

BRIEFING REPORT

Changes to the Garden Waste Collection Service



I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper sets out in more detail the information set out in the Executive Decision. These changes fulfil commitments set out in the new Administration's first 100 day plan.

The requirement for an annual household registration for the Garden Waste Collection Service was implemented following an Executive Decision published in October 2019¹. This initial registration was for the 2020 season, the operation of which was severely impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. A further registration was undertaken in late 2020 onwards as part of the transition to a wheelie bins.

Commitment Ref:	Commitment	Executive Decision required	Further points of clarification
84	We will extend the green garden waste collection period including bags and go back to fortnightly collections.	Extension of the Garden Waste Collection Service period for a further month.	For the 2021 season this will mean that the service will operate until the end of November. Fortnightly collections are already undertaken.
85	We will scrap the need to register EVERY year for the green garden waste collection service	Cessation of the requirement for households to register annually for the Garden Waste Collection Service.	Households will still need to register to commence using the Service for the first time and will be asked to inform the Council if they wish to cease receiving the service or they move house.

2. IMPLICATIONS OF EXECUTIVE DECISION ELEMENTS

2.1 FINANCIAL

The total annual financial cost of implementing the changes set out in this Executive Decision is estimated to be £44,274. This is the cost for extending the Garden Waste Collection Service for a further month. There may also be further unquantified costs resulting from the removal of the Garden Waste registration requirement arising from decreased operational efficiencies.

Further information is provided against each element in the section headings below.

2.1.1 Extension of the Garden Waste Collection Service period for a further month.

The weekly cost of extending the service to Plymouth residents is estimated to be £10,225. This cost is made up of temporary staffing costs, disposal costs, fuel and additional vehicle maintenance. This amount has been multiplied by 4.33 to allow for a monthly cost, which equals £44,274.

¹ [Decision - Garden Waste Kerbside Collection - Online Registration - Modern Council \(plymouth.gov.uk\)](#)

2.1.2 Cessation of the requirement for households to register annually for the Garden Waste Collection Service.

Prior to the initial registration in 2019, the Garden Waste Service was very inefficient as crews had to search streets for containers to collect, which frequently led to missed collections. Registration has enabled rounds to be optimised, which has improved service efficiency and helped reduce instances of missed bins. The removal of annual registration may over time reduce accuracy of data and lead to greater inefficiencies, however this can't be quantified in monetary terms at this stage.

2.2 ENVIRONMENTAL & OPERATIONAL

It is widely accepted that climate change has led to the extension of the growing season beyond historical norms. Whilst we will continue to encourage residents to home compost, changes to the garden-waste collection service will provide residents with assistance in depositing green waste for a further month. This will lead to a reduction in excessive journeys to HWRCs, which will result in a reduction in carbon emissions through optimised service collection routes – assuming accurate data sets are maintained.

3. DECISION SUMMARY

The Leader of the Council, Nick Kelly, is to approve the following:

- Extension of the Garden Waste Collection Service period for a further month.
- Cessation of the requirement for households to register annually for the Garden Waste Collection Service.