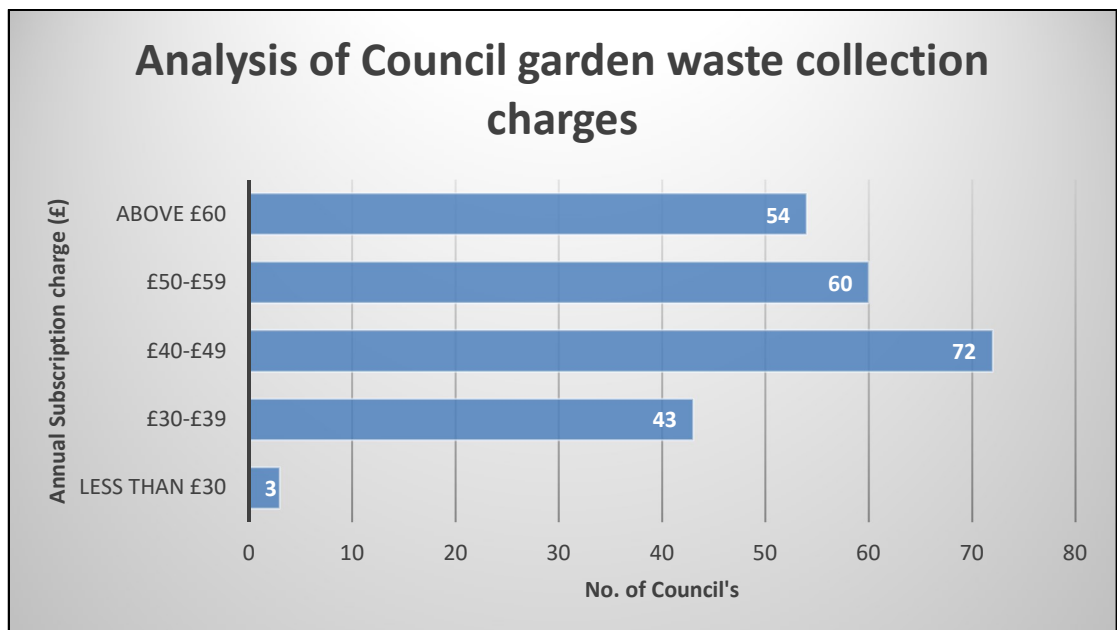


## APPENDIX F

### Garden Waste subscription annual charge from 1.4.2023

- 1.1 A chargeable garden waste service was first introduced in 2017 at an annual cost of £40 per annum. The fee has not been increased for over 5 years and has remained at £40 per annum since 2017.
- 1.2 Over the past 5 to 6 years there have been significant increasing inflationary costs such as fuel and wages costs.
- 1.3 Benchmarking has been carried out of the current garden waste subscription charges for the current year, 2022/23.
- 1.4 The table below shows the analysis of the annual charges Councils apply across the country for a garden waste collection service (annual subscription cost). For example, 60 Councils currently charge between £50 and £59 for the collection of garden waste, as shown below.



Source [www.local.gov.uk](http://www.local.gov.uk) (where Councils have provided this information). It should be noted that these are the current year (2022-2023) charges and do not reflect the increasing inflationary costs such as fuel and wages.

1.5 The table below shows the current year (2022/2023) subscription costs and the take up of services in Devon.

| Council     | Service offered                                 | Cost            | % take up |
|-------------|---|-----------------|-----------|
| East Devon  | 11 month Fortnightly (Not over Christmas)       | £48 per bin     | 25-30%    |
| Exeter      | 11 month Fortnightly (Not over Christmas)       | Up to £51.50    | 61%       |
| Mid Devon   | 12 month Fortnightly                            | Up to £50       | 32%       |
| North Devon | Fortnightly (Feb to Nov)<br>Monthly (Dec & Jan) | £45 per bin     | 55%       |
| Teignbridge | 11 month Fortnightly (Not over Christmas)       | £50 per bin     | 37%       |
| Torridge    | 11 month Fortnightly (Not over Christmas)       | £45 per bin     | 34%       |
| West Devon  | 11 month Fortnightly (Not over Christmas)       | £40 for 4 sacks | 24%       |

1.6 Garden waste is a non-statutory discretionary service and a chargeable garden waste collection service enables residents to choose how they dispose of their garden waste:

| Option                                   | Environmental impact | Cost to Resident   |
|--|----------------------|--|
| Home composting                          | None                 | None   |
| Disposal at a recycling centre           | Some                 | Travel costs to recycling centre                                 |
| Collection by West Devon Borough Council | High                 | Approximately £2 per collection (based on a biweekly collection) |
| Collection by independent contractor     | High                 | £10 - £20 per collection   |

- 1.7 **Members' views are sought on increasing the garden waste subscription charge to £49 per annum from April 2023.** This will be further considered at the Hub Committee meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> January, with the final decision being taken by Council on 21<sup>st</sup> February. This report is seeking Members' views in advance of a formal recommendation.
- 1.8 This would reflect the fact that the charge has not been increased for over five years and would take account of the increasing inflationary costs of fuel and wages since that time.
- 1.9 It is estimated that the costs of the garden waste service would be in the region of £325,000 for the 2023-24 year. An annual subscription charge of £49 would mean the service would be projected to break even and the projected income would cover the costs of delivering the service. The current income in 2022-23 is around £266,000 based on a £40 charge.
- 1.10 An annual charge of £49 per annum would be a cost of approximately £2 per collection, based on a biweekly collection over 11 months. This is significantly less than the cost of collection by an independent contractor and also less than the cost of taking garden waste to the local collection centre for many residents, when mileage and travel costs are taken into consideration.
- 1.11 The benefits of a chargeable garden waste collection service include:
- Reduces the overall environmental impact
  - Reduced cost to the Council of providing a non-statutory discretionary service
  - Residents have a choice - only those that want the service pay for it. i.e. reduced cross subsidisation by council tax payers
  - With limited availability of HGV drivers, it enables the Council to prioritise statutory services (residual, recycling, street cleaning services)
  - Manage resources effectively – we only collect only where needed