

Appendix 2

Overview of Benchmarking Data

This appendix provides a range of latest available comparator authority benchmarking information covering the following services:

- Waste
- TTROs
- Building Control

The data has been collected from a review of Council websites w/c 13 April 2026 and where a Council has not displayed their charges, do not offer the service or it is unclear whether they charge for it we have left blank not included them in the table. The comparator Council groups are:

- CIPFA statistical neighbours
- Contiguous geographic authorities
- Outer London Boroughs

1 Waste | Chargeable Waste services to residents

The Council provides a number of chargeable waste services to residents, including garden waste, bulky waste and new and replacement bins. Noting that new bins are often purchased by developers upon completion of new housing developments. The report proposes to increase Garden Waste and the cost of new and replacement bins.

Garden Waste:

Slough introduced chargeable Garden Waste in 2022 at £50 per bin, which has since increased to £55 per bin. Subscription rates for Garden Waste are much lower than in many other Councils, although the service believe this is due to lack of marketing and promotion rather than price. In this table we have noted authorities that do not charge for Garden Waste.

Slough is below the average of the Councils who charge across all comparator groups and the average for geographic neighbours is £77.75 and outer London Boroughs is £85.61. Please note that the data on Garden Waste tonnage is from 2022, so although most of the Councils have increased fees in a linear fashion since 2022 Councils the data for Councils like Slough and Hillingdon who have introduced a charge for Garden Waste collection is not comparable.

Service		Population	Garden Waste (tonnes)	Subscription Fee
	Slough	158,000	1,609	£55.00
CIPFA STATISTICAL	Blackburn with Darwen	154,000	5,480	£45.00
	Bolton Borough Council	296,000	22,871	£0.00
	Coventry City Council	345,000	16,725	£40.00
	Leicester City Council	369,000	24,201	£68.00
	Luton Borough Council	225,000	4,813	£50.00
	Milton Keynes Council	287,000	29,081	£55.00
	Oldham Borough Council	242,000	16,962	£0.00
	Peterborough City Council	215,000	12,523	£58.00
	Reading Borough Council	174,000	12,090	£78.00
	Rochdale Borough Council	223,000	18,692	£0.00
	Salford City Council	269,000	18,862	£0.00
	Southampton City Council	253,000	6,823	£69.00
	Sandwell Borough Council	341,000	11,733	£40.00
	Thurrock Council	175,000	6,469	£80.00
	Wolverhampton City Council	263,000	13,392	£55.00
	Mean Average			£58.00
	Difference ¹			-£3.00

	Slough	158,000	1,609	£55.00
GEOGRAPHIC CONTIGUOUS	Buckinghamshire Council	555,000	49,902	£65.00
	Hillingdon	305,000	17,113	£77.00
	Spelthorne Borough Council	100,000	6,782	£80.00
	Windsor & Maidenhead Borough	151,000	12,563	£89.00
	Mean Average			£77.75
	Difference ¹			- £22.75

¹Difference between Slough and the mean

	Slough	158,000	1,609	£55.00
OUTER LONDON BOROUGH Sutton	Barnet	389,000	11,761	£103.80
	Brent	341,000	10,986	£69.00
	Bromley	330,000	29,585	£80.00
	Croydon	398,000	19,369	£90.10
	Ealing	370,000	11,692	£75.00
	Enfield	333,000	15,339	£100.00
	Greenwich	291,000	12,576	£0.00
	Harrow	275,000	14,398	£69.00
	Havering	280,000	15,943	£87.00
	Hillingdon	305,000	17,113	£77.00
	Hounslow	301,000	12,256	£75.00
	Kingston upon Thames	185,000	10,295	£79.70
	Merton	208,000	9,901	£99.00
	Redbridge	298,000	10,580	£0.00
	Richmond upon Thames	198,000	10,370	£95.00
	Sutton	202,000	13,619	£99.00
	Waltham Forest	286,000	9,809	£0.00
	Mean Average			£85.61
	Difference ¹			-£27.61

