

Charges for the supply of waste and recycling containers	
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Evidence based equality analysis

Cheshire West and Chester Council (CW&C) is the waste collection and disposal authority responsible for the management of municipal waste. This includes the collection, treatment and disposal of municipal waste from all residential households, Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) and street cleansing waste.

Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs) are empowered by the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to charge for the provision of waste containers. Cheshire West and Chester Council is facing significant budget pressures. The Council have introduced a charge for replacement waste and recycling for all waste streams (except food waste). The introduction of this charge would contribute to helping mitigate the Council's unprecedented budget pressures and help encourage residents to take greater care of bins and containers and store them securely on their own property. The introduction of a charge is based on full cost recovery, to ensure that the procurement, depreciation, storage, administration and delivery costs are fully recovered. It was agreed at Full Council in February 2024 to charge for replacement waste and recycling containers from 2024/25 onwards.

Budget Proposals at Full Council 16 February 2023 & 7 February 2024:

[Appendix D - Budget Proposals.pdf \(cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk\)](#)

[Agenda for Cabinet on Wednesday, 7th February 2024, 10.00 am - Cheshire West & Cheshire Council \(cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk\)](#)

The new charge will apply to residents requesting a replacement waste container because it is damaged, lost or stolen, vandalised or accidentally damaged. Charges also apply if a householder or landlord requests to exchange a bin for a different size or requests the replacement of a contaminated recycling bin.

The charge will also apply to residents in owned or rented accommodation and landlords or property management agents who are responsible for management of communal bin areas.

Councils who have introduced this measure have found that it encourages people to take greater care of bins and containers and store them securely on their own property.

This policy is designed to help ensure an efficient and effective service is in operation. The policy will help the Council to achieve the goals set out in the Council's ten-year Waste Management Strategy launched in 2021. The policy will be reviewed annually, to take account changes in legislation, service design, as well as representations from the public and relevant stakeholders. Further information about our domestic waste collection services can be found by visiting the Council's website [Your bin collection | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

There is an existing charging process for the supply of waste and recycling containers to new properties and developments. However, they will now be liable for the cost of supply and delivery of replacement of containers, including bulk containers (1100, 660L bins for example). The charge includes the cost of administration, procurement, storage and delivery of the containers. The containers must remain at that address should the occupier move home, as the containers remain the property of the Council. A set of containers for a property on the standard service includes 1 x 180L residual waste bin, 2 x 180L recycling bins, 1 x 23L food bin and 1 x 7L food caddy.

The charge for the supply of new bins is reviewed annually and published as part of the Council's Fees and Charges register.

Lead officer: Tara Dumas - Strategic Waste Manager

Key stakeholders, please note this is not an exhaustive list:

- The public (Borough Residents)
- Council staff including key internal department such as Street Care, Regulatory services, Customer Relations, Legal team and QWEST (both contact centre and digital team)
- CW&C Executive Members
- CW&C Ward Members
- Current kerbside service provider (Cheshire West Recycling)
- Neighbouring authorities
- Other interest groups (including CDAF etc)

For each of the areas below, an assessment needs to be made on whether the policy has a positive, negative or neutral impact, and brief details of why this decision was made and notes of any mitigation should be included. Where the impact is negative, this needs to be given a high, medium or low assessment. It is important to rate the impact of the policy based on the current situation (i.e. disregarding any actions planned to be carried out in future).

High impact – a significant potential impact, risk of exposure, history of complaints, no mitigating measures in place etc.

