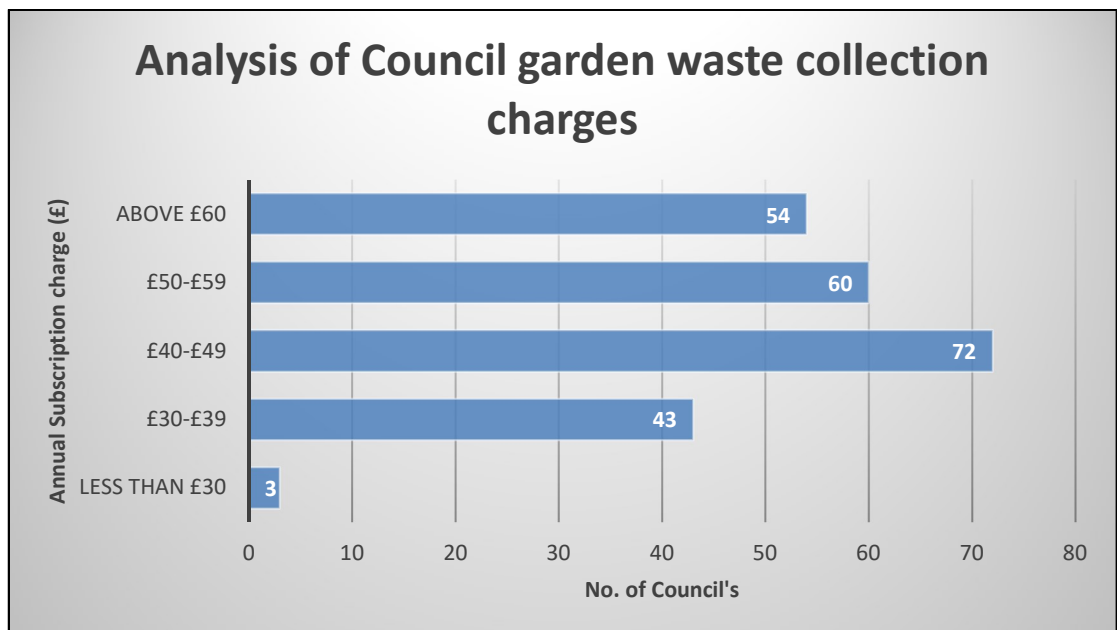


APPENDIX F

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 (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) 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 from April 2023.** At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 17th January 2023, the report recommended increasing the charge to £49 per annum from April 2023. On considering the report, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommended to the Hub Committee to increase the garden waste subscription charge to £52 per annum from April 2023. The minutes from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be presented alongside this Hub Committee report. The final decision on this will be taken by Council on 21st February.
- 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 The increased annual charge 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 A number of other Councils (already charging more than West Devon) are considering increasing their charges as part of their budget proposals for 2023/24 and West Devon would still be below these.
- 1.12 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