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**MEDIA RELEASE
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BABERGH – ONE STEP CLOSER TO NEW GARDEN WASTE TRIALS

Babergh District Council's Strategy Committee yesterday recommended support for two new trial schemes designed to help residents dispose of their grass cuttings, leaves and small twigs. The first scheme will involve the use of a Brown Bin into which those residents participating in the trial place their Garden Waste, which will be collected once every fortnight. The second scheme makes use of a 1000 litre Bulk Bag which residents can fill it at their own pace and then have it picked up and removed from outside their homes.

"Babergh's households throw away three times the national average of Garden Waste and the Council is both trying to help minimise the waste that is created in the first place and to reduce the amounts that end up in big holes in the ground" outlined Malcolm Firth, Babergh's Head of Environmental Services.

"There are already a number of current methods on offer: home composting, using the local Household and Waste Recycling Centres and through the Council's existing bulky waste service. The two new trials will offer the potential for more choice to suit individual needs in the longer term"

Trial Brown Bin Scheme

Over 600 Babergh households have already expressed an interest in the Brown Bin Scheme. Subject to the approval of Babergh's full Council, these residents will be invited to participate in the trial which take place from early May to the end of November. For a fee of £40 plus VAT and £10 towards the cost of the 240 litre Brown Bin itself, the collections will be made on alternate Saturdays during the trial period. Residents on Council Tax, Housing Benefits or Income Support will only be expected to pay £20 plus VAT and £10.

"The intention is that Garden Waste collected in the Brown Bins will be composted, so avoiding the need for the Garden Waste to be dumped into landfill. This will make a positive impact on Babergh's recycling rates." confirmed Malcolm Firth.

Trial Bulk Bag Scheme

The Bulk Bag Scheme is designed for households which produce occasional but large amounts of Garden Waste, Babergh is launching a Bulk Bag Scheme. Residents will be able to order the bag – which holds the equivalent of 1000 litres of waste or nearly 5 wheeled bins– fill it at their own pace and then have it picked up and removed from

outside their homes. (more follows)

(continued) "The Bulk Bag service offers them the chance of being able to conveniently dispose of their Garden Waste without having to commit to the more regular Brown Bin Scheme" noted Malcolm Firth. Each bag will cost £20 (or £10 for those receiving certain Benefits).

The Strategy Committee's recommended changes will be debated at the 28th February meeting of Babergh's full Council. ENDS.

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