

**CABINET
23 JUNE 2020**

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

**5f ITEM REFERRED FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 16 JUNE 2020
– GARDEN WASTE SERVICE IMPACTS OF COVID 19**

Councillor Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg, Executive Member for Recycling and Waste Management, presented the report entitled Garden Waste Collection Service Impacts of Covid 19 and drew attention to the following:

- Three collection had been missed due to Covid-19 out of 26 collections in the year;
- An extension to the existing period was the most reasonable outcome which would result in a loss of £186,000;
- This extension would mean the renewal would be in October, which was a low gardening period, which could result in an initial low renewal rate;
- With the uncertainty of the future relating to Covid-19 it may be that the service has to be suspended again in future;

The following Members took part in the debate and asked questions:

- Councillor David Levett;
- Councillor Terry Hone;
- Councillor Tony Hunter;
- Councillor Sam Collins;
- Councillor Claire Strong

In response to questions Councillor Dennis-Harburg advised:

- Residents received a one year service from the date they paid;
- There had been a number of issues with implementing direct debits although it was hoped that this service would be available by the renewal date;
- It had never been policy to collect garden waste from those who had not paid;
- This was a joint contract with East Herts;
- There had been a number of collection staff who had self isolated due to Covid 19 and this had affected the ability to continue collections;
- Drivers of waste vehicles were specialist HGV drivers and could not easily be replaced;

RESOLVED: That the report entitled Garden Waste Collection Service Impacts of Covid-19 be noted.

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET: That Council agrees an extension of the current 12 months payment period for green waste collection, for a further period of 2 months [The loss of income based on current (48%) uptake is approximately £186,000].

REASON FOR DECISION: To acknowledge service disruption / suspension in our garden waste collection service and demonstrate to residents that the Council accepts the inconvenience caused during the seasonal peak of garden waste production.

(Take with Item 15)