



# OFFICIAL EXECUTIVE DECISION NOTICE

## PUBLISHED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Notice is hereby given that the following decision(s) have been made today by Cabinet Members at the London Borough of Hillingdon:

<b>Title of decision</b>	<b>Outcome of the consultation on the introduction of charges for Garden Waste Collection Service and decision on way forward</b>
<b>Reference No.</b>	1428
<b>Date of decision</b>	29 May 2025
<b>Call-in expiry date</b>	5 June 2025
<b>Relevant Select Committee</b>	Residents' Services Select Committee
<b>Relevant Wards</b>	All

### Decision made

<b>Cabinet Members making the decision</b>	Cllr Eddie Lavery, Cabinet Member for Community and Environment Councillor Martin Goddard, Cabinet Member for Finance & Transformation
<b>Decision</b>	<b>Approved</b>  That the Cabinet Member for Community & Environment, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Considered the responses and petition received from the consultation exercise relating to the introduction of garden waste charges and the associated Equalities &amp; Human Rights Impact Assessment;</li><li>2) Approved the introduction of a fee for residents who wish to continue to use the existing garden waste collection service from June 2025 onwards;</li><li>3) Approved a subscription charge of £70 for the period of June 2025 to March 2026 and;</li><li>4) Delegated future decisions regarding the implementation of the service to the Corporate Director of Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community and Environment</li></ol>

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This notice is a public document also available to view on the Council's website [www.hillingdon.gov.uk](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk)

<p><b>Reason for decision</b></p>	<p>The Cabinet Member for Community &amp; Environment, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Finance &amp; Transformation, approved the introduction of a £70 annual subscription charge for the garden waste collection service, effective from June 2025. This decision was made to ensure the financial sustainability of the service amid rising operational costs and reduced central government funding. The charge aimed to contribute £2.5 million in savings to the Council's 2025/26 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), offsetting the current £2.5 million annual cost of the service.</p> <p>It was noted that Waste Disposal Levy &amp; Contracts are currently forecast to increase by £1.6m in 2025/26, rising by a further £2.6m per annum to 2029/30. Legislative changes, including the proposed introduction of a Deposit Return Scheme from October 2027, and the inclusion of Energy from Waste within the Emissions Trading Scheme from 2028, will have a significant impact on the cost per tonne paid for the disposal of waste that the Borough collects in the coming years.</p> <p>In making their decision, Cabinet Members considered a detailed report setting out the outcome of a four-week public consultation, conducted in March 2025, receiving 8,242 responses. While a majority of respondents opposed the charge, the Cabinet Members duly considered their feedback, including 78 additional contacts and also considered a valid e-petition with 1,181 signatories objecting to the proposal. Concerns raised included the financial burden on households, potential increases in fly-tipping, and fairness of the consultation process. Notwithstanding these objections, the Cabinet Members noted that over 80% of UK local authorities already charged for garden waste collection and that alternative disposal options, such as home composting and recycling centres, remained available. The Cabinet Members also reviewed the Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment.</p> <p>In making their decision, Cabinet Members concluded that the proposed charge was reasonable, supported by benchmarking against neighbouring boroughs, where Hillingdon's proposed cost per collection was the lowest. Additionally, that their decision ensured the continuation of a valued service while protecting frontline operations from future financial pressures.</p>
<p><b>Alternative options considered and rejected</b></p>	<p>The Cabinet Members considered all the alternatives set out in the report such as reducing garden waste collections to fortnightly year-round without charging but noted this would have only cut costs by 11%, making the service unsustainable. It was also recognised that disposing of garden waste in</p>

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	general waste could increase costs significantly, but that policy to mitigate this risk was already in place. It was noted that concerns raised about increased fly-tipping were addressed through benchmarking, which showed no clear link between charging and fly-tipping in other areas. Additionally, waste data monitoring would continue to inform any future policy changes.
<b>Classification</b>	Part I - Public
<b>Link to associated report</b>	<a href="#">Here</a>
<b>Relevant Officer contact &amp; Directorate</b>	Nicola Herbert – Place Directorate
<b>Any interest declared by the Cabinet Member(s) / dispensation granted</b>	N/A

### **Implementation of decision & scrutiny call-in**

<b>[Internal Use only]</b>	
<b>When can this decision be implemented by officers?</b>	<p>Officers can implement Cabinet Member decision in this notice only from the expiry of the scrutiny call-in period which is:</p> <p><b>5pm on Thursday 5 June 2025</b></p> <p>However, this is subject to the decision not being called in by Councillors on the relevant Select Committee. Upon receipt of a valid call-in request, Democratic Services will immediately advise the relevant officer(s) and the decision must then be put on hold.</p>
<b>Councillor scrutiny call-in of this decision</b>	<p>Councillors on the relevant Select Committee shown in this notice may request to call-in this decision. The request must be before the expiry of the scrutiny call-in period above.</p> <p>Councillors should use the Scrutiny Call-in App (link below) on their devices to initiate any call-in request. Further advice can be sought from Democratic Services if required:</p> <p><a href="#">Scrutiny Call-In - Power Apps</a> (secure)</p>

<b>Further information</b>	<p>These decisions, where applicable, have been taken under The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.</p> <p>This is the formal notice by the Council of the above executive decision, including links to the reports where applicable.</p> <p>If you would like more information on this decision, please contact Democratic Services on 01895 250636 or email: <a href="mailto:democratic@hillingdon.gov.uk">democratic@hillingdon.gov.uk</a>.</p> <p>Circulation of this decision notice is to a variety of people including Members of the Council, Corporate Directors, Officers, Group Secretariats and the Public. Copies are also placed on the Council's website.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Democratic Services London Borough of Hillingdon Civic Centre High Street Uxbridge UB8 1UW</b></p>
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