

# **Report title: Re-introduction of Replacement Waste Bin Charge**

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 17th December 2024

Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Councillor Tricia Ayrton

Report of: Martin Taylor

Public or private: Private

Key Decision: Yes, is likely to lead to significant expenditure or savings within a service area, or one that is likely to have a significant impact on the life of a community within the Borough.

Published on the Forward Plan: Y

## **1. Report summary**

## The Council is required to set a balanced budget each financial year, due to pressures in Adults Social Care, Children’s and Housing Services efficiencies have been required from across the Council.

## 1.2 This report details the proposal of the introduction of a £30 charge for replacement bins issued to properties that have already received a bin within the past five years. This initiative aims to recover the cost of replacement bins, supporting the budget, whilst encouraging responsible bin usage and reducing waste.

## **2. Recommendations**

2.1 Members are asked to approve the introduction 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.

2.2 Conduct a public awareness campaign to inform residents of the new policy to, increase recycling take-up and encourage more responsible waste receptacle ownership where required.

## **3. Reason for recommendation**

3.1 The introduction of a replacement bin charge is expected to: Generate an estimated annual income of £17,000 for the council.

3.2 This policy change is intended to promote responsible management of waste and encourage residents to take better care of their bins.

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

## **4. Alternatives considered**

4.1 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 in terms of capital and revenue requirement. Maintaining the zero charge removes the ability for the council to manage and promote residents to look after their bins. In 2023/24 we received 16,324 requests, and between April-September 2024/25, we have received 6,099 requests for a new bin.

4.2 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 by aligning the charge with other GM authorities.

4.3 Subsidised Replacement charge to some residents: Offering reduced fees for low-income households was discussed, but the administrative burden and potential revenue loss were deemed too high, and the council would see little to no financial benefit or change in behaviours. E.g. contaminated abandoned bins.

## **5. Key information**

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

5.2 January 2020 consultation informs officers that residents want to *‘focus on those who 'abuse the replacement bin system'*. Charging for supply and delivery is a reasonable and proportionate step to doing so.

5.3 The proposed policy remains generous in that based on data, less than 20% of bins would be in scope for the charge, the criteria of the policy also is generous, including an appeals process.

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

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

5.6 Charging for the supply and delivery of bins in some way is normal accepted practice within England, Rochdale are the only LA in GMCA that does not charge for replacing a bin.

## **6. Finance**

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

6.2 This policy is the key enabler in delivering on part of the services future contribution to the wider transformation programme. Not only will £17k additional income be generated in future years as part of the aligned transformation work it is expected to realise front line operational savings (which relate to bin delivery and administration). This amount (£60k) has already been committed to the corporate transformation savings target.

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

6.4 This will also reduce our on-going future capital requirements within the service. Amount TBC, and after year 1 amount removed from the annual ongoing replacement Bin Capital Programme.

6.5 **Table 1**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Efficiencies 2025/26****£m** | **Efficiencies****2026/27 £m** | **Efficiencies 2027/28** **£m** |
| Employees |  |  |  |
| Other Costs |  |  |  |
| Income lost |  |  |  |
| **Net Efficiencies** |  |  |  |
| Additional income generated  | 0.017 | 0.017 | 0.017 |
| **Total Efficiencies** | **0.017** | **0.017** | **0.017** |
| Implementation costs |  |  |  |
| **Total savings less implementation costs**  | **0.017** | **0.017** | **0.017** |

## **7. Legal**

7.1 The council has the authority to implement this charge.

7.2 Legal implications related to resident responses and potential appeals will be monitored and addressed as necessary, every case will be treated on its own merit and we will ensure we provide a fair access to service.

## **8. Human resource**

8.1 Additional training may be required for staff to handle inquiries and implement the added charge effectively.

8.2 The administrative workload will be evaluated to ensure that resources are allocated appropriately without disrupting current operations.

## **9. Sustainability impact**

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

9.2 We anticipate less abandoned bins and cleaner streets.

9.3 The policy supports the council’s broader sustainability initiatives by promoting responsible waste management

## **10. Other considerations (corporate priorities, risks)**

10.1 A communication strategy will be essential to ensure transparency and understanding among residents regarding the added charge.

10.2 Feedback mechanisms should be established to gauge community response and adjust where necessary.

10.3 A robust appeals process to be considered and agreed before implementation.

Background Papers: Karl Bircher
Contact: Karl.Bircher@rochdale.gov.uk