

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**ENVIRONMENT AND WELLBEING  
CABINET MEMBER**

**GARDEN WASTE COMPOSTING INITIATIVES**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet Member approval to introduce a range of schemes to householders and communities on options for garden waste composting.
- 1.2 To seek Cabinet Member approval to vary the current container provision policy to take account of the new composting schemes.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Council on 26 February 2020 it was resolved that the council would introduce home and community composting schemes to create a progressive and choice based policy regarding green waste.
- 2.2 The council currently provides a high quality comprehensive waste and recycling service. Data tells us that we perform well for the amount of material we recycle and compost and we are keen to build on our success.
- 2.3 As part of our offer to residents and in response to increasing concern about climate change we believe it is appropriate to broaden the range of options for green waste so that residents and communities can choose the option that best meets their needs from both a service and environmental perspective.
- 2.4 The new schemes will enable residents to have choice and control over how they manage their garden waste. The proposed schemes are
  - Provision of free home composters
  - Community Composting

- 2.5 **Home Composting:** In order to be more sustainable we will promote a culture of home composting as the first choice for residents. It is proposed to replace the current home composter scheme with a new scheme which offers a free home composter to those residents who choose to relinquish their kerbside wheeled garden waste bin. This is in recognition that for sustainability reasons some residents will prefer to manage their waste at home, focusing their efforts on the home composting of both their garden and organic kitchen waste.
- 2.6 The current container policy allows residents to mix and match their suite of containers. Households with a larger garden can elect to upsize their garden bin to a 240L and downsize their general waste bin to a 140L in line with current policy. This is a behaviour that has been encouraged as it accords with the waste hierarchy by increasing sustainable waste management practices by the householder.
- 2.7 The new home composter scheme will operate in addition to the existing container policy to give even greater choice and control for residents. Individuals electing to participate in the free home composter scheme rather than have the standard garden waste service will be subject to a revised maximum wheeled container capacity of 380L (or 500L for a larger family) across their general waste and dry recycling provision.
- 2.8 **Community composting:** This new initiative seeks to actively promote and enable communities, organisations and businesses to do more for themselves and to deliver for local people and place. It also delivers on our commitment to make decisions that are progressive on environmental matters.
- 2.9 Community composting is designed to match the demand for compost with residents who produce green waste within communities. Initiatives can be led by a range of groups or committed individuals including allotment associations, gardening groups, town and parish councils, farmers or simply residents.
- 2.10 The council will offer information, advice and guidance to groups wishing to set up community composting schemes in order to ensure that their scheme is both successful and compliant with waste and planning rules. Financial support may also be available from the recently launched Environment Fund. Practical help will also be provided by a Waste and Recycling Officer.

### 3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Option 1: To introduce a range of new initiatives aimed at giving additional choice and control to residents in dealing with their garden waste.
- 3.2 Option 2: To maintain the status quo.

#### **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 Option 1 provides a broader range of options for residents and community groups enabling them to opt into a service that meets their specific needs and aligns with their environmental aspirations.
- 4.2 The composting initiative will provide enhanced information, advice and guidance to support individuals and communities to take control of their garden waste and manage it in a more local and sustainable way.

#### **5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)**

- 5.1 Initial capital investment in home composters is in the region of £1,375. The delivery of home composters and recovery of relinquished garden waste wheeled bins can be met from within existing resources.

#### **6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)**

- 6.1 Opportunities to raise the profile of waste prevention and recycling in accordance with the waste hierarchy will have positive environmental impacts.

#### **7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

- 7.1 As the services included within this report are in addition to existing provision a Stage one Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) was not required.

#### **8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

- 8.1 There are no known conflicts of interest to highlight.

#### **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 That the Cabinet Member approves the introduction of the following schemes:-
- Capital purchase and provision of free home composters to North Lincolnshire residents who relinquish their existing garden waste wheeled container.
  - Community Composting

- 9.2 That the Cabinet Member approves a revised maximum wheeled container capacity for residents electing to participate in the new free home composter service rather than the standard garden waste service to a maximum of 380L (or 500L for a family of 5 or more) across their general waste and dry recycling provision.
- 9.3 That the Cabinet Member authorises the Head of Waste, Fleet & Public Protection to develop the scheme rules to support the operational delivery of the revised policy.

DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: COMMERCIAL

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report - Nil**