

<b>Report title: Petition received on Garden Waste</b>	
<b>Report to:</b> Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
<b>Report author:</b> Justin Long, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
<b>Date:</b> 21 September 2023	<b>For:</b> Noting and to consider any follow-up scrutiny activity
<b>Enquiries to:</b> Justin Long, Senior Democratic Services Officer at <a href="mailto:justin.long@essex.gov.uk">justin.long@essex.gov.uk</a>	
<b>County Divisions affected:</b> Not applicable	

### 1. Introduction

This report advises members that a petition on the collection of garden waste has been referred to the Chairman of the Committee in line with the Council's Petitions Policy.

### 2. Action Required

The Committee is asked to note this report and the action taken.

### 3. Background

3.1 A petition in connection with the collection of garden waste was recently submitted to the Essex County Council (ECC) website having been signed by 2,661 people.

3.2 The wording of the petition stated:

Petition Overview:

*Reconsider their proposal to impose a standard charge for the collection of green waste within the community.*

*This facility has been embraced and funded by the Council Tax since 2002, and we see no reason why this additional charge should now be imposed.*

*Everybody is facing higher bills, mortgage repayments are increasing, as are rents, food price inflation, energy costs and fuel etc.,*

*We request the local council continues to lobby Central Government to ensure that they maintain the level of support they are obliged to.*

3.3 In line with ECC's Petitions Policy, officers clarified that the petition referred to plans by Braintree District Council and the petition was subsequently referred to that authority.

3.4 In taking this action, it was noted that that individual borough and district councils can decide whether to charge for green waste collections and this is not something within ECC's remit.

3.5 ECC's Petitions Policy further states:

*In addition, any petition of 2,000 signatures or more will be referred to the Chairman of the relevant Scrutiny Committee who will decide how the petition is reported to a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee. If a petition is considered by a Scrutiny Committee the Committee may require a Senior Council Officer or a Cabinet Member to attend a meeting of the relevant Scrutiny Committee for the purpose of considering the matter in public. If the Committee exercises this power then the lead petitioner will also be invited to attend and may address the meeting.*

3.6 Given the point outlined in 3.4, it was agreed that the petition should be formally recorded by the Committee, but no further action was needed at this time. In taking this approach, it is noted that the Committee is currently scrutinising the emerging Waste Strategy for Essex and the issue could be considered as a part of these discussions.