

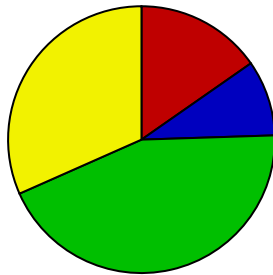
Garden Waste Consultation

Overview

From **02/12/2008** to **23/12/2008**, London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham ran a consultation entitled '*Garden Waste Consultation*'. This report covers the online element of the consultation process, which was run from <http://www.citizenspace.com/local/lbhf/GardenWaste>

Topic 1: Your feedback

Q1: What is your preferred option for excess garden waste? Before responding to this question, please read the introduction to the survey where all the options are explained in more detail



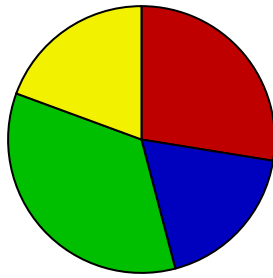
- Option 1: Stop collecting garden waste: 15%
- Option 2: Offer a bookable, chargable service : 9%
- Option 3: Continue the current registration scheme : 43%
- Other: 31%

Option	Value	Percentage
Option 1: Stop collecting garden waste	30	15%
Option 2: Offer a bookable, chargable service	19	9%
Option 3: Continue the current registration scheme	83	43%
Other	60	31%
Total	192	

Q2: If you said 'Other' in the previous question, please specify:

There are 192 responses to this question. Please see Appendix A for the text of these responses.

Q3: Are you interested in receiving a composting bin?



- Yes, I would like one: 27%
- No, I already have one: 18%
- No, I do not have the space: 34%
- No - other reason: 19%

Option	Value	Percentage
Yes, I would like one	52	27%
No, I already have one	35	18%
No, I do not have the space	66	34%
No - other reason	36	19%
Total	189	

Q4: If you said 'No - other reason' in the previous question, please specify:

There are 192 responses to this question. Please see Appendix A for the text of these responses.

Q5: Any additional comments:

There are 192 responses to this question. Please see Appendix A for the text of these responses.

Appendix A

If you said 'Other' in the previous question, please specify:

1. (1) The phraseology of the questions seems biased – my impression is that your mind is already made up. Comments (2) Why is the green waste sent all the way to Essex? Surely with the number of green spaces in the borough you could institute a number of smaller composting points – and allow gardeners to deliver their own waste to them if they wish. (3) The collections begin too late in the year. (4) People being what they are, there will be more than 5% of residents throwing out green waste. Those who do have some green space to look after do so on behalf of those who do not – we do not want the borough turned into a concrete jungle. The 5% who look after some green space subsidise the 95% who do not. Suggestions (5) As with the orange sacks you should be encouraging recycling of garden waste, so (6) Yes to subsidised compost bins to encourage people to recycle as much as possible. (7) Yes to continuing with the collections for those who are unable to recycle all their own garden waste in sufficient quantities (the average back street garden just does not have enough space for the number of bins necessary to accommodate it and to wait for it to be ready to mature) – I am sure gardeners recycle all they can. (8) Yes to continuing with the collections but be imaginative - don't charge for the bags, (discourages take-up and sets a precedent for selective charging) have local depots for intermediate collections, collect twice a month but throughout the year from registered addresses, don't send it to Essex but compost it in a corner of our own green spaces ... (9) And on the price of the bags, surely you can obtain a better price for them. (10) Provide advice on your website for compost beginners on the best construction and mix for a successful compost heap (given the limited range of stuff any individual is likely to have – I specialise in ivy and laurel and little else) and how to make it “mature” as quickly as possible. (11) Encourage the use of wormeries for composting food waste – they can be kept indoors as well as outside and they do not smell. People may not realise that – and they produce wonderfully rich compost. and finally – if you start charging me selectively for services I use, I would like to pay selectively only for the ones I use. I am looking forward to a sizeable council tax refund.
2. Provide composting bins and compost training/guidelines to all residents with gardens as well as garden refuse bags for occasional use which can be collected by the recycling collection trucks
3. Allow people to buy sacks eg at library or Gyncko garden necter at cost. Have a small number of green 'dumping grounds' around the borough ie collection points for green sacks eg one on brook green which get picked up on Monday mornings
4. Is your logic correct? Because you are collecting only a small amount of green waste with the existing Service, it does not mean it is not being produced. Your concern should be What residents are doing with it? Where do you think it is all going? I should imagine most is going in the black bag general waste, but you Guys should know that already by simple inspection. I think people are not using the Service because they need to pay extra over their general rates bill for the privilege. It should be part of the Councils Service like all other recycling and refuse collection. There is no talk of other recycling

being subsidised, so what's the difference or am I missing something? Also you do not address the problem of kitchen green waste which is collected at the moment in the general Black bag refuse and ends up in landfill. Why not develop a plan to collect all Garden and Kitchen Green Waste separately so that it does not end up in landfill and then the Boroughs overall recycling percentage will increase and the environment will be the winner. Other Local Authorities are doing it why not us? Reducing the cost of waste to Landfill will offset the cost of collection of green waste and I assume if the black bag waste volume reduces further so does its collection cost. If this is too radical a solution for you why not bring back the Saturday and Sunday skip service as was done in the past but just for green refuse.

5. I believe this service should be free and targeted at residents with access to a garden. You assume that all residents with gardens registered in 2008. I can assure you they did not. I know lots of gardeners who objected to the costs and having to register for the service - due to lack of clear communication at the time. Surely LBHF can compost the green waste for itself and use in greenspaces? Are the charges for collection realistic - what about central green waste areas where residents with cars can take their green waste? Composters would eradicate much of the need for bags/collections. (LBHF ordered how many orange recycling bags which in fact were not recyclable themselves?) I have sourced, specified and purchased millions of bio plastic and paper carrier bags this year for a client. The price of plastic (oil) has come down - does the 30p include or exclude VAT? Are you getting the best possible price? Are you purchasing here, in Europe or in the FE? Not all residents have access to the internet. Perhaps residents could go to the local library to register for a green collection and pick up bags? This would save having to deliver. This service needs more thought. The feedback from this survey will supply some useful ideas. LBHF need to model excellence. Who is good at recycling green waste and offering this service? What happens in Sweden for example?

6. This seems like a cost-cutting exercise to me - not particularly welcome in these tough economic times. More than 5% of people in this borough have gardens or garden waste products so you know that people who don't pay for the service are simply throwing out their garden waste with the regular garbage collection.

7. If charging for collection is too expensive, the Council should provide central collection points for garden waste (e.g. in local parks) rather than charging excessively or adding unnecessarily to landfill (cheapest costs but no consideration of sustainability considered).

8. Organise a proper garden wastage collection scheme. Up until this year I have always used the Council's garden waste collection scheme, but I was so exasperated by the scheme's bad organisation that, for the first time, this year I opted out and just filled up black plastic sacks instead. If you want to charge people for removing their garden waste, you need to start the scheme when the gardening year starts - the middle of February/beginning of March at the latest when Spring pruning begins. This year I rang up to find out when the scheme was going to start for 2008 and was told to call back in April. This I did, and was told that no decision had yet been made (by this time I had obviously thrown everything away in black sacks). I asked for someone to call me back to explain the idiotic logic, but, of course, nobody bothered. In previous years when I have been a member of the garden waste collection schemes, I have had to ring the Council EVERY year after the first collection was due to happen, as my rubbish

was left bio-degrading on the pavement on the day on which it was meant to be collected, and EVERY year I've been told that it was caused by a glitch with the 'contractors' - it's almost a design feature of the scheme rather than obvious shoddy organisation. If you want to get more people joining your garden waste collection scheme, you have to collect the waste from a realistic start point at the beginning of the year and you have to provide free bags; I'm not going to stump up £6 every time for a miserly 10 bags - it should be 50 for £6.

Additionally I will not have a composting bin in my garden because I only have a relatively small garden compared to, say, the large gardens off Bishops Park, and I simply don't have the room. Organise a proper scheme and I'll happily pay £20 per year to have my garden waste collected; until then, it's staying in black sacks.

9. Unsure about this - either 2 or 3 , or a combination of the two.

10. I would like to be able to buy the degradable bags from you, at a place you name, and then take them myself in my own time to a site you name.

11. In our experience the some of the 95% who do not pay for this service piggy back on those of us who have paid, and invariably we accrue more bags of green waste than we put out. I suspect that other green waste is being disposed of in less green ways ie garden waste is being put in black bin liners. Bring back the skips!

