



Derby City Council

COUNCIL CABINET
15 May 2013

Report of the Cabinet Member for
Neighbourhoods

ITEM 5a

Changes to refuse collection services

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Following the 2013/14 National Budget Settlement the significant reductions required in the Council Budget have necessitated the need for a review of discretionary services. The collection of garden waste is discretionary and although the Council recognises the value of this collection the need to balance the budget has 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 has given the option for residents to still receive a collection on a chargeable basis. The Council also continues to campaign for more funding for Derby so that services can be maintained through the Fair Deal for Derby Campaign.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 At present garden waste is co-mingled with food waste and composted at Vital Earth's 'In Vessel Composting Plant' at Ashbourne, Derbyshire.
- 1.4 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 will also be offered from October 2013 to January 2014.
- 1.5 It is recognised that some areas within the inner city are not suited to the full recycling collection scheme. Properties that are rented to students typically have a high turnover of tenants and have limited access to the rear of the property, making it difficult for residents to manage their waste and remove their bins from the street.
- 1.6 A garden food and garden waste collection service currently operates 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 decrease.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To introduce a charging scheme for the collection of garden waste as described in the report, from March 24th 2014.

- 2.2 The service will operate over 32 weeks on an alternate weekly basis.
- 2.3 That the current brown bin collections cease on Friday 25 October 2013. This will give Waste Management a resource to be deployed removing brown bins from residents that do not wish to join the scheme. This will also include the collection of blue 140 litre bins which will be surplus to requirement.
- 2.4 To introduce a weekly residual waste collection service from Monday 28 of October 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 will be restricted to those properties that are shown on the attached maps and street listings.
- 2.5 A list of streets and maps identifying where the service will be restricted to is attached.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The City council has to make some difficult choices in reducing its budgets over the coming years.
- 3.2 There is a power to charge for the collection of garden waste under the Controlled Waste Regulations 2012.
- 3.3 Around 30% of Local Authorities already charge for the collection of garden waste.
- 3.4 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 is anticipated that this proposal will save the Council around £1.2 million per year.
- 3.5 The proposed introduction of a weekly back bin collection service in the four areas that have been identified would:
- enable residents in those areas to manage their waste more effectively
 - reduce fly tipping
 - reduce contaminated recycling bins.
 - reduce side waste
- 3.6 By stopping the collection of garden waste from Monday 28 October 2013, this will enable the Waste Management Division to offer a citywide collection service for unwanted brown and blue bins.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Currently, all of the costs of the activity from collection to composting are borne from council budgets.
- 4.2 At present some 22,000 tonnes of garden and food waste is collected at the kerbside in the brown bins. However it is expected in the first year that only 20% of households will take up the new service, thus reducing the garden waste collected to around 5,000 tonnes.
- 4.3 It is anticipated that there will be some migration of brown bin waste into the black bin and Raynesway Household Waste and Recycling Centre. Also it is expected that many households will choose to home compost their garden waste.
- 4.4 Food waste will go into the black bin and the Council will promote the national “Love Food Hate Waste Campaign” to encourage Derby’s households to reduce their food waste in the first place not only to improve their own environmental performance, but also saving hard pressed families money in these difficult times.
- 4.5 If signed up before the proposed start of the chargeable garden waste service, the customer will receive 16 alternate weekly collections, over a 32 week period. This 32 week period will typically start the last full week in March and ending the first week in November.
- 4.6 The day of collection may not be the same day or week that they receive a collection for their black and blue bins, as scheduling will be directed by the demand for the service.
- 4.7 Households on the scheme will receive a sticker to place on their brown bin. Only brown bins with the appropriate sticker displayed will be collected. The City Council will continue to enforce its “no side waste” policy whereby where black bins are presented for collection, no bagged waste at the side of them will be collected.
- 4.8 Monthly garden waste tonnages range from 2800 tonnes at the height of the growing season and reduce to 1200 tonnes in October and reducing further to 600 tonnes in December. Tonnages then remain low until March (see attached graph).

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

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

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	Olu Idowu, Head of Legal Services (General)
Financial officer	Amanda Fletcher, Head of Finance (Neighbourhoods)
Human Resources officer	N/A
Service Director(s)	N/A
Other(s)	N/A

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Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 It is expected that this proposal will save around £1.2 Million on Waste Management budgets.

Legal

- 2.1 The power to charge for the collection of household garden waste is vested in the Controlled Waste Regulations 2012.

Personnel

- 3.1 This proposal will result in a reduction of 4 collection teams resulting in the redundancy of 12 FTEs. The teams allocated to this proposal will be initially on 32 week per year contracts.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 The garden waste collection service is an “opt in” service and householders can choose whether or not to take this up. The introduction of this service may affect those residents that are on low pay and benefits.
No concessionary rates are available. The assisted collections scheme will still remain in place

Health and Safety

- 5.1 There will be a Health and Safety review of the new collection system and any required changes will be incorporated into Waste Management’s method statement and working practices.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 Home composting will move garden waste up the “waste hierarchy” as many households will take up home composting and respond to campaigning to reduce their food waste. In the case of the inner city area, this will remove two bins per household from the streets as there are few gardens in this area and this will alleviate, in part, issues surrounding bins left on the street on non-collection days.
- 6.2 The introduction of a weekly residual waste collection service will reduce the amount of contaminated bins and instances of fly tipping.

Asset Management

- 7.1 Householders will be encouraged to keep their brown bins for potential use for home composting. Alternatively, if they choose not to join the scheme initially, householders will be encouraged to keep their brown bin as this will save them from having to buy a new brown bin should they wish to join the scheme later on.

Risk Management

- 8.1 Many householders will refuse to join the scheme initially, but it is possible that as the value of this service becomes recognised that there is opportunity for growth in the future.
- 8.2 The introduction of a weekly residual collection service will prove very popular with residents in other areas of the City. This service must be restricted to the areas and streets identified in this report. The tonnages and number of properties have been evaluated using industry standard ratios which equate to one refuse collection team, working over four days. There will be no free capacity on this round to add more properties or areas onto this schedule.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 9.1 This proposal meets the corporate objective of “All people in Derby enjoying a thriving sustainable economy” by reducing carbon emissions from our transport and encouraging less household carbon emissions.