Medium impact –some potential impact exists, some mitigating measures are in place, poor evidence

Low impact – almost no relevancy to the process, e.g. an area that is very much legislation led and where the Council has very little discretion

	Neutral	Positive	Negative
Target group / area			
Race and ethnicity (including Gypsies and Travellers, refugees, asylum seekers etc.)	All residents must be registered for council tax to receive a kerbside collection service. Containers can only be requested for properties that are listed within the LLPG.	Homes requiring bins because of a “resettlement scheme” will be provided initial containers free of charge.	
Disability (as defined by the Equality Act - a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term	Where residents present their containers for collection will be the required point of repair or exchange.	All requests for repairs or replacement can be made online or via the contact centre via telephone to avoid digital exclusion.	Ensuring the Booking Form is compliant with accessibility standards. All types of visual impairment, dyslexia and colour blindness

<p>adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities)</p>	<p>.</p>	<p>Residents with assisted service who are unable to present their containers for repair or replacement will be serviced in situ</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobility and dexterity impairment • Learning difficulties. To support those with disabilities resulting in challenges to ordering online – must ensure an alternative way to book via the telephone or face to face e.g. libraries is available <p>Potential negative impacts with respect to digital communications for people with learning difficulties. These will be mitigated by ensuring requests can be made by telephone or face to face</p> <p>Disabled people are more likely to have less disposable income. This may make this additional charge less manageable</p> <p>Residents in receipt of full council tax reduction at the time of making the request will be able to pay a reduced</p>
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			rate. fees and charges schedule 2024-25 (cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk) LOW
Sex (male or female)	Any impact would be expected to be neutral on this characteristic.		
Gender identity (gender reassignment)	Any impact would be expected to be neutral on this characteristic.		
Religion and belief (including lack of belief)	Any impact would be expected to be neutral on this characteristic.		
Sexual orientation (including heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual and others)	Any impact would be expected to be neutral on this characteristic.		
Age (children and young people aged 0 – 24, adults 25 – 50, younger older people 51 – 75/80; older people 81+. Age bands are for illustration only as overriding consideration should be given to needs)		Free bin exchanges are applicable when a resident wishes to downsize their bin from a 240L bin to a 180L bin, as a larger bin is too difficult for them to move. This normally applies to older people or infirm residents who have	Ordering system online – Older population may be less likely to access the internet/ email to order online – must ensure an alternative way to book via the telephone or F2F is available. Must ensure the ordering form is

		<p>no one living with them to help move their bin, and where an assisted collection service can be avoided as the householder prefers to put out their own bin for collection independently.</p> <p>If residents provide a mobile phone number they will receive a text notification 48hrs prior to the request being carried out.</p>	<p>compliant with accessibility standards</p> <p>Potential negative impacts with respect to digital communications for older people. These will be mitigated by ensuring requests can be made by telephone or face to face.</p> <p>Those of pensionable age or younger people who are more likely to be on a lower income may have more of an issue covering this additional cost. It is proposed that the payment system relating to the proposal to charge for containers is cashless.</p> <p>This may affect some residents who may prefer cash transactions but does ultimately protect both customers and container delivery staff from any wrongdoings.</p> <p>LOW</p>
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Care Experienced (all young people and adults who have been in the care of Cheshire West and Chester Council - for a period of 13 weeks or more - from the age of 14 years. This includes those children/young people for whom the Council currently or have previously held corporate parenting responsibilities)	Any impact would be expected to be neutral on this characteristic.		
Carers (people who care for others, informally or formally)	The online request forms allow anyone to make requests on other people's behalf.	Residents that qualify for additional domestic capacity for medical reasons will not be charged for the initial container upgrade but will be charged for the replacement or repair.	
Rural communities	Any impact would be expected to be neutral on this characteristic.	The council will issue disposable sacks free of charge for households that are on a sack collection service due to storage or presentation restrictions.	