12. Continue the current registration scheme at £7.25 but enable a booking service i.e. pay for collection

13. The current scheme should continue but to make sure that collections are actually carried out. Maybe make the collections 2 weekly. In my experience the service is very hit and miss and most weeks the bags were taken by the binmen when they came around.

14. I'd prefer the garden waste collection service to continue in its present form.

15. Continue the current scheme (ie as option 3), but reduce the costs of providing the service. For example: a) fortnightly collections; b) using a closer delivery site such as West London Compost (www.wlcompost.co.uk) which is 30 mins from Hammersmith down the M40 and used by several other councils. c)offer cheaper bags or green bins or re-usable canvas sacks d)confine the service to districts where there has been large take up of the service, eg over 10% of households.

16. Collect Garden Bags with orange bags. Sort and separate them at the recycling depot.

17. I agree with what the other commentators have said. This scheme was originally touted as a grand thing for the council, as it would create compost for our local parks. Now those of us who have agreed to pay our fees and have our garden rubbish collected are being made to feel like we are selfish gits. I already compost my kitchen waste and as much of my garden rubbish as possible. You should be looking at ways to make the scheme work, and to get more people doing it. Go back to making it a free scheme (then at least those who haven't paid won't be putting their garden rubbish in with mine). Include kitchen waste, so that it is of benefit to everyone in the borough, even those without gardens. This is not what I expect from any modern council with recycling targets to meet. And the letter was insulting. "We want your views - but let's make it clear that we are not going to keep doing this, or we are going to charge you a lot more." It was enough to prompt me to reply on this site - where normally I wouldn't bother.

18. The Environment dept keep on introducing schemes that assume that all residents have a phone, debit/credit cards and the internet which as a resident I know is not the case especially amongst the elderly. This is true of your previous garden waste scheme as well as the newer smart visitors parking permit. By continuing not to offer any alternative payments method you are excluding a small but vulnerable sector from accessing council services and passing on a greater than nec burden on carers / neighbours etc. Why not offer in addition a paypoint card so that visitor parking credit and garden waste charges can be paid in local shops like council tax and rents. That way older residents dont get excluded, feel more independant and customer satisfaction with the council can be increased. Ealing one of our neighbours provide reusable garden waste bags free and also offer visitor parking via cash payment. If LBHF are really serious about recyling garden waste then they should follow ealing ... after all the orange sacks have worked have they not!

19. Free composter

20. To continue the current system, but not to have to pay more for it. We were already told our unused bags would be valid for collection next year, but now this is being changed - what a waste! What would you like us to do with the excess bags? For a 'green borough' to 'encourage' us to put out our garden waste with the black bags if we are not prepared to pay more is a disgrace. We already pay council tax which includes refuse collection and an extra fee for garden waste. This should be sufficient. To say that the collection trucks cover 220 miles per week and then travel to Essex is not a good arguement. Firstly there must be nearer places to take the garden waste and the number of people travelling to Wandsworth by car to get rid of their garden waste would increase enormously. If it is really such a problem how about making mini drop off zones in the areas that do not have many registered users and continue a collection in the areas with larger gardens who presumably use this service more. Also please do not use the arguement that 95% of the residents do not use this and are therefore sudsidising the 5% of us who do. More than 5% of the properties have gardens, therefore there must be people who are not using the scheme (probably due to the fact they have to pay extra for it). More than that, there are many residents who contribute to schools which they do not use, facilities for the elderly which they do not use and countless other services for which they have no requirement. Surely this is living in a community, making it better overall for the residents and helping in areas where it is needed, including garden waste recycling? On a final note, how about communal compost bins, perhaps at the allotments near Bishops Park. Few of us have gardens big enough to house a compost bin which would not affect us or our neighbours adversely.

21. Each year, I have had bags left over but I have had to buy new ones the following year. The registration system should be amended to allow people who have purchased bags but not used them in the same year, to just register and use their exiting supply of bags in the following year without additional charges.

22. As a single pensioner on a fixed income I resent being asked to pay £20 plus a charge for the bags. I have educated other people's children, paid for their health. I only get a 25% discount on my council tax and yet the Council raises car parking charges excessively without giving us visitors' permits, remove subsidy from adult education and now want to increase the charge for the collection of green waste. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. I have paid, so far, for registration but no more. It will go into my black sack unless this ridiculous tax

on those who have gardens is removed. I am fed up subsidising other people and not getting anything in return. It is no use reducing Council Tax with one hand and charge for facilities with the other. I have no space for a composter and have very little food waste - mainly bones and citrus waste, which cannot be composted. My waste is from pruning plants and without other waste this does not make for good compost. Like others who have commented why on earth sent garden compost to Essex. It should be composted in Borough and used in our parks and sold back at cost to gardeners.

23. I really don't see why you would have to charge a higher rate. The argument that not all residents use the service is invalid. There are lots of services in the Borough which would qualify for this argument. We all pay for every service with our council tax and yet I'm sure that given the choice, those residents who don't use a particular service would like to see those who do, charged extra.

24. ignore this response

25. Truly, I'm not sure what the answer should be. I really want to be "green" so would be sorry if the collection of garden waste was ended and everything went into the general waste collection. However, as a single pensioner, with a small garden, while I understand the apparent economics, I don't generate enough waste to store it until I have ten bags before having it collected - the bags degrade far too quickly, apart from not being able to afford the £10 a time on top of the cost of the sacks. Nor am I physically able to deal with a composting bin on site; it's all I can do, with the help of a friend, to keep the garden looking respectable. Similarly, I think option 3 would be very expensive for me since I can't get to the libraries and would resent having to pay an additional £3 postage for every ten sacks. I find it hard to believe that green waste must be taken to Essex; Surely there are nearer sites which could deal with the material.

26. I would like to opt for a free green collection scheme that includes all disposable waste (i.e., kitchen scraps) so that we can all participate. I have been using the current registration scheme and it's a poorly operated and (now) expensive service. Our green bags were often included in the black bag rubbish collection anyway. Of course 95% of residents will subsidise the 5% that use the service but all residents benefit from trees and greenery. It's a tax on the few residents that happen to live in basements or ground floor properties that end up picking up the detritus and then get penalised for disposing of it.

27. None of the options are ideal, but I think the current scheme is the least bad option. Having to keep hold of 10 bags before ringing for collection wouldn't work, as most people (like me) have small gardens and it would take ages to fill so many; the older bags would start to decompose. I appreciate that the collection could collect fewer than 10 bags, but I wouldn't want to pay £10 and only have a couple of bags collected. I'm surprised that the bags collected are being sent to Essex. Can't they be composted nearer to LBHF? Kew Gardens has a massive composting operation (the biggest compost heap in the UK, or so they claim) - couldn't we come to an arrangement with them? Finally, the subsidy. It's in the nature of any communal service that some people subsidise others. I don't have children, I have a job and I'm in my mid-30s, but quite a lot of my council tax goes to pay for nurseries, unemployment benefit and care for the elderly. I don't mind that at all - it's what happens in society and it's fair that it does - but we shouldn't get hung up on the fact that not everyone in the borough uses the garden waste collection service.

28. Would it be possible to have secure skips at certain points in the Borough where people could take their garden waste. Otherwise, could there be a single collecting point for each street or group of streets where people could leave their bags the night before the collection, rather than having the lorry trawl all the roads looking for bags placed outside registered addresses. I fear if you charge more, fewer people will use the service and many will dump their garden waste.

29. Council should continue to collect waste but make their own composting facility to reduce transport and environmental costs, and sell back to residents to defray costs of collection.

30. I recycled garden waste up until you brought in the registration scheme. Then it all seemed like a lot of extra work and hassle so I stopped. Option 1 is a definite “no” – I have a small garden. I have and use a composting bin but it can't possibly handle all the kitchen and garden waste generated so I would be throwing away recyclable waste. Option 2 is a definite “no” – I only generate a couple of bags at a time and the hassle and cost to you and me of arranging a special callout is prohibitive. Option 3 comes close. Unlike some of the comments on this site, I don't mind paying extra for this service and the current cost of around around £13 per year including bags seems ok to me - and I don't mind my neighbours piggybacking on my service, perhaps we should all get together and register at a single address! The distribution of biodegradable sacks via libraries worked well for me prior to the registration scheme and the postal option sounds good too. I may have misunderstood how the collection works currently – I was under the impression that I had to phone ahead to let you know I had garden waste to be collected and I'm just not that organised. The idea of putting it out with the normal weekly collection sounds good. Also, at the risk of sounding really lame... I just can't be bothered to both collect/pay for the bags and to register separately for the service. If option 3 really does mean putting garden waste out (without giving any advance notice) on the same day as my normal collection, and if the admin could be made less onerous (why can't I just pay more for the sacks and not have to register?) then I would select option 3. Good luck!

