

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**ENVIRONMENT
CABINET MEMBER**

ANIMAL WASTE COLLECTIONS

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1. To approve charges for the collection and disposal of animal waste.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1. The council has awarded a contract for the treatment and processing of the residual waste it currently sends to landfill. A condition of that contract is that animal faeces are not sent to the processing facility. Neither the processing facility nor our new waste transfer station has an environmental permission to receive soiled animal bedding.
- 2.2. We currently collect animal faeces and soiled bedding from commercial businesses. These include boarding kennels, catteries and animal breeders. This waste can lawfully be disposed of to landfill.
- 2.3. To lawfully continue collecting this waste from commercial customers we need to identify a solution that complies with all applicable environmental requirements and meets our full cost recovery principles for commercial activity.
- 2.4. We contacted all our commercial customers who produce animal faeces and soiled bedding to make them aware that we would no longer be able to provide them with a service when the new contract begins. Out of 38 customers all but two signed up for an extension until we start using the new waste transfer station this summer.
- 2.5. We promised to try and develop a solution aimed at continuing to offer a collection and disposal service. The proposal is a joint solution from Waste Services and Highways and Neighbourhood Services as it utilises resources from both services.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1. The recommendation is to continue to offer a collection and disposal service at the scale of charges proposed.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 The council has a statutory duty to provide a collection service upon request to a commercial premise but can cover all its costs in doing so. If the waste for collection is not similar to municipal waste or special arrangements have to be made, the council can decline to provide.
- 4.2 If the council chose not to develop a solution to offer a collection disposal service it would be acting legally.
- 4.3 Whilst the new waste transfer station and the processing facility cannot receive soiled animal bedding the council can make special arrangements to collect and dispose of the waste. It can make a reasonable charge to provide this service.
- 4.4 A service offer has been developed to provide this collection and disposal service. Collections from customers will be undertaken by Highways and Neighbourhood Services whilst setting up the arrangements and customer accounts will be handled by Waste Services.
- 4.5 The service offer fully covers all the council's costs as required by the commercial policy.
- 4.6 Feedback from one of our current commercial customers supports a view that the proposed scale of charges will prove competitive compared to the offers received from private sector providers. Our service offer benefits from access to a local landfill site and joint working between two service teams.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 **Finance** – The recommended option will fully recover all costs associated with providing the new service. The charges will incur VAT at the current rate as it is a discretionary service. The scale of charges proposed are:

Cost per collection = £25.00

Cost per 240 litre bin = £5.00

- 5.2 **Staffing** – there are no staffing impacts unless the service exceeds the current customer base. The scale of charges would generate sufficient income to cover additional staffing costs if customer numbers grew.

5.3 **Other** – the service could be offered to residents who produce excess amounts of pet waste beyond what can be accommodated in their bins.

6 OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

6.1 An IIA is not considered necessary.

7 OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

7.1 All commercial customers were written to with an explanation for the withdrawal of the service and possibility of a different service offer. A small number were kept updated by regular email exchange and via their ward councillor.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the Cabinet Member approves a continuation of the collection and disposal service to commercial customers at the scale of charges proposed in 5.1.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Letter to commercial customers regarding withdrawal of the service