewals and alternative disposal options. Finance and Digital teams would need to update payment systems and customer information. Recycling centres could receive additional garden waste if subscriptions fall. Waste and cleansing teams should monitor any changes in waste presentation or fly-tipping reports.

Assessment of impact: 'Equality analysis'

Use the spaces below to demonstrate you have analysed how this proposal:

- Meets any needs of equality groups or helps promote equality in some way.
- Could have a negative or adverse impact for any of the equality groups - and if so, mitigating actions.
- Could have potential knock-on effects for other service areas or create problems because of cumulative impacts.

Assessment Basis. This assessment considers the proposed increase from £75 to £80 in 2027/28 and annual 5% increases thereafter. It draws on the previous garden waste charging assessment. Potential impacts and proposed mitigations should be reviewed against current subscription data, customer feedback and the wider budget proposals before sign-off. No current proposal-specific consultation findings have been supplied. Home composting and recycling centre visits are not practical alternatives for every household.

	All equality areas/characteristics	**How this proposal might advance equality**	**Potential negative or adverse impacts - and what steps can be taken to mitigate this**	**Potential knock-on impacts for other service areas/other proposals**
1	**Sex**	No specific impact identified.		
2	**Pregnancy & maternity**	No specific equality benefit identified.	Residents who cannot afford to renew may have difficulty lifting or transporting garden waste during pregnancy or following childbirth. Provide clear advice on available options and assistance at recycling centres; do not assume self-transport is suitable for everyone.	
3	**Gender reassignment**	No specific impact identified		
4	**Disability**	Retaining a kerbside service provides an option for residents who cannot readily transport garden waste.	Disabled residents may depend more on kerbside collection and have fewer practical alternatives if the subscription becomes unaffordable. Garden waste sacks as opposed to subscription bin may offer more affordable on demand use to manage costs. Home composting, travel and handling waste may present barriers. Provide accessible renewal information and advice on existing	Council Connect and recycling centres may receive additional support requests. Collection teams should provide consistent advice on existing assisted collection arrangements.

			assistance arrangements. Review affordability and access concerns raised by residents. These measures may reduce barriers but do not remove the additional cost.	
5	**Race**	No specific impact identified.	No specific differential impact from the charge itself identified. Language barriers may affect understanding of renewal information and alternatives. Use clear, plain-English communications and provide language support where needed through existing arrangements.	Council Connect may receive requests for clarification or language support.
6	**Sexual orientation**	No specific impact identified.		
7	**Marriage and civil partnership**	No specific impact identified.		
8	**Religion/belief**	No specific impact identified.		
9	**Age**	No direct equality benefit from the increase. Retaining kerbside collection provides an option for residents who cannot readily take garden waste elsewhere.	Some older residents on fixed incomes may find repeated increases harder to absorb. Mobility, transport or digital-access barriers may limit alternatives or access to renewal information. Provide clear advance notice, accessible information and support through Council Connect. Signpost alternatives without assuming all older residents can lift waste, drive or compost at home.	Additional enquiries and requests for assistance may arise through Council Connect and recycling centres.
	B&NES Local Priority			
10	**Socio-economically disadvantaged**	Home composting, where practical, and recycling centres	The £5 increase in 2027/28 and subsequent annual uplifts would add	Council Connect may receive affordability enquiries. Recycling

		provide alternatives to an annual subscription.	to household costs. Lower-income households may cancel or be unable to subscribe, particularly alongside other price increases. We would publicise charges early and explain alternatives, including garden waste sacks would could be purchase on demand throughout the year to manage costs. Recycling centre disposal has no garden waste charge, but travel costs remain. Home composting would be promoted as another alternative option where residents have suitable space.	centres may receive additional garden waste. Reduced take-up could affect forecast subscription income.
11	**Rural communities**	Retaining kerbside collection provides an alternative to transporting garden waste over longer distances to recycling centres.	Residents who stop subscribing may face longer journeys and higher travel costs to recycling centres. Limited transport and the cumulative effect of annual increases may reduce practical choices. Provide early information, promote home composting where suitable and monitor subscription changes by area. Neither alternative will be suitable for every household.	Potential additional recycling centre visits and vehicle journeys. Waste teams should monitor geographical patterns in cancellations and enquiries.
12	**Armed Forces Community**	No specific impact identified.		
13	**Care Experienced**	No specific impact identified.		

Once completed, this equality analysis template needs to be approved by your director/ their nominated senior officer.

Following this sign off, send a copy to the Equalities Team (equality@bathnes.gov.uk)

Name of officer(s) conducting equality analysis:
To be confirmed.
Signed off by: (Director or nominated senior officer)
Pending director or nominated senior officer approval.
Date:
To be entered on sign-off.
For assistance in completing this template and/or to discuss the findings please email Equality@Bathnes.gov.uk to arrange a time to do this.