31. Find cheaper white sacks to reduce the subsidy. To encourage more recycling give white sacks to any resident who wishes; this service needn't be a tacked-on extra. Establish a municipal compost heap, e.g. at College Park or on a brownfield site (or possibly in conjunction with another local Council) to cut down freight costs, congestion and travel pollution. Offer a wider range of compost bins, or wormeries, to suit all tastes and size (mine is the size and shape of a large dustbin and it's the only one I would contemplate for my small garden - and I'm a keen composter). Offer information leaflet on composting, e.g., backed by the Soil Association. Regular articles/updates in h&f news (I could do this). Give incentives to composters. Be enthusiastic. If you want the borough to get composting you have to really mean it. So tie it in with gardening, front gardens, the whole green bit. No garden is too small for a compost bin - mine is 20' x 13'.

32. In addition to Option 3, these modification would be effective to support environment-friendly citizens and reduce the cost of Council in long period of time. 1) Change the sets of decompose green bags from 10 to 5 and reduce the cost. 2) Introduce new Kitchen/Food waste scheme which has been introduced in Islington and Ealing council. 3) Collect Orange, Green and Food recycling waste in same schedule. 4) Continue environment-conscious scheme

such as separating recyclable materials from non-recyclable materials and report the fact and trend of recycling activities more frequently to the public.

33. I would prefer to pay more but not to have to wait til I have 10 or 20 bags ready for collection- as the bags decompose very quickly. I tend to have about 5-6 bags ready for collection each month. I think its a great service, to be able to be part of a communal compost effort.

34. It should be collected weekly exactly as per orange sacks in REUSABLE bags - like the ones used in Hounslow. The biodegradable bags are too small and degrade sometimes within the week which makes them not fit for purpose. Waste could be shredded/composted locally - say at allotment sites/in parks - and available to local residents/parks. It should be possible to devise a scheme which does not involve it being transported but re-used.

35. I would prefer option 2 if it were not so expensive. If I waited until I had 20 bags of waste, with the exception of big pruning sessions, the bags would fall apart before I could arrange collection.

36. If the Council are seriously interested in recycling and can put the material collected to good use I suggest a monthly collection replaces the wasteful weekly we have been receiving. This would reduce costs considerably while still providing a Public Service. If for example each area was designated the same first Monday or Tuesday or Wednesday etc each month as their collection day this would act as a memory trigger for the Green Collection.

37. I agree with many of the comments made by others1- you should be encouraging green waste recycling not abandoning it and certainly not pricing it out of existence.2 - many people in the borough have only little outside space - with barely eno space to grow things, let alone to have a composting bin3- your current scheme of sending compost to essex is clearly ludicrous. there has to be a cheaper and more environmentally sound solution4- you should look at the examples of many other local councils where they run (typically by commercial companies) very effective recycling sites - not just for green waste but for cardboard, electricals, metals, wood etc.... The council should be seeking to invest further in all forms of recycling - rather than rely on your residents to take their rubbish to other local council facilities or as is all too often the case, just dump them in our streets

38. Develop a system for collecting kitchen and garden waste from all households - as Elaing Council does

39. Continue the current scheme at the same (or greater) level of subsidy. And improve the reliability of collections (even if they go fortnightly). LBHF will always have a minority of residents using the garden waste scheme - most people live in flats and only a minority of those flats (of which mine is one) have a garden. That isn't an excuse to reduce efforts to compost/recycle. This looks to me like a cost-cutting initiative dressed up with dubious arguments about fairness. There are plenty of council services used by a minority - I suspect this is one that is not a statutory requirement to provide, so it is being attacked. The Essex-based enviornmental arguments also look spurious - I imagine that a significant number of people would drive their own cars to the Wandsworth tip on the weekend to get rid of their garden waste if this service were discontinued.

40. We are meant to be trying to move towards a greener cleaner future.. and i don't think that by saying its too expensive, so we should stop it is the correct response. I think you need to look at ways to improve the service and to make those with gardens aware of the scheme and the benefits of disposing of the

garden waste correctly. Subsidised compost bins is a great idea for those with room.. recycling of kitchen waste is another good move forward, less collections, a closer composting site than Essex!. there are so many good ideas in people comments that i cannot believe that the garden waste service cannot be improved to become a worthwhile cost effective scheme.

41. It doesn't have to cost so much. You could have collections every 2 weeks with bags left at designated street corners. Garden waste could be composted locally for Borough park use, as opposed to taking it to Essex. The council could even sell back to us the composted waste. We don't all have children and do not object to our council spending our money on schools. So those who do not have gardens should not object to money being spent reasonably on waste, especially if the resulting compost goes to beautify our local parks.

42. continue with present system

43. I agree with the majority of other opinions. What are the council trying to do, deter people from recycling? To me it looks like they don't want us to recycle the garden waste as there is no incentive being offered to people who make the effort, in fact they are being charged for doing so. Why don't we all just stick the garden waste in black bags and be done with it!! With the option to charge such an exorbitant amount for 10 plastic bags, why would I bother when picking up the leaves from my lawn that have fallen from my neighbours tree?! Also, I have already purchased a composter for recycling kitchen waste, if I were to put all the clippings from lawns and hedges then I would need 3 or 4 composters, of which I have no space and subsequently I have no flower beds to spread the future compost on, so what then, will they come and take my compost away? Will the council offer refunds to those of us who are pro-active and have already purchased a composter? There is also the danger this will encourage people to start ripping out hedges and gravel over lawns as they are seen to be an unnecessary burden, which would be a real shame for the borough. In general I am all for recycling as much as possible and I'm happy to contribute a minimal additional amount above the current council tax to aide this. Also I don't see why people in a 12th floor flat should have to use their council tax to fund garden waste recycling so agree people with gardens should accept some responsibility for the cost. However my attitude to recycling will change should such draconian charges be brought, which I would consider to be punishing me for being environmentally aware.

44. I think the present system should continue but not at increased cost as this will discourage people from registering. The curbside collection is by far the best as it encourages people to recycle properly. If you have to take waste to a collection point people won't bother. I feel strongly that I should be given the opportunity to recycle but not at the expense of others who won't and will simply add it to the black bags. Ideally the collections should be free albeit less frequent.

45. I think it is wrong to stop this green service. We already pay for rubbish collection in our council tax, so it is wrong to charge additional amounts, which are not inconsiderable, for a service that the council should be providing anyway. You should be encouraging this service, so more people take part (publicising, making it easier to participate rather than registering etc etc) rather than making it harder and more expensive and claiming other households are 'subsidising' (on this same logic, I am subsidising schools which I don't use! rubbish!). I think this is cost cutting, dressed up as 'fairness' and not at all what the council should be encouraging in terms of green-ness. If any option has to

be considered, it must be option A because the costs of B & C are simply untenable. But this is making a mockery of your commitment to being green and recycling.

46. I have a very tiny garden which I clear about twice a year putting out 3-4 bags of garden waste each time. It's awful to put them in landfill rubbish but I have so little it isn't worth paying to register, or to have it picked up separately. I recommend that the borough create places accessible to each neighbourhood (a small corner on Brook Green, for example) at weekends only where we could deliver our garden waste.

47. The council needs to ban the disposal of green garden waste through the black bag collection. This will force people into using the garden waste collection and eliminate the free riders. You also need to publicise the fact that subsidised compost bins are available more widely.

48. I do not think these are the only options for garden waste. Has the council explored working with neighbouring (Conservative controlled) boroughs such as Ealing, K&C and Wandsworth? All of these have green collection services and none which involve transportation to Essex - why is this necessary? With the need to recycle so important it would be very selfish to go for option A, option B is ridiculously expensive and option C likewise. The Council is not only supposed to be financially efficient, it must also provide a decent service to residents. I feel LBHF is letting us down on garden waste and must explore other options. Lastly on the composting bins, would these be able to compost twigs and hedge trimmings? If not then these are not relevant for this consultation as they are household composters not garden waste composters. Please respond on this point.

49. The current scheme didn't work - Although I had paid the annual fee it appears to make little difference in the collecting promises. Last year the leaves didn't fall until after the end of January and the scheme was arbitrarily stopped early December.

50. I prefer option 3 but having tried to use it for the first time this year it did not work and as at today's date 9/12 I have 10 bags full of leaves which no one will collect because I cannot register this late - does it really take 8 days for the register to kick in? And to be told to place them in black bags defeats the object of the white compostable bags!! You need to get your act together.

