



## **EqlA #105**

The details of an EqlA and its associated actions, actions and attachments.

### **1. Project/Activity Information**

Collection name	Environmental Sustainability
Name of the policy/project/process being assessed	The increase of price for the annual subscription of garden waste services
EqlA type	Project
Current status	Completed
Service Area	Environmental Services and Safer Neighbourhoods
Purpose of project	This project supports the sustainability of the waste service and is a key project within the Medium Term Financial Plan
Who is the project intended to benefit?	The project protects the ongoing sustainability of having a separate collection of garden waste.
What outcomes should be achieved	The price increase will help to protect the ongoing sustainability of the service.

### **2. Groups Impacted**

**Does the project / activity impact on the following groups?**

#### **Service Users**

Yes

**What is the estimated number of service users impacted?**

1001 +

**What is the estimated impact level on the service users?**

Low

**Service user additional comments**

The service is offered to 74,000 homes in the Borough. If the changes are approved, the price of garden waste subscriptions would increase for service users.

**Carers or family of service users**

No

**Residents**

Yes

**What is the estimated number of residents impacted?**

1001 +

**What is the estimated impact level on the residents?**

Low

**Additional comments for residents**

Please see "service users" response.

**Visitors**

No

**Staff**

No

**Partner organisations**

No

**3. Evidence gathering and engagement**

**What evidence has been used for this assessment?**

**Internal evidence**

Consultation with colleagues

**External evidence**

Research from other LAs who charge for garden waste to make sure we were charging the lowest price in the NE.

**Have you carried out any engagement in relation to this activity?**

Yes

**If yes of what kind and with whom? If no, why not?**

The introduction of garden waste subscriptions was included in budget consultation. It was decided as part of the original cabinet report that we would be able to increase the charge if a delegated decision report was completed.

**Is there any information you don't have?**

No

**All evidence attachments that have been added to this EqIA**

There are no attachments for this EqIA

**All evidence links that have been added to this EqIA**

No evidence links have been added to this EqIA

## **4. Impact on groups with different characteristics**

**Will the project/activity positively or negatively impact on each of the following groups**

Legally Protected Characteristic	Potential positive impact identified	Potential negative impact identified
Age	No	No
Disability	No	No
Gender reassignment	No	No
Marriage and civil partnership	No	No
Pregnancy and maternity	No	No
Race	No	No
Religion or belief	No	No
Sex	No	No

Legally Protected Characteristic	Potential positive impact identified	Potential negative impact identified
Sexual orientation	No	No
Intersectionality	No	No

Non-Legally Protected Characteristic	Potential positive impact identified	Potential negative impact identified
Carers	No	No
Socio-economic disadvantage	No	Yes

**Description of the potential impact and evidence used in the assessment:**

There is the potential that the increase in annual charge may deter some residents from signing up for the service.

## 5. Achievement of the Authority's Public Sector Equality Duty

**Will the activity contribute to any of the following?**

**Eliminate unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment?**

N/A

**Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not?**

Yes

**How will it advance equality of opportunity?**

We want everyone to have the opportunity to dispose of garden waste in a sustainable and cost effective way.

**Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not?**

N/A

## 6. Negative Impacts

**All negative impacts logged against the EqIA**

**Negative Impact #1**

### **Potential negative impact**

People who have a socio-economic disadvantage may feel deterred from re-subscribing to the service due to the price increase.

### **Can it be reduced or removed**

Reduced

### **If yes how? If no, why not and what alternative options were considered and not pursued?**

Even with the proposed price increase, the charge will be the lowest of our 6 local authority neighbours.

Residents are still able to dispose of garden waste for free at the Household Waste & Recycling Centre. This operates 364 days a year.

The Authority subsidises home compost bins.

Residents are able to share subscriptions with neighbours, friends and family.

The NEAT Streets scheme offers Council house tenants 2x free collections of "bulk" waste per year. This can be used for garden waste.

Residents are still able to dispose of garden waste in their normal home refuse bin (not recycling).

## **7. EqlA Review**

### **Date review of EqlA to be completed**

06-07-2026

### **Responsible officer**

Paul Nelson

### **Responsible officer's directorate**

Environment and Leisure

### **Responsible officer's service area**

Environmental Sustainability

## **8. Outcome of EqlA**

## **Outcome**

The proposal is robust, no major change is required

## **Please explain and evidence why you have reached this conclusion**

The garden waste subscription charge applies to all eligible properties and there is no reasonable expectation that it would have a positive or negative impact on protected characteristics. There are mitigating actions that the Council is able to implement to reduce the potential negative impacts of raising the subscription price for the non-legally protected characteristic of socio-economic disadvantage.

## **Actions**

### **All actions that have been created for this EqIA**

**Action ID: 357**

#### **Action Title**

Communications campaign on price raises

#### **Action Type**

Action that will be taken to remove or reduce potential negative impacts

#### **Due Date**

06-Jul-2026

#### **Status**

In Progress

#### **Impact**

Reduce

#### **Assignee/Responsible officer**

Paul Nelson

#### **Assignee/Responsible officer's Directorate**

Environment and Leisure

#### **Assignee/Responsible officer's Service Area**

## Environmental Sustainability

### **Description**

Although not a protected characteristic (socio-economic) the Authority will continue to promote the mitigating actions as part of its communications campaign.

### **Action ID: 358**

### **Action Title**

Monitoring of subscription numbers and complaints

### **Action Type**

Action that will be taken to monitor the equality impact of this proposal once it is implemented

### **Due Date**

06-Jul-2026

### **Status**

In Progress

### **Assignee/Responsible officer**

Paul Nelson

### **Assignee/Responsible officer's Directorate**

Environment and Leisure

### **Assignee/Responsible officer's Service Area**

Environmental Sustainability

### **Description**

Number of subscriptions will be monitored.  
Complaints will be monitored.

## **EqlA History**

**This section shows the submission and approval history of the EqlA,**

Date Printed: 08/09/2025

Printed by: Isabelle Lloyd

**including any rejections**

Status	Actioned by	Actioned Date	Comments
Completed	Kimberley Pye	18/07/2025 11:38:26	
Approved by CEG Member	Chris Bishop	18/07/2025 09:51:09	
Submitted	Isabelle Lloyd	15/07/2025 14:43:01	
Draft	Isabelle Lloyd	15/07/2025 09:07:05	
Draft	Isabelle Lloyd	14/07/2025 12:33:45	
Draft	Isabelle Lloyd	14/07/2025 10:57:53	