<p>Areas of deprivation (include any impact on people living in poverty who may not live in areas identified as deprived)</p>		<p>The introduction of a replacement parts service for a lower fee gives residents the option to repair an existing container rather than paying the full cost of a replacement bin.</p>	<p>There are pockets of deprivation across the borough, with 24,000 residents living in 16 small neighbourhood areas that rank in the 10% most deprived neighbourhoods in England (decile 1). Two of these 16 neighbourhoods rank in the 2% most deprived areas in England. These neighbourhoods are in Lache and Winsford. In 2020, 2% (1,600) of people aged 60+ in Cheshire West and Chester lived in the top 10% deprived areas in England in terms of income deprivation affecting older people. Increases in charges may have an impact on those on low incomes. Residents in receipt of full council tax reduction at the time of making the request will be able to pay a reduced rate. fees and charges schedule 2024-25 (cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk) It is anticipated that people living in poverty could be</p>
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			adversely impacted by this decision.
Human rights (see guidance note for key areas to consider)	Any impact would be expected to be neutral on this characteristic.		
Health and wellbeing and Health Inequalities (consider the wider determinants of health such as education, housing, employment, environment, crime and transport, plus impacts on lifestyles and effects on health and care services)	We recognise that some residents may be sensitive to the idea of charging for the provision of waste and recycling containers which is a statutory service.	<p>23L and 7L replacement food waste caddies will remain free of charge, to encourage more homes to take up food waste recycling.</p> <p>This also removed the smelly element of the waste from the domestic container and is emptied weekly.</p>	<p>We recognise that some new conflict could be introduced in relation to the waste charging proposal, especially when determining if a container has been damaged as part of the routine collection.</p> <p>LOW</p>
Procurement/partnership (if project due to be carried out by contractors/partners etc, identify steps taken to ensure equality compliance)		<p>New or replacement garden waste containers as residents already pay for the supply of bins through their subscription charge.</p> <p>If the bin is damaged or falls into the waste collection vehicle during the emptying process. Crews will automatically</p>	

		<p>order a free replacement through their in-cab system and leave a notice for the resident to let them know a new bin, or bin repair has been ordered.</p> <p>Homes qualifying for additional residual waste capacity because they meet our larger family criteria or have a medical condition that requires a larger or extra bin will be provided with additional containers free of charge on a temporary basis. However, replacements will be subject to charges if lost, damaged or stolen.</p>	
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Evidence (see guidance note for details of what to include here):

[fees and charges schedule 2024-25 \(cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk\)](https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/fees-and-charges-schedule-2024-25)

Research

Population [Population Estimates | Cheshire West and Chester Council](https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/population-estimates)

IMD [index of multiple deprivation 2019 cwac infographic 2019-10-21 \(cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk\)](https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/imd-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2019-cwac-infographic-2019-10-21)

Digital vulnerability indicators [CACI Digital Vulnerability Indicators \(June 2022\) \(cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk\)](https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/caci-digital-vulnerability-indicators-june-2022)

Benchmarking with other councils

Research has been conducted into the household waste and recycling container policies of other local authorities.
Research has also been conducted into legislative requirements and restrictions regarding waste management practices

Action plan:

Actions required	Priority	Outcomes required	Officer responsible	Review date
Minimise impact to low-income families who either require a larger bin		<p>Residents in receipt of full council tax reduction at the time of making the request will be able to pay a reduced rate. fees and charges schedule 2024-25 (cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)</p> <p>Homes qualifying for additional residual waste capacity because they meet our larger family criteria or have a medical condition that requires a larger or extra bin will be provided with additional containers free of charge on a temporary basis. However, replacements will be subject to charges if lost, damaged or stolen.</p>	Strategic Waste Manager supported by Customer Service Manager	6 Months

Monitor and use feedback to establish whether there could be any adverse impact on any group - Address any identified issues affecting minority groups		Equity in service provision for all the borough's communities	Strategic Waste Manager supported by Customer Service Manager	3 Months
Ensure online form is compliant with accessibility requirements - Accessibility Audit to be undertaken by Digital Accessibility Team		Ensure alternative contact options are available.	Strategic Waste Manager supported by Customer Service Manager	3 Months
Assisted service container delivery/exchange		Ensure residents on assisted service can identify as part of the request to have their containers replaced or repair where they are stored.	Strategic Waste Manager supported by Customer Service Manager	3 Months

Sign off	
Lead officer:	Tara Dumas – Strategic Waste Manager
Approved by Tier 4 Manager:	Mark Brazil – Head of Environmental Services
Moderation and/or Scrutiny	
Date: 10 June 2025	

Date analysis to be reviewed based on rating (high impact – review in one year, medium impact - review in two years, low impact in three years)	Review in 2 years
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