51. The current scheme should continue. The options you give are too expensive. If there is no other choice but 2 or 3 I would reluctantly have to say Option 1. I support this scheme but I have a small garden and the pricing you have suggested is simply far too expensive for the use I will make of it.

52. I don't mind paying to register as a user of the scheme as I have masses of bags from the past years; I do think that £20 is too high for what is essentially waste removal and included in the council tax. As one who puts out one small bag of household rubbish each week, but an orange bag full of recyclables, I think it is sensible to also recycle garden waste. However, this waste should be recycled somewhere in the borough in order to make compost for use in the borough's parks or for sale to borough residents, not carted off to Essex! My use of the garden waste scheme is as sporadic as it seems are the days for collection. A collection every other week could be something one could keep track of, or the first week of every month. However, one collection per month leaves rather a long period to pile the deteriorating bags somewhere, followed by trying to get them on the pavement in one piece, ready for collection. Because the weather is unpredictable, one cannot always prune just before a

collection day; if the collections are far apart the bags have a chance of being filled on a fine day and then waiting in the rain, deteriorating before collection, necessitating another bag being used. Our taxes pay for many services that we do not all receive, but that is the way of it. Garden waste, in the end, is waste and must be collected. It can rot down in landfill and, ignoring the element of the plastic bin bag, could enrich the soil of the landfill, but it might be more usefully employed in our parks. It seems to me that the gardeners involved in the scheme are really doing something for the borough by bothering to be part of the scheme and offering their garden waste for a composting. I don't think the people in charge of this department are really interested in the scheme's success or otherwise they would be finding cheaper bags and not be contributing to carbon emissions by hauling garden waste from west London out to Essex. I, as many others, will not want to put bags of garden waste in a shopping trolley and wheel them around to some central location, possibly far away. The old skip-on-the-corner worked well for getting rid of rubbish, but would be impossible for recycling because people would just use it as a tip and it would then have to be hand sorted. As the orange bags and the garden waste bags are easily distinguishable, they could be collected on the same day by trucks that have a divider in their bed: orange on one side, white on the other. Where there is a will there is a way, management! Get someone in there with some experience in making things work, someone with imagination, and stop thinking that this is icing on the cake for the gardener but rather something desirable for the borough. I can go back to the black bags (we were allowed five black bags per week before the scheme) quite happily, but I think you are missing an opportunity and not showing any leadership. I definitely do not want a composting bin; I have some in my garden now that I do not use as what I send in my garden waste sacks is more along the lines of heavy pruning, not just a few autumn leaves. The period of collection needs to begin by 1 March and be organised in the rhythm of gardening. Ask a gardener or ring the RHS if no one in your office is qualified to know what that means. I think if you did not charge to register and only charged for the bags to be purchased at the libraries (?), then people would be able to participate as much as they needed and would be in control of their level of participation.

53. The Council trumpeted the 3% saving in Council Tax. For me all this went on registering for the Garden Waste Collection. It has never worked properly and operates over the wrong time scale. Most of my pruning is done February -April with little during the summer. Two wet summers meant everything grew faster than normal. I already have two compost bins which take most of my household and garden waste and are usually full therefore the garden waste collection was a useful back up. In the winter months the contents of compost bins do not breakdown very rapidly and this is when the scheme should run. I would like the scheme to continue and it should if 'green policies' are to be adopted. However as I am on a fixed income I cannot afford to continue to pay more. I would be happy to take my green waste to a collection point to cut down on the road miles driven searching for it. I totally reject your argument about subsidy for all the reasons others have given. There are many services I do not use but I do not object to paying towards them. I never could understand the incentive to pay for green recycling when it was free to send garden waste to landfill sites where it does not aerobically break down but contributes to methane production. There must be a nearer location for disposing of garden waste than Essex. Kew Gardens springs to mind - they have the largest

compost heap in Europe and even the Household Cavalry delivers manure. The scheme would work better and be more cost effective if residents were allowed to buy back compost. Your preamble mentioned free/subsidised compost bins but the link gave no mention of free bins and told me I was a resident of Ealing Council. You wasted more money by sending me replicate letters of the consultation which also mentioned that you would be delivering Christmas trees in January. I would prefer to have all of mine (one/per letter) delivered in December 2009 please. Finally I thought (and fervently hoped) that we were getting a joined-up recycling service from January 2009 where everything would be collected on a single day (domestic, recycling and garden waste). That surely would cut down on the number of refuse trucks passing my house repeatedly every day? As a final and not unrelated point I recycle so much that I only put out domestic waste once every three weeks - this is largely non-recyclable plastic, cling film, tin foil, lids, yogurt pots and citrus peel which is not good in compost bins. I have found that so-called compostable plastics from certain supermarkets take several years to degrade and I do not have enough compost bins to fill with this. The solution is simple each week I return all plastic packaging to the supermarkets from whence it came and let them recycle it.

54. The current system should be maintained at the current pricing (or less). The arguments to stop it are less than convincing.

55. Gardeners, like school children, the aged and new immigrants have as much right to being subsidised by the ratepayer through the council as all the other groups: it is the way the system should work. We do an essential job in these global warming days and should not be victimised for it. If the scheme remains it should do so at present prices. It is very badly organised. Energy and money is wasted, as in picking up missed bags a day or two later. It should be an embarrassment to you. That inefficiency also costs us extra money in the many telephone calls that have to be made. I suggest a new scheme that would incorporate the collection of both kitchen and garden waste together. The green way to go. At the same time to continue to encourage composting by whatever means throughout the borough. ie repeat your compost bin offer again in spring - promote talks on the subject etc.

56. The registration scheme is fine in principle but the service needs to be improved - our experience this year has been that the bags are often not collected. The Council has a responsibility to collect waste and to promote recycling. The cost of doing so should be borne by Council tax payers as a whole. A nominal registration charge (£20 is fine) is acceptable but anything more than that would be objectionable and result in a low take-up of the service.

57. continue the existing scheme and make it work properly. i am proud to belong to a council that recycles garden waste, and ashamed to belong to one that considers option 1 to be a genuine option. what do you mean by "no additional cost to you or other residents": there is a substantial cost to the environment in overloading land infill.... lots of things in this borough are heavily subsidised by non-users: why should this scheme be an exception? and please use a more local composting site.

58. I would support: a) a collection day every 4 weeks and for the collection to be made ON that day; b) to be able to use our existing paid for white bio. bags and to obtain further bags from designated outlets; c) for the service to run from the beginning of March to mid-December.

59. I am happy to buy bags as in options 2 and 3. I would prefer to carry full bags to central composting/collection points within the borough AND have the option of a bookable chargeable service for the occasions when I have a larger number of bags, such as the end of season tidy up.

60. Garden waste should be collected separately but WITHOUT charge. There is always cross subsidisation. Car owners must be subsidising other services as we get precious little for what we pay, other boroughs allow parking anywhere in the borough, I can only park in about 6 streets around where I live and often have to walk home late at night from a neighbouring street. I am a very OLD lady! You would not need to charge if you reduced costs by reducing waste..I received FOUR separate copies of your letter, all addressed to me, three went into the recycling bin. Recently I received TWO copies of the same bulky questionnaire about help with Council Tax. I reached half way through before I realised it would not apply to anyone with more than 16'000 pounds, so both went into recycling. Then I receive a phone call from one of your dedicated employees asking if I want help with this massive form! He agreed with me I was not eligible. Would'nt it have been simpler and less costly to write to everyone a one-page letter saying if they have less than 16'000 pounds they are eligible. Then only those needing the rebate could be sent the questionnaire. I received two questionnaires as I own two flats which would have anyway been an indication to you that I am not eligible for a rebate. What a waste of paper, postage, time and money! Can we have a breakdown of what you do with the car parking charges? What other services is it subsidising? Why have we never been given a breakdown of costs every time you increase the resident's permit?

61. Reinstate a free green waste collection service, with collections once a month rather than weekly.

62. I agree with most of the comments already made. Continue with the current scheme but reduce costs at your end with either 2 or 3 weekly collections. In my experience collections were rarely made on the prescribed day, and almost invariably I had to ring the council to get the bags collected. If, as is usually the case, residents views are ignored and one of the listed schemes comes into operation, at the very least include some sort of concession for pensioners. Also, if people have excess biodegradable bags from last year can they be used? I still have about 50 bags left over from previous years. Would I, as last year, still have to pay for more bags even though I don't need them?

63. Why doesn't the council show a bit of imagination? Why compost in Essex? Surely we should be looking at making a compost heap somewhere in the borough - how about one of the parks or allotments? Those contributing could get free compost in return.