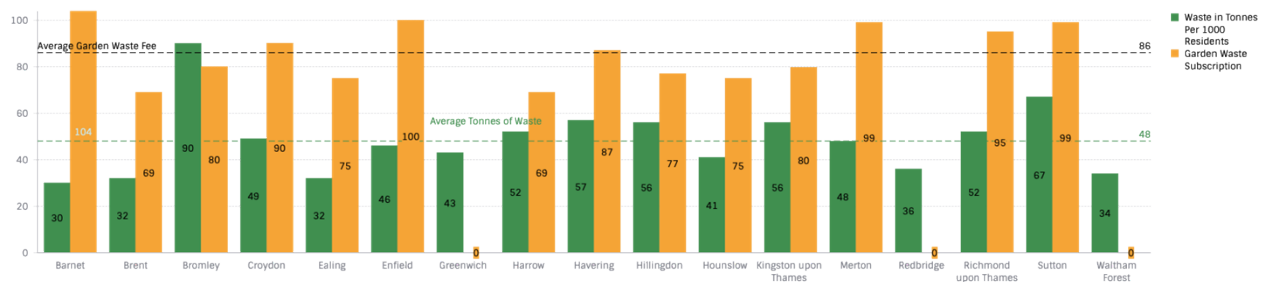
Graphs below highlight these figures.



Graph 1. Slough CIPFA



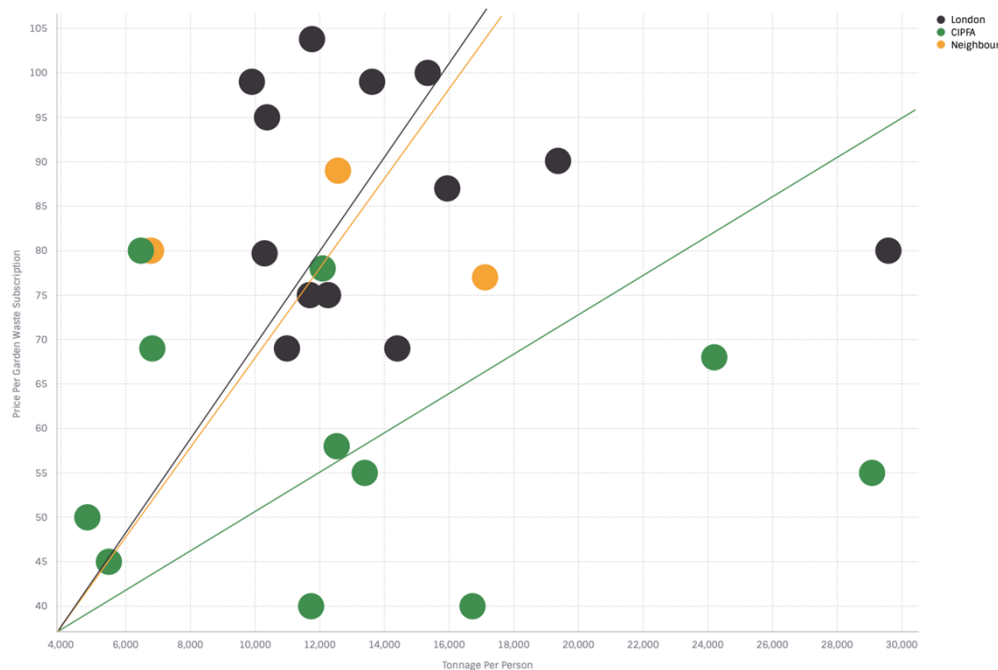
Graph 2. Slough Neighbours



Graph 3. London Areas

The tonnage per 1000 residents for Garden Waste versus their Subscription charge (ignoring those with no charge) is highlighted in graph 4 below.

Note: We have removed Buckinghamshire from graph 4, as their high garden waste tonnage is driven by structural factors — large housing plots, high garden ownership, and aggregated semi-rural districts — rather than service or pricing effects.



Graph 4. Tonnage against Subscription Fee.

The main outliers for low tonnage are:-

- Slough
- Blackburn with Darwen
- Leicester
- Luton
- Spelthorne
- Thurrock

Blackburn, Leicester and Luton have both a large proportion of flats / terraced housing, alongside socio-economic factors which make a lower uptake of discretionary paid services

Spelthorne and Thurrock both have a larger amount of houses with gardens, Spelthorne introduced a charge pre tonnage figure, however Thurrock have introduced a charge since these figures were produced.

The data indicates that although the tonnage recycled for Garden Waste reduces when a charge is implemented, the price of the service once charge does not have a material or long term impact on usage. Where there are variances this is largely due to other factors such as green space and demography.

New and Replacement Bins:

Data for new and replacement bins is more difficult to gather as not all Councils publish this information. Below is a table that contains information on comparator Council charges where we have been able to gather them.

