



Garden Waste Charging and Household Recycling Centres Consultation

Shropshire Council is seeking your views on proposals to introduce charges to garden waste collection and changes to Household Recycling Centres.

If you are interested in more information about Shropshire Council's budget proposals for 2024/25 [please click here](#).

This survey should take approximately 18 minutes to complete. The consultation will close at 11:59pm Monday, 20th May.

Thank you for taking the time to share your views.

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Does your property have a garden?

- Yes
 No

How do you currently dispose of your garden waste?

- Collected by the council using the garden waste bin
 Take to the Household Recycling centre (HRC)
 Pay a private operator to collect my waste
 Dispose of it at home or on an allotment e.g. composting
 Share garden waste bin with a neighbour or other household
 I don't produce any garden waste
 Other

Other (please specify)

How many garden bins do you currently use?

- None - I don't have a garden bin
 None - I have a garden bin but I don't use it
 1
 2
 3 or more

How often do you put your garden bin out for collection on average?

- Every collection - fortnightly
 Most collections
 Occasionally
 Rarely
 Never



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Shropshire Council continues to face significant financial pressures and it is therefore essential that the council looks at alternative sources of revenue generation. The alternative would be to cut essential frontline services.

The collection of garden waste is not a statutory duty and therefore not a service the council have to provide if they choose not to do so. Under the Control of Waste Regulations, the council can charge for garden waste collections. The fees for garden waste are set on each council's individual circumstances, such as the cost of providing the service, local budget constraints and demand. The revenue generated can be used to offset other budget pressures and support the delivery of existing services.

We believe that garden waste collection is a service that the majority of residents who have the service would prefer to continue. But to continue providing this service in the current financial climate, it is fairer to introduce a charge to fund the garden waste service only for those that use it.

If a chargeable garden waste service is implemented, how would you be most likely to deal with your garden waste going forward?

- Take more garden waste to a Household Recycling Centre
- Pay the annual fee for 1 bin
- Pay the annual fee for more than 1 bin
- Compost at home
- Don't know
- Other (please specify)

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We have undertaken some benchmarking against other local Authorities that statistically have similar characteristics as Shropshire. Below is a table giving details of how these councils currently provide for garden waste collection

Authorities	Bin/Sacks	Frequency	Cost
Central Bedfordshire	240L	Fortnightly	Free
South Gloucestershire	240L	Fortnightly	£30
East Riding of Yorkshire	240L	Fortnightly	£42 (proposed)
Warrington	240L	Fortnightly	£42
Cheshire West & Chester	240L	Fortnightly	£50
Bath & North East Somerset	240L	Fortnightly	£52
Northumberland	240L	Fortnightly	£52
North Somerset	240L	Fortnightly	£55
Cheshire East	240L	Fortnightly	£56
Cornwall	240L	Fortnightly	£65
Wiltshire	240L	Fortnightly	£66
Solihull	240L	Fortnightly	£91
Isle of Wight	240L	Fortnightly	£102
Average	240L	Fortnightly	£55

Note: 240L refers to the size of bin used for collection

Would you consider for example a charge of £52 per year to be a fair charge?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

What impact (positive or negative) would it have on you if we charged for collection of garden waste?



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Food Waste Collections

A charge cannot be made for the collection of food waste, **therefore all the properties where food waste is presently collected with garden waste (approximately 75% of all Shropshire properties) will have the service suspended even if they subscribe to the garden waste service.**

As set out within the Environmental Act 2021, there is now a statutory requirement for all Local Authorities in England to provide a weekly food waste collection to all households from the 1 April 2026. We have been working with the DEFRA food waste programme and have now developed several collection options.

The proposed suspension of food waste collections will therefore only be until **April 2026 when all properties in Shropshire will receive a new weekly food waste collection service.**

* Do you put food waste in your garden waste bin.

Yes

No

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If you said that you put food waste in your garden waste bin, how often do you do this?

- Every collection - fortnightly
- Most collections
- Occasionally
- Rarely

If we stopped collecting your food waste, what would you do with your food waste.

- Put it in my general waste bin
- Compost what I can
- Take to the HRC
- Don't know

Please let us know what else you would like to say about the suspension of food waste collection until 2026.



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Please tell us anything else that you would like to about the chargeable garden waste proposals.

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Household Recycling Centres (HRC)

The council has a statutory duty to provide sites at which residents can deposit their household waste free of charge and that are reasonably accessible to residents. The legislation does not specify how many sites an authority should provide and therefore the responsible authority is able to determine what is reasonably accessible based on local circumstances.

Do you use your local HRC?

- Yes
 No

Which HRC do you use most frequently?

How often do you use the HRC on average?

- Daily
 Weekly
 Fortnightly
 Monthly
 Rarely
 Never

What do you use the sites for?

- I do not use an HRC site
- Excess general waste (not fit in bin)
- Excess Recycling (not fit in bin)
- Recycling items not collected kerbside
- Garden waste
- Bulky item
- Other (please specify)

- None of the above

How long is your drive time to your nearest site (approximately)

- 0-5 minutes
- 6-10 minutes
- 11-15 minutes
- 16-20 minutes
- More than 20 minutes
- Don't know

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Possible Closures to Household Recycling Centres

As outlined in the [Medium Term Financial Strategy](#), Shropshire Council is proposing to close two of the five [Household Recycling Centres](#) in the county as part of necessary cost saving measures. However, we would like to get your views on some possible alternative options to this proposal. The next questions are designed to see what you think about other possible options we are exploring.

If your nearest site was permanently closed what would you do with your waste?