64. The council should put forward a balanced argument. Your letter appears biased. Taking each of the 'information' points you provide: 1. 35 pounds reflects the fact that only around 5% of households ascribe to the service. If the service was free more would use it and the cost per household would reduce significantly. I cannot believe there isn't a cheaper alternative than 30p per bag - the purchasing power of councils across the country alone, plus increased volumes if more households use the service, should provide cost savings/bag. 2. Again, the bags should cost less than 14p per bag, otherwise use cheaper ones until the biodegradable ones become cheaper. 3. The charge is subsidised by the 5% of households that choose to pay, and not the other way around. Where does the waste produced by those that don't pay go? I expect most will

be in the normal black household waste bags, as few people have the space for composting or burning. 4. Are you saying that only 5% of households produce 100% of the garden waste? Or that 95% of the relevant households compost or burn their garden waste? As above, it is the 5% that pay who are subsidising, not the 95%. If the council is serious about separating out garden and other waste it should provide a free service, increase the size and efficiency of the operation, and thus reducing the cost. 5. If there is only a 1% waste problem we might as well just accept garden waste as part of normal 'wet' waste collection - plastic bags will break and the waste will biodegrade with rest. Surely the question is how much garden waste is collected in black bags with normal 'wet' waste, or that is tipped illegally. 6. Why are collection trucks going all the way to Essex. Is there not enough good composting material created in the council for a site nearer to the council being used/created. Re your proposal for encouraging composting at home: Gardeners WANT to compost at home, it saves costs and is better for the plants. But in London there is not the space to compost effectively. Also some waste such as wood is not suitable for composting at home unless it is shredded, which would meant households buying a shredder or burning etc, neither of which should be promoted. So I don't think your proposal helps. I expect that most households that can do so are already composting (this is not a new issue), so your scheme will not significantly reduce the waste. The council must accept its responsibility to deal with garden waste, and should pay for this. The bigger houses with bigger gardens will already be paying higher rates to cover this cost. If the council has studied the issue and decided that on balance it is not worth separating out the garden waste then it should say so clearly. If it is expensive and complicated most people will be forced to double bag the waste in black bins and add it to normal collections. Is this what the council want to achieve? The council through the higher costs and complex schemes may end up encouraging people with gardens to concrete them and cut down trees. This will solve the waste problem, but at a high cost. What happens to the garden waste the council collects? Can it be sold after composting, or used by the council in parks etc? Perhaps collections should be much more local, with the waste being collected and taken to local green sites where it is composted and then used locally for allotments, parks, or for residents to collect and use themselves. Could it pay for itself? There are a lot of council vans working in parks, pruning trees, etc - could these not be part of compost collection. Have the council discussed the issue with companies operating in the compost business supplying west london? Have you looked at what do other cities in the UK and worldwide do?

65. Subsidising arguments are not valid - we all subsidise each other in various ways. Quite happy to continue paying a registration fee/costs of the bags. You should reduce the frequency of collection i.e. every 2/3/4 weeks instead of every week. Find a closer place to compost than Essex!

66. more sites to leave refuse - maybe a garden refuse bin every few streets

67. test data

68. Garden waste recycling should be continued in order to reduce the amount that must be going into landfill and prevent the additional car journeys that would be required by those who continue to recycle. I do not know the most efficient procedure, but would imagine a sensible mixture of reduced pick-up frequency and designated sites would probably be best.

69. I would prefer option 3 for myself but feel option 2 is a workable way forward.

70. You should be encouraging people to put out their garden waste, instead of lumping it in with other rubbish. You send out a bad message to all by implying it's not important enough to continue. And I agree with a previous correspondent - there are all sorts of services that each of us may not use (such as schools), but we all pay for them, we don't begrudge others' use of them - the same should apply to this simple and ecological scheme. I would be happy to take mine to a skip, if there was one nearby and if it was efficiently monitored and emptied.

If you said 'No - other reason' in the previous question, please specify:

1. Compost bins could attract rats & mice etc I believe that every other Council collects garden waste; it is the responsible thing to do. Changing the current scheme is purely designed to save costs; it totally conflicts with the 'Green' agenda to put garden waste in black bags as part of the ordinary landfill.
2. I said yes I would like one and I will do my very best to squeeze it in alongside the two I already have, the two water-butts and the wormery
3. My garden is small and mainly has hard surfaces. However an appreciable volume of green waste is produced at times. I think the volume of compost produced would exceed the area of ground to use it in. Also locating a compost bin would be difficult in a small garden.
4. Also very worried about attracting mice and rats with a composting bin.
5. Agree with other comments that it's unlikely that households in the Borough will have sufficiently large garden space to use up the compost produced by the average household.
6. My garden is too small - compost bins smell and my neighbours would object.
7. Space is limited and I fear the bin would attract rats - which have already been a problem here - and encourage visits from foxes. Might also encourage the squirrels which already damage the garden quite considerably.
8. I understand that you can't compost anything and that rats can be a problem. What do we do with twigs etc?
9. Not suitable for us. They encourage mice and rats and these are already a problem because we live near the river. Also we do not have a suitable space in our garden and much of the waste is grass.
10. (1) Our waste is hedge trimmings that would take ages to compost (2) we already compost kitchen waste (3) we don't have the space
11. I rarely stay in a property long enough for me to complete a composting cycle.
12. The only place to house one would be where we sit or next to where our neighbours sit. Neither would be suitable due to smell and mice, rats and foxes. How about communal composting bins at various sites around the borough?
13. ignore this response
14. Most of our garden waste is grass, leaves and twigs which cannot be easily composted. I would also be concerned with foxes, rats, mice, etc.
15. I think they attract vermin
16. I would like to have one, but I live in flat and the garden is not my own. If I can get permission from land owner, I would love to introduce garden waste

composer immediately.

17. Composting has to be carefully understood or it can attract foxes etc into the gardens. we are scrupulous only to compost uncooked vegetable matter.

18. I don't want one, thanks.

19. Having read the other comments, I am now also concerned about rats. The real reason is that I have nowhere suitable to house a compost bin and I also doubt that it would take the volume of leaves (autumn) and prunings (spring) that accumululate in short bursts.

20. The majority of the garden waste is cuttings off the (rampant) plants, vines etc, and being branch like, would not compost very well, and would fill the bin too quickly. Also, suspect it would smell a bit if all organic matter put in.

21. I've already got one as I mention before. I don't want to fill my garden with composting bins, thanks.

22. But even if I did have the space, I would not compost kitchen waste as I am afraid of attracting rats. (We have spotted them twice in our ten years in Bridge View.)

23. I had a compost bin from the council before. The problem was rats eat there way into it even though it was put into the ground at the proper depth

24. A composting bin is TOO HEAVY for me to cope with. Every year 80% of my garden waste is caused by the falling leaves from the trees in the adjacent park!. Would much prefer collapsable - composting bags rather than the rigid plastic (yuk) ones.

25. our garden space is very limited - so we tried the wormery during 07-08. Sadly, it didn't work well and the smell was terrible.

26. we have a communal composting area at the back of the garden

27. I do not have the space and most of the rubbish is grass cutting and twigs which do not compost well. I would also be wary of rats and rodents.

28. We produce very little kitchen waste and most of our garden waste is not readily compostable (twigs, small branches and grass clippings).

29. I have tried composting but the kind of things I compost (shrub prunings) are too heavy for a bin arrangement. My former attempts have ended by not working.

30. See previous answer to Q2. I already have two and no further space. Where are the free compost bins and why do I have to live in Ealing to buy one?

31. Last time we found it attracted rats and foxes and swarms of flies in the summer outside our windows. Not popular with the neighbours either.

32. I have ordered one from the link on the web page.

33. Whoever wrote the introduction doesn't appear to understand composting. I have an 8ft x 8ft garden. I have a compost bin but I cannot compost in sufficient quantities to generate the high temperatures that break down woodier or diseased material.

34. Had one before, have enough foxes, rats and mice already - they are getting out of hand. Do not want to encourage more of them into the garden - it's like a zoo as it is. Also the smell is deplorable, especially in the warm weather !!

35. We have a lot of grass cuttings and they do not compost well. We also do not have anywhere to put it.

36. test data

37. I have heard of people who have had problems with rats in their compost bins

38. Several years ago, the Council offered composting bins for the garden. I took one and did as I was instructed: ie put only compost from the garden and fruit and vegetables from the kitchen. I was very careful not to put out meat or anything that might attract rats. Well, after about 10 days (if that), I saw that rats were enjoying the bounty -- and have not used it since. Encouraging composting bins in an urban environment is just exacerbating a problem. I'd like to think that this is a problem that hasn't occurred to you. But I've pointed it out now, which means that it would be extremely irresponsible of you to go ahead with your proposal. (I see that I am not the only person to make a similar comment.)

