



CHARGING FOR THE INITIAL ISSUING OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING BINS TO DOMESTIC PROPERTIES

Report by the Head of Municipal Services

PURPOSE

- 1.1 To agree to the introduction of a charge for the initial issuing of household waste and recycling bins to all domestic new build or refurbished properties in the Western Isles.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Historically, Cleansing Services have absorbed the full costs associated with the issuing of household waste and recycling bins to new domestic properties.
- 2.2 It is proposed to put in place a charging scheme for the initial issuing of household waste or recycling bins required to meet the service provision in the relevant area, to all domestic new build or refurbished properties in the Western Isles.
- 2.3 It is proposed that the charge for the issuing of the full set of four bins for an individual property be set at £130 plus VAT per property.
- 2.4 All bins will continue to remain the property of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, and any necessary repairs or replacement will be carried out at no additional cost to the householder, subject to fair wear and tear.
- 2.5 New housing developments add to collection route costs. Where significant additional numbers of properties are included in a new development, the service impact should be considered and the need for additional financial support assessed.

RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 **It is recommended that the Comhairle agree to the introduction of a charging scheme for the initial issuing of waste and recycling bins to all domestic new build or refurbished properties in the Western Isles.**

Contact Officer: Iain N Campbell
Appendices: 1 Results of recent network enquiry
Background Papers: None

IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The following implications are applicable in terms of the Report.

Resource Implications	Implications/None
Financial	As detailed in the report.
Legal	None
Staffing	None
Assets and Property	As detailed within the report
Strategic Implications	Implications/None
Risk	None
Equalities	None
Corporate Strategy	None
Environmental Impact	None
Consultation	None

BACKGROUND

- 5.1 Historically Cleansing Services have absorbed the full costs associated with the issuing of household waste and recycling bins to new domestic properties.
- 5.2 Due to ongoing budget pressures, Cleansing Services are looking at options for full cost recovery wherever possible.
- 5.3 A network enquiry was issued to the 31 other Local Authorities in Scotland to ascertain whether they charged for the issuing of waste and recycling bins.
- 5.4 All but one of those that responded to the enquiry currently charge for the issuing of bins and the average cost from local authorities that utilise a similar collection system to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, using 3 or 4 bins amounts to £160 plus VAT. Appendix 1 shows the charges levied by some of the local authorities that responded to the recent network enquiry.
- 5.5 As there are many variations between the collection systems in place, with some Councils operating a two-bin system with boxes issued for recycling, and others operating a four-bin system to include recycling bins, the costs levied vary considerably depending on the number and type of receptacles being issued by each local authority.
- 5.6 Having carried out the network enquiry to ascertain the position of other local authorities in Scotland, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar appear to be one of the last in implementing a charge for initial issuing of waste and recycling bins.

PROPOSAL

- 6.1 It is proposed to put in place a charging scheme for the initial issue of household waste and recycling bins required to meet the service provision in the relevant area, to all domestic new build or refurbished properties in the Western Isles.
- 6.2 It is intended that individual house builders (self-builders) or the developer of the property or properties concerned will submit a new bin request application, after receiving their Planning Application Number through the current planning process.

- 6.3 It is proposed that the charge for the issuing of the full set of waste and recycling bins for an individual property be set at £130 plus VAT per property. This will be subject to annual increment along with all other fees and charges.
- 6.4 Where a larger development is designed to have communal bins shared by individual properties / units, the charge for the issuing of communal bins will be calculated at the point of application being received from the developer / housing association.
- 6.5 All bins will continue to remain the property of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, and any necessary repairs or replacement will be carried out at no additional cost to the householder, subject to fair wear and tear.
- 6.6 The issuing of additional bins to larger households, or for medical waste needs, will be carried out at no additional cost to the householder.
- 6.7 Should there be any future service changes introduced which would require the issuing of additional or the changing of existing bins, the cost in doing so would be met by the Comhairle.
- 6.8 Where recently completed developments have been issued with bins in the current financial year, the Comhairle reserves the right to retrospectively claim the relevant charges for the issuing of these waste and recycling bins.

NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

- 7.1 There have been a substantial number of new housing developments added to the routes operated by Cleansing Services in recent years. Historically, Cleansing Services have absorbed the full costs associated with the issuing of household waste and recycling bins to new housing developments. Furthermore, collection routes have been extended to cover the needs of these developments.
- 7.2 On 28th October 2024, 33 new properties as part of the new housing development at Allt Dubh in Newmarket took delivery of all household waste and recycling bins. A further 39 properties in this housing development are expected to be allocated in the coming months. The expected income from the proposed charges from this development would amount to £9360.
- 7.3 In future there may be the need to redesign new routes to accommodate further new housing developments. This adds to the cost of waste and recycling services and should result in an annual review of the budget allocated for collection services operated by Cleansing.

CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The Comhairle is one of the last councils to introduce a charge for the provision of waste and recycling bins at new domestic properties.
- 8.2 Due to the ongoing financial pressures on the Comhairle, there is a continuous requirement to review all service provision to reclaim full cost recovery wherever possible and this includes the initial supply of bins to new build and refurbished properties.
- 8.3 The budget for waste and recycling collection services should be reviewed to take account of any new housing developments to reflect the additional financial pressure put on the service.

Results of recent network enquiry

Aberdeenshire	£31.15 (Refuse Bin Only)
Angus Council	£107.40
East Renfrewshire	£167.05
Edinburgh City Council	£82.95
Falkirk Council	£130.50
Highland Council	£68.65
Midlothian Council	£200
Moray Council	£140
North Ayrshire	£200.68
North Lanarkshire	£226.36
Perth & Kinross	£210
Renfrewshire	£225
Shetland Islands Council	£48 (Refuse Bin Only)