FAQ: Replacement Bin Charges Proposal

1. What is the proposal?

The proposal is to introduce a £30 charge for replacement bins issued to properties that have already received a bin of the same type within the past five years.

2. Why is this charge being proposed?

The charge aims to contribute toward improving the street scene, reduce operational service demand, and lower the cost to the Council for administration, purchasing, and storage of replacement bins. It also has a positive impact on climate change by reducing the use of resources to produce and supply bins and reducing waste plastic from unwanted bins.

3. What is the expected impact of this change?

The impact on service users correctly using waste bins should be negligible. With correct use, wheeled bins have a lifecycle far more than 5 years. Affected service users will be able to access an appeals process.

4. How much income is expected to be generated from this change?

It is anticipated that this will raise income of £17k per annum.

5. What are the recommendations for this proposal?

Council Cabinet Members were asked to approve the introduction of a £30 charge for each replacement bin requested by properties that have had a bin in the last five years, with charging to commence by 1st April 2025.

Officers will conduct a public awareness campaign to inform residents of the new policy, alongside our usual work on increasing recycling take-up, and encouraging more responsible management of waste bins where required.

6. What are the reasons for recommending this proposal?

The introduction of a replacement bin charge is expected to generate an estimated annual income of £17,000 for the council to aid achieving a balanced budget

The charge aims to promote responsible management of waste and encourage residents to take better care of their bins.

Officers expect to reduce the costs associated with frequent replacements, ensuring that council funds are used appropriately and efficiently.

7. What alternatives were considered?

No Change-No charge for replacements: Continuing the current policy would maintain the status quo but would not address the financial strain on council resources or the impact on the street scene/operational demand of thousands of unwanted and abandoned bin requests annually.

Additional/Higher Charge for all replacement bins: A higher fee could be considered; however, a £30 charge strikes a balance between generating revenue and maintaining resident satisfaction.

Subsidised Replacement charge to some residents: Offering reduced fees for certain criteria was considered, however the administrative burden of doing so was prohibitive.

8. What is the key information regarding this proposal?

Replacement bins are currently provided free of charge, leading to excessive requests and increased costs.

The proposal impacts less than 20% of bins requested annually

An appeals process will be adopted.

The proposed charge will apply only to properties that have received a replacement bin in the last five years, ensuring fairness.

The proposal aligns with the council’s sustainability goals by encouraging residents to take greater responsibility for the use and storage of their bins.

9. What are the financial implications of this proposal?

Estimated annual income revenue from the proposed charge is projected at £17,000 based on historical data on bin replacements over the past five years.

This proposal is expected to realize front line operational savings related to bin delivery and administration.

This revenue will contribute to the council’s operational budget, alleviating some financial pressures.

10. Are the Council allowed to do charge?

The council has the authority to implement this charge. Government guidance and appropriate legislation have been considered.

12. What is the sustainability impact of this proposal?

Encouraging residents to manage their bins can lead to reduced waste and increased recycling rates.

The proposal supports the council’s broader sustainability initiatives by promoting responsible waste management.