Any additional comments:

- 1.** Unless it is environmentally beneficial, there is no justification for continuing the collection regardless of whether it is paid for or not. Unless a solution that is both economical and green can be devised there would seem to be no alternative but to return to the use of black bags.
- 2.** Your letter to me of 28th November 2008 seems very negative in the extreme. It does not seem to support the green agenda or consider our environment now or in the future. Putting our waste into landfill is not the answer. We should all be looking to the future and providing solutions now to protect that future.
- 3.** Money can be made from green waste. Certainly LBHF and other boroughs could use its own compost in parks and on estates rather than buying more. A saving! Schools could get more involved in 'green' projects - what makes good compost - how to grow vegetables etc...put fruit/vegetable peel/dead flowers/tea bags etc in composter I do not see the point of putting green waste into land fill. Land fill does not get the sunlight or oxygen required to start the degrading process so things like bio plastic bags will not degrade quickly in landfill whereas they will in compost heaps.
- 4.** I agree with other comments that the letter seems very negative. Why not try increasing people's participation in the garden waste scheme rather than making it more difficult for those who have supported the program and who are trying to adopt a green agenda? Sounds suspiciously like a simple case of cost-cutting!
- 5.** Put some conviction into a garden waste system; we already compost everything we can, but we need a disposal system for twigs, branches etc in the gardening season. We could manage fortnightly collections or even monthly if you were reliable in keeping to them. The old skip system was good. Your bag system suffered at the beginning from being half-hearted and inefficient - our bags often biodegraded before being collected. We would pay (option c) but would wish to use the piles of white bags we still have in our shed. How about doing what Southampton does and issue re-usable canvas bags which can get emptied? More people might use a collection system if the borough put a bit of effort into education and promotion. Your consultation document reads as if the answer you are looking for is 'stop collecting garden waste' - which I don't think is good enough. I strongly suspect you have already decided to do that anyway and that this consultation is for show like others the borough carries out.
- 6.** I believe the council should spend time encouraging the residents who do have green spaces to look after them. The options seemed extremely negative

to use this service, and sounded like a cost saving exercise. Making green waste collection harder, will just encourage people to concrete over the space that we have left, and this is not good for the environment and local wildlife. Keeping this service will help time poor people to keep the borough as pleasant as possible for everyone else, and generations to come!

7. Agree with other comments that the options offered were partial and unsatisfactory. It's hardly surprising that the responses submitted are so negative. Not a very impressive consultation exercise.

8. It might be possible to collect compostable material in the 'community garden' opposite 48 Godolphin Road?

9. The Council's comment "that 95% of residents in H&F are subsidising the 5% who use the service" is dangerous unless the Council is contemplating introducing a general pay-as-you-go attitude to Council Tax - many council tax payers are already subsidising other services they may not use, why should garden waste be any different.

10. I suspect one of the reasons why garden waste is not put out more frequently for collection is that the collection often does not happen, and bags are left outside on the pavement, where people drop all sorts of rubbish on top of them.

11. If you want green collections to work you need to make them inexpensive and very simple

12. I don't understand how the reduced subsidy would help the environment. If the service is not been use, it is the council responsibility to promote this and ultimately achieve H&F sustainable target. It is absolutely ridiculous to try more for the same service. Is this another way for the council to increase the revenue?? I absolutely object to this. Please be sensible. regards, Dion Tang

13. The current way of collecting garden waste did not work very well in my case. Some weeks it was collected usually not on the day specified. Most of the time it was not collected so come Friday I had to bring the garden waste back into the garden always having to put it in a new bag because it had degraded in the time it was out for collection. This happened for several weeks at a stretch, eventually I would put it out for general rubbish collection. The garden waste has not been collected from my road in such a long time I thought it had finished for the year so have not bothered to put it out for collection instead it goes out for general rubbish collection or friends have taken it when they are going to dispose of garden waste.

14. I currently take part in the garden waste collection scheme and found the letter I received from the council to be grossly biased and poorly considered. It doesn't seem to me that Mr Botterill and Ms. White are interested in my views at all. The letter instead seems intended to tell me I should be against the current scheme and becomes a roundabout way of eliminating the programme and/or having residents pay more for it 'by choice'. The 'information' given on the letter is so unashamedly biased against the programme I wouldn't even call it information. How many tonnes of waste were saved from landfill by the service? I assume this was the primary purpose of the programme, yet no information is contained within the 'information'. It also argues against the scheme because the 5% of resident who use the scheme are being subsidised by the 95% of resident who don't. If we're going to use this logic to decide how my council tax is spent then I propose that I no longer pay council tax for services I don't use. I believe that about half of the council's budget subsidises housing for low income residents. I pay my own rent and don't take advantage

of this programme. I'll gladly pay the full costs of the garden waste programme and in exchange the council can reduce my tax bill by half to account for my lack of usage of council housing. This is just silly logic and I find it shocking that Mr. Botterill and Ms. White thought they could convince the residents of the borough in this manner. Also on this same piece of 'information', we're told that only 5% of households take up the scheme. Wow! That seems like so few people, except 5% is not a small fraction when you consider that a fair proportion of households in the borough don't have private gardens. The last point I'd like to make about the 'information' has to do with the scheme not being environmentally friendly. How exactly was this conclusion come to? If collection trucks hadn't have picked up the garden waste, it would have been picked up by other trucks and subject to the same shipping costs. How far is landfill waste shipped? Isn't it also transported through heavy London traffic? I have a feeling there's no real analysis behind this conclusion at all and it's just another way to convince us that the scheme isn't working, when in fact, not a single valid reason is presented in this letter.

15. I am concerned that the option I have chosen will increase the amount going to landfill, but hope that H&F can increase the amount of other recycling by households to compensate.

16. The current system is not working. Our garden waste is never collected and the last time I called to ask for it to be collected I was told the Garden Collection service had been scrapped and to put the garden waster out with the normal rubbish. It seems such a waster to put garden waste which will decompose in with the other rubbish, could it not be collected along with the recycling?

17. We use and value the service and wish it to continue in some form. If you decide to discontinue, please consider other options eg garden waste recycling points alongside glass recycling points, or outsourcing.

18. The most convenient would be option 3 but I hadn't appreciated how "un-green" this is until reading your report. Although more expensive to the consumer, option 2 is surely the only reasonable choice because (1) we still compost our waste (2) it will reduce the petrol miles of the collection trucks. Not mentioned was the possibility of a local compost depot e.g within one of the parks - this must be the best solution.

19. How about providing a public tip for garden waste, say in a corner of Ravenscourt Park or other public green area?

20. This is definitely not what I expect from my local council. Other councils collect garden and kitchen waste - why not us? How are they making it work? Are you simply not up to the job?

21. see above

22. The white bags are too small, and not strong enough. Why should we pay for this service when the council gets a free byproduct from our garden waste? The Foxes run rampant in this area already, shall we all give them more food?? Late at night they have tried to corner my Westie dog.

23. Thank you for the useful and easy to use consultation process.

24. Would be good if collections were scheduled for Mondays - after a weekend working in the Garden. The current schedule means that bags are hanging around for most of the week. Will provision also be made for bulkier garden rubbish, such as branches and shrubs?

25. Once filled, the bags break down quickly. Other councils use more robust biodegradable bags and LBHF should consider doing likewise. This is particularly important if people switch to composting the "softer" material at

home and only put out the tougher twigs/cuttings for council collection. I have one other question. How will the council meet its recycling targets if more garden waste ends up in black bags and goes to landfill?

26. Your by line 'putting residents first' is hypocritical. No way is this proposal doing this. And I strongly suspect that you have already made your decision and that this 'consultation' like so many others is purely cosmetic.

27. Compost bins can reduce the amount people put into the garden waste bags but not necessarily replace them altogether. We get far too many autumn leaves to put in the compost bin - it would kill the composting process. So I use the garden waste bags to supplement my own composting. Others have made this point already but I'll say it too: you should not be selectively charging over the odds for this service. There are many services that the council provides where the majority of people are effectively subsidising a minority who use that service. It's called living in a society. Why should people with gardens be singled out for trying to do the right thing with their garden waste instead of sending it to landfill?

28. The London Borough of Ealing provides an excellent recycling service in Sterling Road. Is there no way that something similar can be done in H&F? It seems all of the good recycling centres are out of borough.