- Take to the another site that is open
- Reuse and give more items to charity
- Put more in my household bins
- Use the council's [bulky waste collection service](#) to get rid of larger items
- Use a 'man with a van' to get rid of my waste
- Don't know
- Other
- Other (please specify)

If your local HRC were to close, which HRC would you go to instead?

If your local HRC were to close for two days per week, please rank which days of the week you would prefer for them to stay open, with 1 being the day you most want the HRC to stay open and 7 being the day you feel is least important for it to stay open.

- Sunday
- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday
- Saturday

What impact (positive or negative) would it have on you if your nearest HRC closed?

* Would you consider paying a higher rate for garden waste collection (e.g., £60 per year) if it supported keeping all the Household Recycling Centres (HRC) open?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

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



If you said that you might be willing to pay a bit more for garden waste collection if it helps to keep all of the Household Recycling Centres open:

Can you tell us how much more extra would you be prepared to pay per year?

- up to £5 more (or £57 per year)
- up to £10 more (or £62 per year)
- up to £15 more (or £67 per year)
- More than £67 per year
- Other (please specify)

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Please rank the following possible options for the future of the Household Recycling Centres, with 1 being your most preferred option and 3 being your least preferred option.

-   Closing two HRCs in Shropshire in accordance with the council's target to achieve £62m in savings
-   Reducing the operating hours of all 5 HRCs in Shropshire instead of closing two centres permanently
-   Pay a higher annual subscription for garden waste collection and keep all HRCs open seven days a week

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Booking System for Household Recycling Centre (HRC)

Many councils have a booking system for their HRC where local residents who register can book slots, times and date to visit the HRC usually the next day. This reduces queues and improves the customer experience as staff on site have more time to help and saves the council money.

Do you support the introduction of a booking system at the HRC in Shropshire?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please add any comments here if you would like to explain your answer:

How would you prefer to book a slot?

- Smart phone app
- On-line - Website
- Telephone - customer Call centre
- Other (please specify)

Please tell us anything else that you would like to about proposals around Household Recycling Centres.

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About you:

The next questions are more personal and are about you. You do not have to complete this section if you don't want to (all questions are optional). We do not use this information to identify individuals but to make sure people of all different characteristics have been engaged in the survey and that the feedback we have is representative.

How did you find out about this consultation?

- Shropshire Council newsroom or website
- Shropshire Council email or direct message contact
- Local media e.g. local newspaper or radio
- Local community newsletter or via group membership
- Social media - Shropshire Council
- Social media - Other
- From my town or parish council
- From my local councillor
- Word mouth e.g. neighbour, friend, family
- Other

How are you responding to this consultation?

- As a member of the public
- As a town or parish council
- As a member of staff or elected member at Shropshire Council
- As a voluntary sector organisation or group
- As a representative of a public sector organisation
- As a local business
- Other

Which Shropshire town is nearest to where you live? (please select from dropdown)

Do you own or rent your home?

- Own outright
- Own with a mortgage or loan
- Rented from a housing association or Registered Landlord
- Private rented
- Shared ownership
- Living with others (e.g. parents or friends)
- Other
- Prefer not to say

How many people live in your household?

- I live alone
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 or more

What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Other (e.g. non-binary, prefer to self-describe)
- Prefer not to say

Which age group are you?

- 19 or under
- 20 - 29
- 30-44
- 45-59
- 60- 84
- 85+
- Prefer not to say

Do you have any long-standing illness or disability that limits your daily activity?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

What is your ethnic origin?

- White (British, Irish, Polish, Gypsy or Irish Traveller, Other White)
- Mixed (White and Black Caribbean, White and Black African, White and Asian, Other Mixed)
- Asian or Asian British (Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Chinese, Other Asian)
- Black or Black British (Caribbean, African, Other Black)
- Other Ethnic Group (Arab, Other)
- Prefer not to say

Are you currently employed, self employed, retired or otherwise not in paid work?

- An employee in a full-time job (30 hours or more per week)
- An employee in a part-time job (less than 30 hours a week)
- Self-employed (full or part time)
- On a government supported training programme
- In full-time education at school, college or university
- Unemployed and available for work
- Permanently sick or disabled
- Retired
- Looking after the home
- Doing something else
- Prefer not to say

Equalities:

Shropshire Council undertakes Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessments (ESHIA) for new strategies, plans and service changes.

We have asked you about the impacts of the proposals above. Do you have any other comments on diversity, equality or social inclusion that you would like us to think about when designing future waste services, please describe below.



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How we will use the information you have provided

The information you have provided will be used by Shropshire Council to influence the work of the council's waste management service/team and our work to address Climate Change. We will only publish anonymised responses, parts of responses, or a summarized version of responses and will ensure individual survey respondents cannot be identified. Your response will be stored and kept in line with Shropshire Council's Retention Schedule.

The survey results will be shared with other services within Shropshire Council and anonymised data may be shared with services commissioned by Shropshire Council. We will not share your data with any external third parties. A summary report will be developed and made available. Your information will be held securely, only shared internally where necessary. We comply with data protection laws concerning the protection of personal information, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). For more information on how information is held by Shropshire Council and your rights to gain access to the information we hold on you please see our corporate privacy policy at www.shropshire.gov.uk/privacy

Please note that you can also respond to this consultation in writing by obtaining a printed version of the survey at your nearest library and posting the completed survey to:

Feedback and Insight Team, Shropshire Council, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shropshire SY2 6ND.

You can also email us a copy of the survey or any other feedback in writing to: TellUs@shropshire.gov.uk

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey