South Staffordshire Council is in the process of introducing an annual charge for collecting garden waste. Due to be introduced in July 2020, the green bin garden waste collection service will become a subscription-only service and households in the district will need to opt-in and pay the subscription fee if they want the Council to collect their garden waste.

Councillor Len Bates BEM, Cabinet Member for Community Services at South Staffordshire Council, said, “Having reviewed our service carefully, we find that we cannot continue to offer the garden waste collection service without a fee. Not everyone uses this service and the reduction in government funding and current financial pressures means we have difficult choices to make about our services. We remain as the fourth lowest Council tax for District Councils in England and remain committed to keeping costs to a minimum. The proposed annual fee of £43.60 is less than 85p per week with the service set to commence from July 2020.

“Increasingly, councils are having to charge for this service and the latest data shows that 58% of local authorities in the UK now charge for garden waste collection. It’s not a statutory service but we are committed to continue running it for those residents who wish to use the service and pay for it which will help protect and maintain front line services.”

### Green Bin FAQs

**What is the Council introducing charges for collecting my green bin?**

Due to a reduction in government funding, the Council is no longer able to afford to provide a kerbside green bin collection service at no charge to households.

**Don’t I already pay for this service through my Council Tax?**

Although your Council Tax is collected locally it actually forms part of a national taxation framework. This means that your tax isn’t just calculated in relation to specific council services such as waste collection or other community facilities and services. South Staffordshire has the fourth lowest District Council Tax in England and your Council Tax payment finances local council services, not just waste collection.

**Don’t the Council have to collect my green bin by law?**

The Controlled Waste Regulations 2012 allows councils to charge for the collection of garden waste. There are some services that councils are required to provide by law and these are known as mandatory services. There are other services that councils aren’t required to provide by law but that they choose to provide. Green bin collections are a discretionary service and councils can choose to stop this service completely. However, we’re aware that this would take away a well-used and long established service from residents.

While introducing a charge for garden waste collection is not a popular thing to do, it does give households a choice and residents only need to pay if they wish to use the service.

**How much will it cost?**

If you choose to subscribe to the service, there will be an annual charge of £43.60 for the collection of garden waste from each green bin that you use. Although you can sign up any time during the year, the subscription charge for the district will end on the same date the following year.

**Do I have to pay the annual charge?**

No, it is an opt-in scheme so you can choose for the Council not to empty your green bin and you can dispose of your garden waste in another way such as through home composting or by taking it to your local Household Recycling Centre. Please note that garden waste cannot be placed in your grey bins.

**Can I pay by instalments?**

No, residents must pay their annual subscription charge in one go to receive the service. This is a standard charge and concessions for groups, individuals and residents who receive benefits are not available.

**How many times a year will you collect my green bin?**

Green bins will be emptied every two weeks all year round apart from a four-week suspension at Christmas and New Year.

**How many additional green bins am I allowed?**

There will be no limit to the number of green bins and permits you can purchase for your property. However, the charge will apply to each green bin so you will need to pay an annual charge for each bin per year. If you purchased an additional green bin in 2019, we will be in touch with further information about your bin.

**Can I share a green bin with my neighbour?**

Yes, as long as it is put out for collection outside the property of the householder who has subscribed to this service. There must be only one billing address and customer name though. It is up to you to make your own arrangements as to who will purchase the permit.

**I don’t want to subscribe to this service and would like you to remove my green bin as I don’t need it anymore**

We are asking residents to keep their green bins. This is because the bin is relevant to the property and needs to be present should there be a change of occupier who may wish to subscribe to the service. Also, it is important that green bins remain at properties should they be needed as part of kerbside waste and recycling services in the future. No green bins will be removed from any properties at this time.

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