29. this is a test response - please ignore it

30. I already compost all of my "soft" waste - both kitchen waste and soft garden waste. However, twigs and branches do not compost easily in a home composter and it seems wrong to send them directly to landfill. Is there not a composting site in West London (so the material does not have to be transported to Essex)?

31. The subsidy should be reduced in stages over 2 years. If there is still a small subsidy it is not the end of the world as long as the Council has it under control.

32. I do hope that you can find an equitable solution to this dilemma; I know that many of us want to be "green" but like me, have very limited funds. We don't mind paying a little, but the amounts suggested are too high.

33. surely it's more impractical and environmentally unfriendly for us all to drive to the skip? and we're giving up on the composter - the smell is bigger than the size of the garden!

34. THIS HAS BEEN A WELCOME AND WELL SUPPORTED SCHEME. I UNDERSTAND THAT MAYBE THERE IS A CASE FOR HOUSEHOLDERS TO PAY MORE BUT TO SUSPEND THE SCHEME IS NOT ACCEPTABLE

35. However carefully people compost garden waste in their own gardens, there will always be some things, like shrub and tree branches, which will not go in a normal compost bin. It is for the disposal of those that the garden waste scheme has been most useful. If the scheme was abandoned, would the dustmen be prepared to collect this heavy garden waste?

36. Please let me know what I can do with the garden waste recycling bags if the collection scheme is stopped. Please let me know how I go about ordering a composting bin. Many thanks Lisa Gellert

37. I feel that this council is too intent on being able to say that they are lowering council charges. The only reason they can do this is because they are abolishing some of the services

38. Although I would love to have a composter we have a very small garden with little need of compost. I would be happy to compost if I knew I could donate it somewhere - the allotments in bishops park? the garden centre?

- 39.** I'm glad that there is an opportunity to express what I feel about recycling scheme in H&F. We as public and the council can learn from what other London councils do and figure out more suitable way to live comfortable and environmental-friendly. I would like to say thank you very much to the workers who clean up our public road in cold and rainy days. Although it is their job, I much appreciate for their work which let us live in clean environment.
- 40.** As a single person living in London I feel that the council tax I pay subsidises services that I don't use. This is one of the services that I do require and I don't feel I should be penalised by paying more. A compromise maybe to have a collection every 2 weeks or once a month in order to keep costs down and help the environment and or to establish a composting site with our borough. For example what percentage of the borough choose to have pets that I as a tax payer have to pay for the council to provide bins in order to have clean streets. If I apply the council's argument shouldn't pet owners be charged in order to provide this service?
- 41.** Obviously for those who do not use this service it is an unnecessary cost- I think charging more for registering onto the collection service & more per bag is the way to go.
- 42.** 'Consultations' in the main are farcical...do you really believe that anyone seriously believes that their view will be taken into account? Composting, especially food waste and in addition to being antisocial, will become a dire health hazard and should not be encouraged. You may wish to consider that the 5% currently being 'subsidised' by the 95% in terms of garden waste are probably subsidising other residents in other areas to the tune of vastly more than the cost of collecting garden waste. Incidentally, will this policy, for that's what it undoubtedly is, set a precedent for other areas of spending? It's a joke and I've never seen a more vilely biased document in favour of the self appointed green lobby than that of your letter on garden waste dated 28/11. It's disgraceful.
- 43.** Where we have local parks, if it was possible to have a compost heap in one corner that local residents could use, that would be useful for me.
- 44.** I would be prepared to pay the additional cost of registration and for the bags. However, is there also a possibility of setting up a local garden waste composting area where we could take our garden waste too - in Ravenscourt Park for example?
- 45.** I think this is a valuable service. I appreciate people who don't have gardens may not wish to pay to subsidise those who do, but before I used this service I just threw my garden waste out with my regular rubbish and would revert to that if there was no waste collection service. Being able to do it as and when it's needed, rather than stockpile it for a large collection, is also something that I value.
- 46.** I THINK I would like to have a composting bin, but 220 litres sounds massive and is probably too big for most gardens on the Wormholt Estate. I am disappointed at the cost of options 2 and 3.
- 47.** There is always an element of subsidisation of services - we make no use of schools, for instance, yet pay for that.
- 48.** I don't think any of the options offered is ideal and they certainly don't encourage a Green attitude. I feel sure there must be a more satisfactory alternative.
- 49.** Why not have locations to which we could take small garden waste, eg hedge clippings ourselves to save the council the trouble and cost of erratic

and non-scheduled collections, and so reduce your costs. Otherwise increase the time gap between collections, say fortnightly or even monthly

50. Again I agree with many of the comments already made. The consultation is certainly poorly constructed and also it seems a very short consultation period. I too think it is dangerous to suggest that users must pay because only 5% access the service. There are many services not accessed by all the local population. But much more importantly as a local council you should be playing your part in the green agenda your role should be to encourage people to grow things and to dispose of their waste as greenly as possible.

51. Develop a system for collecting kitchen and garden waste from all households - as Ealing Council does

52. The suggestion of skips in the streets sounds worth trying. I suspect that the council has already decided that the days of the current scheme are numbered. Could costs (and the number of trips required) be reduced by collecting on the same day as the orange bags?

53. The argument about the current scheme being environmentally unfriendly is incorrect: If the 4000 subscribers each make only three trips a year to the skip, assuming they have at most two miles to travel (one way), the total mileage is 48,000 pa - far in excess of a central collecting service which for 40 weeks is 8800. Currently a huge rubbish collection vehicle is used for the service - would not a smaller collection vehicle be adequate for most rounds?

54. Promoting use of compost bins in our community is a great initiative - thank you H&F council.

55. Look to liaising with Residents Associations, then have an organised (say) bi-monthly collection for each association area - published in advance, a bit like the old skip scheme was (1980's).

56. I have voted for option 3 (continue the current registration scheme) as the lesser of the 3 evils and because I want my vote to count but also am not happy about the illogical arguments presented by the council. There are too many inconsistencies for me to list them all here, but the solution seems to be to charge (if you have to) for the bags and collect the green waste with the other recycling sacks thereby saving on both cost and environmental damage.

57. 1. Abandoning green recycling would be a retrograde step. Short-sighted, short term cost saving. 2. Council collection preferable to residents driving individually to recycling sites 3. Home composting can't deal adequately with autumn leaf fall from street trees (into front garden) and park trees (into back garden) 4. Alternatives to Essex for composting should be considered.

58. I feel that H&F should not be charging to collect garden waste when an arrangement with a composting firm could be made to deal with this waste ecologically and help defray the cost by selling the compost back to the consumer.

59. I made full use of the existing scheme and was happy to pay for the service. I understand the economic reasons regarding the viability of the scheme. However, it seems a pity that the Council cannot use non-biodegradable sacks which could just be cut and emptied at the Wandsworth public waste disposal site. I shall continue to put my non-recyclable garden waste in ordinary dark green garden sacks and put them out with my 'regular' household waste for collection on the designated day, as I did before the scheme was introduced.

60. I think that the current garden collection is brilliant and it does help the environment. Your argument about the % households I suspect does not take

in to account the number of households without gardens. Also to say that people shouldn't pay for a service that is used by a small %age is also suspect, as I don't have children but I know a proportion of my council tax goes towards this in providing nursery care and education; plus I can read english, but money is spent on translations and translators. I thought that the principal of council tax was to help all residents, even those in the minority.

61. For heaven's sake let us use the sacks we have left over from previous years rather than insist on our buying a different design every year. Perhaps eventually you will charge us for collecting all the old sacks we have accumulated over the years!! You ask us to click "next". There is no "next". I will click "submit" and hope for the best.

62. I would like to test using a composting bin if one is available for free. I will happily return it if not successful. However, as I have not done this before, will the Council include information on what to put (and not put!) into a composting bin? I would like to ensure we (and our neighbours) have no problems with foxes and rodents.

63. Please continue to fetch garden waste for composting. I would be happy to pay a little more. We are elderly and have no car so this is an important service to us.

64. I am interested in a compost bin but we already have a problem with rodents in my flat and I don't want anything which might encourage them. Could one option be a community compost bin within walking distance - say, in a park, (where the compost could be used locally) which reduces the environmental impact and the cost to the council? We could still use the current composting bags and I fully support collecting them from the local library.

65. The communication from the council on waste and recycling in general is appalling. What is happening over Christmas for example? The fortnightly 'newspaper' you send to me is simply political propaganda from the Conservatives and I am amazed that you are allowed to spend council tax payers money on producing and distributing it.