Slough is currently in line with the mean average for geographic neighbours and outer London boroughs. An increase to £65 for a replacement bin is estimated to recover the full cost of the bin, delivery and administration. This would place Slough in the lower part of the upper quartile for geographic neighbours and outer London boroughs.

	Slough	£52.00
CIPFA STATISTICAL	Peterborough City Council	£33.00
	Reading Borough Council	£33.50
	Rochdale Borough Council	£27.30
	Southampton City Council	£45.00
	Sandwell Borough Council	£22.00
	Thurrock Council	£50.00
	Wolverhampton City Council	£35.00
	Mean Average	£35.11
	Difference ¹	£16.89

GEOGRAPHIC AND OUTER LONDON BOROUGH	Slough	£52.00
	Buckinghamshire Council	£44.10
	Hillingdon	£37.50
	Barnet	£74.09
	Croydon	£40.40
	Ealing	£50.00
	Redbridge	£82.50
	Richmond upon Thames	£40.00
	Mean Average	£52.66
	Difference ¹	-£0.66

Conclusion:

Garden Waste fees are below average of all comparator Council groups and significantly below geographic neighbours and outer London Boroughs. The proposed increase to £75 would still be below those two later groups mean average.

"Once councils introduce charging, price becomes a secondary factor—participation is driven more by service design and behaviour than cost."

New and replacement bin fees are more difficult to benchmark but although Slough's fees are above or in line with the average for comparator groups, the Council could consider an increase to the upper quartile – noting that a number of these fees are charged to developers.

2 Highways | TTROs

The benchmarking for the CIPFA statistical neighbours is as follows:

Service		TTRO Fee
CIPFA STATISTICAL	Slough	£2,362.50
	Blackburn with Darwen	£2,500.00
	Bolton Borough Council	£1,946.00
	Coventry City Council	£2,450.00
	Leicester City Council	£1,950.00
	Luton Borough Council	£0.00

	Milton Keynes Council	£2,250.00
	Oldham Borough Council	£0.00
	Peterborough City Council	£1,650.00
	Reading Borough Council	£2,500.00
	Rochdale Borough Council	£1,130.00
	Salford City Council	£2,400.00
	Southampton City Council	£1,899.00
	Sandwell Borough Council	£2,540.00
	Thurrock Council	£1,800.00
	Wolverhampton City Council	£2,150.00
	Mean Average	£1,811.00

A more 'meaningful' set of comparators for a spatial service such as a TTRO are neighbouring councils. Their 26/27 fees are as follows:

	Slough	£2,362.50
GEOGRAPHIC RELEVANT	Buckinghamshire	£2,410.45
	Reading	£2,500.00
	Wokingham	£3,369.00
	Windsor and Maidenhead	£3,600.00
	Oxfordshire	£3,000.00
	Surrey	£1,172.00
	West Berkshire	£3,334.00
	Mean Average	£2,769.35
	Difference ¹	-17%

3 Building Control | New Dwellings, Extensions and Loft Conversions

Data isn't as readily available for all councils for building control. Where councils deliver building control through an arms length company the fees are on application only and therefore not available for benchmarking.

Service		Erection of 1 Dwelling	<40m2 Extension	<40m2 Loft Conversion
	Slough	£715	£550	£605
CIPFA STATISTICAL	Blackburn with Darwen	£995.00	£727.08	£720.83
	Bolton Borough Council	£705.00	£705.00	£0.00
	Coventry City Council	£0.00	£592.50	£592.50
	Leicester City Council	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Luton Borough Council	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

	Milton Keynes Council	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Oldham Borough Council	£742.50	£554.17	£442.50
	Peterborough City Council	£750.00	£555.00	£460.00
	Reading Borough Council	£1,107.00	£847.80	£956.00
	Rochdale Borough Council	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Salford City Council	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Southampton City Council	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Sandwell Borough Council	£745.02	£586.59	£0.00
	Thurrock Council	£0.00	£826.13	£710.47
	Wolverhampton City Council	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Mean Average	£840.75	£674.28	£647.05
	Difference ¹	-18%	-23%	-7%

	Slough	£715	£550	£605
GEOGRAPHIC CONTIGUOUS	Buckinghamshire Council	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Hillingdon	£1,386.00	£935.00	£924.00
	Spelthorne Borough Council	£1,558.33	£1,046.67	£843.83
	Windsor & Maidenhead Borough	£1,620.00	£990.00	£912.00
	Mean Average	£1,521.44	£990.56	£893.28
	Difference ¹	-113%	-80%	-48%