

210/12 Changes to Refuse Collection Services

The Council Cabinet considered a report on Changes to Refuse Collection Services. The Council Cabinet also considered the recommendations from the Neighbourhoods Board on changes to the refuse collection service. Following the 2013/14 National Budget Settlement the significant reductions required in the Council Budget had necessitated the need for a review of discretionary services. The collection of garden waste was discretionary and although the Council recognised the value of this collection the need to balance the budget had had to take priority. One option would be to stop the service altogether, however in recognition of the value residents place on the brown bin collection rather than simply stopping the service the Council had given the option for residents to still receive a collection on a chargeable basis. The Council also continued to campaign for more funding for Derby so that services could be maintained through the Fair Deal for Derby Campaign.

As part of the budget review for 2013-14 and 2014-15, Waste Management analysed the financial impact of introducing a charging policy for the collection of garden waste.

At present garden waste was co-mingled with food waste and composted at Vital Earth's 'In Vessel Composting Plant' at Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

It was recognised that not everyone in the city would take up this service if a charge was applied. Also, whilst some garden waste would migrate into the black bin, garden waste could also be home composted in larger quantities as well as migrating to the Raynesway Household Waste and Recycling Centre. A collection service for unwanted brown bins would also be offered from October 2013 to January 2014.

It was recognised that some areas within the inner city were not suited to the full recycling collection scheme. Properties that were rented to students typically had a high turnover of tenants and had limited access to the rear of the property, making it difficult for residents to manage their waste and remove their bins from the street.

A food and garden waste collection service currently operated for the full year. Following the garden growing season (typically April to September), garden waste tonnages and the number of brown bins presented for collection decreased.

Options Considered

Do nothing, would not yield any savings in support of the Councils budgetary targets for the next 2 years.

Decision

1. To accept the recommendation from the Neighbourhoods Board and go ahead with the trial subject to consultation with the Neighbourhood Boards.

2. To introduce a charging scheme for the collection of garden waste as described in the report, from 24 March 2014.
3. To operate the service over 32 weeks on an alternate weekly basis.
4. To cease the current brown bin collections on Friday 25 October 2013. This would give Waste Management a resource to be deployed removing brown bins from residents that did not wish to join the scheme. This would also include the collection of blue 140 litre bins which would be surplus to requirement.
5. To introduce a weekly residual waste collection service from Monday 28 October 2013 and withdraw the brown and blue bin collection services, within four areas of Derby, identified as not suited to the Council's current refuse recycling services due to the design of properties, high turnover of occupiers, lack of storage for recycling bins, and high levels of contamination, fly tipping and street litter. This service would be restricted to those properties that were shown on the maps and street listings attached to the report.

Reasons

1. The City council has to make some difficult choices in reducing its budgets over the coming years.
2. There was a power to charge for the collection of garden waste under the Controlled Waste Regulations 2012.
3. Around 30% of Local Authorities already charged for the collection of garden waste.
4. In contributing to the City's budget savings, income from householders wishing to take part in the scheme would offset the expenditure of providing waste collection services in the City. It was anticipated that this proposal would save the Council around £1.2 million per year.
5. The proposed introduction of a weekly black bin collection service in the four areas that had been identified would:
 - enable residents in those areas to manage their waste more effectively
 - reduce fly tipping
 - reduce contaminated recycling bins
 - reduce side waste
6. By stopping the collection of garden waste from Monday 28 October 2013, this would enable the Waste Management Division to offer a citywide collection service for unwanted brown and blue bins.