66. While a collection scheme is preferable, I also concur with others who've recommended green 'dumping grounds' located at various places through the borough.

67. Whilst I am all for recycling it defeats its aims if the cost of doing it and also causes further damage to environment outweighs the benefits. Do make people more aware of their local dumps which accept garden waste. Some years ago we had huge skips placed in specific streets for just a short while (Sunday morning I seem to remember) just for garden waste. Could this be done again? It would save lorries driving round all the residential streets as they do at present time. The Orange bag collection system is GREAT!

68. Could we have access to purchasing at a reasonable rate/fee some of the locally 'produced' compost?

69. Removing the garden waste collection scheme would simply encourage residents to put garden waste in the normal waste collection service, which surely is sub optimal. I'm quite happy to pay more for the waste service if it is genuinely necessary. The Borough is a green borough and there a significant proportion of residents who obviously taking gardening, and tree planting, very seriously. This should be encouraged not made more difficult. Many thanks

70. We are quite happy to pay for a collection service as we only tidy our small garden two or three times a year. We strongly agree with the comments that if a feasible and easily accessible system is not put in place then people will just

'hide' the garden waste in black sacks for general collection. When we did put out our white sacks this year, they took a month to collect, and we still have 7 bags awaiting collection from 2nd/3rd December despite the last collection not being until the 17th. And this is a collection service we paid for even if it was subsidised. The comments re a central 'dumping ground' for garden waste in a corner of all the parks also sounds like a great idea.

71. Along with others, I think this is a cost cutting exercise. I think if you go for either options or 3 people who cannot afford these prices - and there will be many - will simply put their garden rubbish into their black rubbish bags.

72. We generate almost no waste from our garden. However, we have massive volumes of leaves to clear from our garden that fall from trees in South Park and trees lining Settrington Road. It would be wholly unfair if we had to incur costs to clear leaves that emanate from trees that are not ours and are of benefit to the public.

73. The charge for collecting garden waste was introduced by the tory council and is basically a back door tax the same way in which this council has introduced charges for home help. so basically i dont care what you do with garden waste i will dispose of mine with my household waste or take it to the dump or just dump it on the street which is what other people do.

74. I feel the statistics used in your letter are chosen to leave the reader thinking that the scheme was expensive and not worthwhile. It seems to me that your choice of Essex for composting is indefensible and shows poor management; the fact that your department has not bothered to find cheaper or bigger bags (or do a deal with other councils to buy in greater amounts and therefore make each bag cheaper) only contributes to the "excessive" cost problem without seeking cheaper or more imaginative solutions. This is your job: to find the most efficient ways of achieving targets; that does not just mean charging money for a service that should be completely covered by the council tax. I have a garden, but I do not have children to educate, I do not need any of the myriad social services/housing that I pay taxes to provide. I don't think anyone in the council has taken charge of running of the garden waste scheme in such a way that would make it a success; otherwise, at least the collections would have taken place on the designated day, every week, which in my experience has not happened. I have worn out bags hauling them up to the pavement and then stacking them on top of the bins so that should any idle council collection truck be driving by looking for bags, they might see my aging bags and take them away. I have rolls of biodegradable bags left over and if you implement choice 2, I will return them to the library and give up recycling. Few people have a garden large enough to fill ten bags in a single go, and the bags deteriorate too quickly to wait much longer than that except in extremely dry weather. The minimum removal cost of £1 per bag is exorbitant and so out of the question that it constitutes a penalty on people with gardens who wish to recycle. However, the excessive cost of 2) does ensure that the choices are reduced to 1) stop bothering to recycle garden waste, or to 3) fining £20 to those who are willing to recycle and then charging them for the bags that they must buy if they are to participate. For people on a low income this means no choice. This is what one would expect from a council which plans to blacktop the "green" of Shepherds Bush Green: to black bag the compost potential because it fines people who are willing to recycle.

75. I did not appreciate the negative tone of your consultation. You should be encouraging recycling on all fronts not trying to make those of us who have

used this scheme feel guilty. It is quite clear that you want to stop the scheme and have us all buy compost bins. This does not solve the problem. There is much garden waste - twigs and the like - which take too long to compost. If everyone rejects the garden waste collection on the basis of cost where will this place the Council targets when all garden waste goes to landfill?

76. We are very low frequency and volume garden waste disposers so we will go along happily with any decision.

77. Your letter of 28 November was poorly constructed. It has been written so as to influence the response. An irresponsible and unfair approach to a consultation exercise.

78. Is it possible to provide facilities in parks or other open spaces to deposit the green 'waste'?

79. such a negative consultation is depressing in the extreme. you are supposed to be leading us all into better practice, not abandoning all pretence at finding a solution to recycling.

80. I have a small garden and a compost bin, so I do not generate much green waste that might be collected through your scheme. There is, however, a large London Plane growing in the road outside my house. In the Autumn the leaves from this tree fall onto my stairs and into the basement area. This year I collected some 10 bags of leaves. When the garden waste collection was free, I was happy to bag these leaves up and put them out for collection. However, since the Council introduced a charge, I have disposed of these leaves with the household rubbish. I strongly object paying a fee to have these leaves collected particularly when they are the product of a tree which is not within the curtailage of my property. In the background information for this survey, you state that only a small percentage of households use the current registration scheme. I would suggest that this is because there is a charge for the service. I believe that we should recycle whatever green waste we can and to encourage this, I believe that there should not be a charge for collecting green waste. So please reinstate a free green waste collection service for all residents of the borough.

81. I'd like to have a garden waste collection service (and had registered), but as it has to be subsidised by 95% of non-using council tax payers, I don't think it's fair on them. Also, as it's not environmentally friendly in transporting it to Essex, that's another factor. I would have liked to know some further details though, such as how much composting would have 'saved' us, in terms of emissions or some other environmental measure, and how much we were causing by collecting it and transporting it to Essex - to give some idea of the environmental cost of the for or against options.

82. Areas and recycling facilities in local parks or other suggested areas is a great idea if you have a car. I do not, and as a pensioner I can't see me being able to carry heavy garden waste bags halfway across the borough.

83. As long as I can put garden waste out with the normal collection I am happy about this although what do I do with the smaller branches and shrubs?

84. The only way you are reducing council taxes is by reducing the services you offer. I thought LBHF prided itself on being green. Please look at this again and come up with more imaginative solutions.

85. When I have used the bulky waste service I have had to book in advance but this is difficult with green waste as it depends on the weather what gardening I can do.

86. It is a GREAT shame that this borough, that stresses so much the importance of recycling, is cancelling this service.

87. I believe the government is looking to penalize local governments for not hitting recycling targets and over-using landfill. It seems an incredible waste to throw garden waste into landfill and very irresponsible. Also, I am unclear on why the garden waste has to be driven so far. Would it be possible to find suitable sites in the borough ?

88. I can't imagine how unsightly and unhygienic the decomposing ten week old bags of grass cuttings would be, particularly in the summer. Given that the bags start to disintegrate after about two weeks, they would be utterly immovable long before the waste was due for collection. Please don't make us feel guilty for wanting to recycle our garden waste

89. the garden refuse facility is a really good thing but I cannot defend the excessive subsidy. Easier access to places to leave the refuse or a composting bin seem the most sensible options, I'd not be happy paying £10 per collection I would be prepared to pay a higher registration fee but £20 seems hefty Perhaps a LBHF campaign generally on recycling might find a way of more efficiently including garden waste in the whole scheme of things

90. I already have one composting bin but it would be more efficient to have 2 (one on the go and one with compost to use) and it would be more environmentally friendly than the current scheme.

91. How much money do you expect to save and what use do intend to put it?

92. I thought the tone of your letter was extremely inappropriate as it left no doubt that the Council wishes to stop the collections. You say that 95% of residents subsidise the 5% of those that use the service - I am sure that the same could be said for many other Council provided services and is a dangerous argument to pursue - should I therefore not pay for services for the elderly or unemployed since these are not services I use? The reality is that most Fulham gardens are too small for compost bins and therefore if the collections don't continue householders will just put it in their usual bins and it will go to landfill - hardly the most sensible option. I very much hope you will continue the collections.

93. I find it hard to believe that the council would charge people for recycling, whether it's garden waste, paper and bottles. The council should be encouraging people to recycle by giving people reductions not charging them more. I for one will just put the garden waste in boxes or bags and take it to the recycling depot at Wandsworth, not transporting the waste all the way to Essex. Like it makes all those involved in the decision making process look ridiculous. Basically what this council and the current government are doing is using anything Green as an opportunity to raise revenue.