

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	<b>Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods</b>
2.	Date:	<b>18<sup>th</sup> October 2010</b>
3.	Title:	<b>Trial Winter Changes to the Green Bin Collection Service</b>
4.	Directorate:	<b>Environment and Development Services</b>

### 5. Summary

RMBC currently provide garden waste and cardboard to Yorkshire Horticultural Supplies Ltd (YHS) for composting via our green bin collection service. YHS has brought to our attention that they are experiencing great difficulty during the winter months composting the feedstock provided as the majority is cardboard with little garden waste. It is therefore proposed to halt the collection of garden waste for 3 months (December 2010, January 2011, and February 2011) but continue to collect cardboard from the green bin. This will not only help to alleviate the problems at YHS, but realise potential savings from gate fees during this time and allow us the possibility to sell the cardboard to re-processors.

### 6. Recommendation

**That a trial be implemented to halt the collection of garden waste during December 2010, January 2011 and February 2011 but the collection of cardboard is continued during this period.**

## **7. Proposals and Details**

The Streetpride service currently collects garden waste and cardboard via the Green Bin kerbside collection service from the majority of Rotherham households. During 2009/10 a total of 21,473 tonnes of garden waste and cardboard was collected from the kerbside for composting. The contract was awarded to Yorkshire Horticultural Supplies Ltd (YHS) in January 2008 for a total of 7 years. YHS has recently brought to our attention that they are continuing to find it difficult to compost the feedstock provided during the winter months as it is predominantly cardboard especially after Christmas and New Year. The card can be dealt with and composted during the summer months as it is mixed with the garden waste. However, during the winter it could be dealt with far more effectively by recycling it rather than attempting to compost it. We estimate that the percentage ratio of garden waste to card and other materials in the summer is approximately 60/40 and during the winter 10/90. Customer feedback from previous years has also indicated a preference for regular collections during Christmas and New Year due to the high levels of card produced for collection. In addition, YHS has also proposed the temporary closure of Maltby Transfer Station during December 2010 to March 2011 which would require our collection vehicles driving to Finningley instead.

It is therefore our proposal that by working with our new waste paper partner Newport Paper Ltd to hold a trial over the months of December 2010, January 2011 and February 2011. The borough wide trial will include the halting of garden waste collection from the green bin but the continuation of cardboard collection. During this period householders will be asked to 'home compost' using the Council's special offer scheme or utilise the Household Waste Recycling Centres for any garden waste they produce. Householders will continue to use their green bin for cardboard only and continue to present it on their normal collection day. Streetpride will continue to collect the cardboard with the same vehicles and crews as normal but instead of taking the material to YHS for composting it will be delivered to the transfer station at KCM Skip Hire in Rotherham for onward recycling.

Householders will be notified of the trial by a prominent sticker affixed to the lid of their green bin with further information available on the Council web site. YHS has agreed to pay for the production of this sticker. Domestic waste collection arrangements during Christmas and New Year will be advised separately.

If the trial is successful, it will allow the opportunity to implement the winter changes to the Green Bin Service every year possibly for a longer period.

## **8. Finance.**

In 2009/10 the amount of kerbside green bin collections equalled approximately 1750 tonnes during December, January and February. The current gate fee at YHS is £18.86 per tonne for garden waste and cardboard. Over the trial (3 months) we anticipate collecting approximately 1000 tonnes of cardboard. We will not require the use of YHS over this period and therefore, will not be required to pay a gate fee. Newport Paper Ltd has indicated that they will pay £26 per tonne for clean mixed card taken into the transfer station at KCM Skip Hire in Rotherham. The break down of any potential costs and savings is listed below:

Sticker: £4288 (to be paid for by YHS)

Gate Fee Saving: £33,000

Card Sales: £10,000 (@ £10.00 per tonne subject to quality)

Total Saving £43,000

## 9. Risks and Uncertainties

Should the cardboard be clean with only small amounts of contamination, Newport Paper Ltd has indicated they will pay £26.00 per tonne. If the cardboard is lightly contaminated, Newport Paper Ltd has indicated they will pay between £0 and £10 per tonne. If the cardboard is heavily contaminated with garden waste and makes the product un-saleable it will then have to be sent for composting away from the KCM site which may incur a charge up to £35 per tonne. However, if this is the case we still have the contract option of taking the materials to YHS at Finningley at the current contract rate. In addition, households may place garden waste into their domestic waste bin which may adversely affect recycling rates.

## 10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The recycling of cardboard will help to achieve the following:

### Performance Indicators

BV 82a (i) %age of household waste arisings which have been sent for recycling.

BV 82a (ii) Total tonnage of household waste arisings which have been sent for recycling.

BV 82d (i) %age of household waste arisings which have been landfilled.

BV 82d (ii) Total tonnage of household waste arisings which have been landfilled.

NI 191 – Residual household waste per household.

NI 192 – Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting.

NI 193 – Percentage of Municipal Solid Waste sent to landfill.

Waste Strategy 2007 set national targets for the reuse, recycling and composting of household waste – of at least 40% by 2010, 45% by 2015 and 50% by 2020.

## 11. Background Papers and Consultation

Nil.

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