

**Summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the
Cabinet held on Tuesday 18 January 2022**

1. Date of publication of this summary: 19th January 2022
2. Deadline for requests for call-in (detailing reasons for doing so): 26th January 2022
3. Earliest date for implementation of decisions: 26th January 2022
4. Urgent decisions taken and not subject to the call-in procedure: 19th January 2022

Agenda Item and Recommendations	Decision
<p>Agenda Item 3 Minutes</p> <p>To confirm the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 21st December 2021</p>	<p>RESOLVED: That the minutes from the Cabinet meeting of the 7th December were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 6 Outcome of the Call-In of the Cabinet Decision of 9 November 2021: Harmonisation of the Garden Waste Collection Services Across West Northamptonshire</p>	<p>Note: This decision cannot be called in.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee's findings following the call-in hearing of 14 December 2021; 2. Thanked the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the work they had undertaken in considering the issue; 3. Taking into account the Council's current financial position, confirmed the decision previously taken: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. that a charge is made for kerbside garden waste collection for all residents of West Northamptonshire who opt into this service of £42 per bin per year, from 1 April 2022 b. that the customer service and administration of the garden

waste collection service be operated in-house for all residents of West Northamptonshire, ending the arrangements with West Northamptonshire Norse, in the Daventry area.

- c. that the establishment of a subsidised home composting scheme, be launched at the same time as the charge 2022/23, to offer residents an alternative.
4. Confirmed that the free collection of real Christmas trees will continue across West Northamptonshire;
5. Confirmed that Household Waste Recycling Centre opening times be unchanged;
6. Confirmed the intention to introduce a scheme for payment by instalments and a discount scheme to support those on low incomes in the future.
7. That the changes are agreed without the need to wait for the outcome of the DEFRA consultation.

REASONS:

In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny procedure rules, Cabinet was required to reconsider the matter, taking into account any concerns and recommendations of Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee and make a final decision, amending the decision or not and providing reasons for the decision.

- The introduction of a charge for the collection of garden waste would bring the south of West Northamptonshire into harmony with the rest of the Council area. The scheme would be run council-wide with the level of charge, terms and conditions and service standards the same across west Northamptonshire.
- Cabinet determined that, given the costs associated with collecting and processing garden waste, not

implementing the original decision would present a financial risk to the Council, both now and in the future.

- Cabinet noted the consultation undertaken by DEFRA in relation to this subject, but determined that there were no clear timescales for an announcement on the outcome of the consultation and it would not, therefore, be prudent to await an announcement, given the need to harmonise the policy across West Northamptonshire. Cabinet also noted the LGA's position on the matter.
- Charging for the collection of garden waste would ensure that only those who wish to use the service pay for it and in that way, supports the 'Polluter Pays' principle. Therefore, those who home compost, or who don't have gardens or who take their garden waste to the Household Waste Recycling Centre would not pay for the collection service.
- The Council would be permitted to levy a 'reasonable' charge for the garden waste service (under the Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012). The proposed charge would generate income essential to part fund the waste collection services provided to the residents of West Northamptonshire. This includes approximately £800,000 in additional net income to the council in 2022/23 for the south area, where the charge would be newly introduced. It would also maintain the approximate £2.2 million of annual income from the areas of the council where there was an existing charge.
- The £42 charge recommended for 2022/23 would be the same as was charged in the Daventry and Northampton areas in 2021/22 and so would represent no increase for those residents and is identified as average across the region.
- The proposal to bring the customer

service and administration of the garden waste collection service in house would enable the Council to have a direct interface with residents who wish to opt-in to this service, ensuring they receive the best possible customer service.

- The subsidised home composting scheme would provide an alternative option for residents who do not want to pay the collection fee. It also promotes home composting, which in waste management terms is a preferred option.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. In reviewing the council's garden waste service, several alternative options were considered for harmonising it across the whole of West Northamptonshire. The appendix to the original report set out the considered options, along with the positive and negative considerations of each option and the financial impact of each.
2. Officers had considered whether it would be appropriate and possible to offer discounts, for example in the following circumstances:
 - a. A resident pays by direct debit; or
 - b. A household has more than one bin (multi-bin discount); or
 - c. If a household would like to pay for more than one year in advance; or
 - d. For residents in receipt of certain benefits.

The council would seek to establish a single auto payment system across West Northants which might enable future opportunities for any discounts to be administered as well as providing evidence of where any discounts were needed or justified based on usage.

3. Therefore, it was agreed to

	introduce the scheme using existing payment systems in April 2022.
<p>Agenda Item 7 Assistive Technology Framework</p>	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved the establishment of a framework which allowed West Northamptonshire Council to procure a range of assistive technology goods and services from appointed suppliers. • Given delegated authority to the Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Wellbeing, and Health Integration, to establish the Assistive Technology framework to procure goods and services from appointed suppliers where not already delegated. • Supported the implementation of the Assistive Technology and Remote Support Strategy. <p>REASONS RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complied with legislation and West Northants procurement policy • Enabled the procurement of assistive technology equipment so that the service could continue to purchase equipment which supports people to live more independently and reduces the need for higher cost care packages. <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:</p> <p>None</p>
<p>Agenda Item 8 Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022 - 2025</p>	<p>RESOLVED: Cabinet approved the Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-2025 for adoption and implementation by the West Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership.</p> <p>REASONS RESOLVED: Approval of the strategy would mean the council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was compliant with the new statutory duty to publish a strategy.

- Supported a co-ordinated response to Domestic Abuse improving services and outcomes for all those affected.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

None