

Community and Equality Impact Assessment

As an authority, we have made a commitment to apply a systematic equalities and diversity screening process to both new policy development or changes to services.

This is to determine whether the proposals are likely to have significant positive, negative or adverse impacts on the different groups in our community.

This process has been developed, together with **full guidance** to support officers in meeting our duties under the:

- Equality Act 2010.
- The Best Value Guidance
- The Public Services (Social Value) 2012 Act

Protected characteristics are the nine groups protected under the Equality Act 2010. They are:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity
- race
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation

These are the equality groups of people we need to think about when we are doing equality impact assessments and these people can be our customers or our employees

About the service or policy development

Name of service or policy assessed	Continuation of charging scheme for the collection of green garden waste
Date of assessment	03/07/2018
Directorate	Public Realm
Service Area	Compliance, Projects & Administration
Lead Officer	Siddiq Khan
Contact Details	Siddiq.khan@lbbd.gov.uk ,
Signed Off by	Abdul Jallow – Head of Compliance, Projects & Administration
Submitted to Cabinet on	18 September 2018

Why is this service or policy development/review needed?
<p>In October 2014, the Council agreed a series of savings proposals to ensure that it could meet its financial targets. One of these was to save £220,000 against the provision of a GGW service. The decision was taken to only provide a GGW service for those who wished to opt in for a “paid-for” scheme. The decision adhered to the fairness agenda of non-statutory services being paid for by those residents who use them and not by all council tax payers, for instance, those who live in flats with no garden access. Until 2017, GGW collections were offered to all street level households free of charge on an opt-in basis. The service operated on a fortnightly collection basis from April to October offering residents 15 collections per year.</p> <p>Following the commencement of the “paid-for” Green Garden Waste service (GGW), in April 2017, the service has been reviewed to see how it has been performing including financial impact and sets out the future options of the service.</p> <p>In conjunction with this review, a survey to current subscribers was conducted to evaluate their preference of whether to extend the number of collections from 16 to 19, giving the options to either extending collection longer to the end of the season, November/December, or commencing earlier in March. The costs and feasibility of this extension are included in the report.</p> <p>The preferred Option 3a keeps the subscription charge at £40 in 2019, for the <u>third year</u> of the service with the increase of collections from 16 to 19 per year. The estimated customer base of 7,909 (31 Jul-18) provides the additional income to provide a cost neutral service.</p>

Why is this service or policy development/review needed?

This assessment is carried out to assess impact of this proposal on communities or customers.

1. Community impact (this can be used to assess impact on staff although a cumulative impact should be considered).

What impacts will this service or policy development have on communities? Look at what you know? What does your research tell you?

Consider:

- National & local data sets
- Complaints
- Consultation and service monitoring information
- Voluntary and Community Organisations
- The Equality Act places a specific duty on people with ‘protected characteristics’. The table below details these groups and helps you to consider the impact on these groups.

Demographics

As the waste collection authority, the Council provide residents with a weekly kerbside rubbish collection using wheelie bins. Blocks of flats are usually served with larger bulk bins. The Council has used wheelie bins since 2009 with close to 400,000 household collections of domestic waste carried out each month. There is therefore an established practice of using wheelie bins to collect domestic waste.

Section 45 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 enables waste collection authorities to make reasonable charges for the collection for specified waste defined by the Secretary of State. These forms of waste for which the Council may charge is defined in the Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012 at Schedule 1 article 4. This includes green garden waste. The Council was therefore able to bring in a green garden waste scheme and make charges for collection.

Introduction of a paid for Green Garden Waste Service provided an alternative way of disposing of green garden waste for the residents of the borough. This enabled residents to purchase a service from the Council.

Potential impacts	Positive	Neutral	Negative	What are the positive and negative impacts ?	How will benefits be enhanced and negative impacts minimised or eliminated?
Local communities in general	X				Continuation of paid for Green Garden Waste Service will provide an

				alternative environmentally friendly way of disposing of green garden waste for the residents of the borough.
Age		X		As the waste will be collected in wheelie bins this has the potential for presenting problems for our residents with mobility issues. However, the Council has been using wheelie bins since 2009 and has in place an assisted collection scheme that adapts the collection to meet the needs of the residents – this will also be the case for green garden waste collections.
Disability		X		As the waste will be collected in wheelie bins this has the potential for presenting problems for our residents with mobility issues. However, the Council has been using wheelie bins since 2009 and has in place an assisted collection scheme that adapts the collection to meet the needs of the residents – this will also be the case for green waste collections.
Gender reassignment		X		
Marriage and civil partnership		X		
Pregnancy and maternity		X		As the waste will be collected in wheelie bins this has the potential for presenting problems for our residents with mobility issues. However, the Council has been using wheelie bins since 2009 and has in place an assisted collection scheme that adapts the collection to meet the needs of the residents – this will also be the case for green waste collections.
Race (including Gypsies, Roma and Travellers)		X		
Religion or belief		X		
Gender		X		
Sexual orientation		X		
Any community issues identified for this location?		X		

2. Consultation.

Provide details of what steps you have taken or plan to take to consult the whole community or specific groups affected by the service or policy development e.g. on-line consultation, focus groups, consultation with representative groups?

A large public consultation exercise was undertaken, with publicity focussed on encouraging residents to comment on the option for a paid for service.

This exercise opened on the Consultation Portal on the 13th September 2016 and closed at midday on the 31st October 2016.

A free-post postcard with details of the consultation was delivered to each household within the borough (excluding blocks of flats). These were also made available at the borough's libraries.

A total of 7,690 responses were received through the postal card and the online consultation portal – with 3,835 (49.87%) residents willing to pay for a green garden waste collection service and 3,855 (50.13%) residents not willing to pay.

A second survey was carried out in June 2018, to determine preferences of extending the service frequency from 16 fortnightly collections for each subscriber per year, to 19 collections for each subscriber per year. This survey conducted with all current customers to evaluate their preference of whether to extend the number of collections from 16 to 19, giving the options to either extending collection longer to the end of the season, November/December, or commencing earlier in March.

The preferred option keeps the subscription charge at £40 in 2019, for the third year of the service. The estimated customer base of 7,909 (31 July-18) provides the additional income to provide a cost neutral service.

3. Monitoring and Review

How will you review community and equality impact once the service or policy has been implemented?

*These actions should be developed using the information gathered in **Section 1 and 2** and should be picked up in your departmental/service business plans.*

Action	By when?	By who?
User satisfaction surveys testing how users are finding the service	12 months post implementation.	Service area

4. Next steps

It is important the information gathered is used to inform any Council reports that are presented to Cabinet or appropriate committees. This will allow Members to be furnished with all the facts in relation to the impact their decisions will have on different equality groups and the wider community.

Take some time to précis your findings below. This can then be added to your report template for sign off by the Strategy Team at the consultation stage of the report cycle.

Implications/ Customer Impact
<p>As the waste will be collected in wheelie bins this has the potential for presenting problems for our residents with mobility issues, disability and pregnancy, or any other illnesses. However, the Council has been using wheelie bins since 2009 and has in place an assisted collection scheme that adapts the collection to meet the needs of the residents – this will also be the case for green waste collections.</p> <p>All other relevant information and updates will be made public on our website www.lbbd.gov.uk and other social media channels.</p>

5. Sign off

The information contained in this template should be authorised by the relevant project sponsor or Head of Service who will be responsible for the accuracy of the information now provided and delivery of actions detailed.

Name	Role (e.g. Project Sponsor, Head of Service)	Date
Abdoulie Jallow	Head of Compliance, Projects, and Administration	3 July 2018