

Monthly update

Plans for garden waste collection service to remain accessible

Proposals to ensure that the opt-in service for garden waste collections continue to be accessible for all are set to be considered by councillors.

North Yorkshire Council plans to stay below the regional average with new charges for next season amid the financial pressure that householders are facing.

The additional income and savings generated would be used to ensure the future of the collection rounds and help to fund the council's vital frontline services.

North Yorkshire Council is proposing to increase this year's charge for the garden waste opt-in service of £49 to £52 for next year's season, which runs from March to November.

The annual charge is below the regional average of £58.94 and the cost increase is estimated to generate about £314,560 of additional income.

Councillors will also be asked to increase the charge for new and replacement rubbish and recycling wheelie bins from this year's charge of £35 to £37.50 for next year. It is estimated to save about £100,000.

A developer or resident may need to purchase a new bin if the property currently doesn't have any, if it is missing, lost or stolen, or whether they are a holiday let owner and their property changes from business rates to council tax rated.

If bins are damaged or fail, except in the case of deliberate misuse, they will be repaired or replaced free of charge.

There is no charge for the delivery of boxes or sacks, where they are still used, and charges will not apply as part of any roll-out of new containers to an area or round.

Libraries supporting digital inclusion during Get Online Week

Residents who need help to improve their online skills are being encouraged to visit their local library as part of the UK's largest digital inclusion campaign.

During Get Online Week, which runs from October 20 to 26, North Yorkshire libraries will be showcasing the digital assistance on offer through activities including drop-in support cafes.

Staff and volunteers will be introducing visitors to e-books, online local history and reference resources. Anybody who is new to getting online can book a free session with an IT buddy for some one-to-one support.

The North Yorkshire Police protect and prevent cybercrime unit will be offering sessions on cyber-attack awareness, fraud and scam knowledge and looking at preventive measures to keep safe online.

On Wednesday, October 22, many libraries will be holding drop-in events to promote the library app, which allows people to link borrower accounts, read newspapers from around the world, issue books and print directly from mobile phones.

Plans for recycling centres to improve access and make savings

Proposals to revise the use of recycling centres to North Yorkshire residents to generate savings and improve access are set to be considered by councillors.

Under new plans, owners of commercial-like vehicles would also be allowed up to 12 free visits a year to dispose of their own household waste at the county's 20 recycling centres.

On Tuesday, October 21, North Yorkshire Council's executive will consider the proposals. If introduced, it is estimated to generate savings of up to £405,000 per year and will improve access due to fewer visitors from outside of the county.

In 2024/25, the sites handled 64,500 tonnes of waste and received 1.6 million visits. An average of one in six users are not residents of North Yorkshire.

Cllr. Felicity Cunliffe-Lister

North Yorkshire Council

07592 114800

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