

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Waste and Emergency Planning
2.	Date:	Monday 15th October 2012
3.	Title:	Green Waste Collection – Winter Working Arrangements
4.	Programme Area:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

This report outlines the proposal to change the frequency of green waste collection over the winter period as a consequence of the peak growing season coming to an end. The proposal put forward also incorporates the working arrangements on residual waste and dry recycling over the Christmas/New Year holiday period.

6. Recommendations

The Cabinet Member for Waste and Emergency Planning is requested to approve:

- (a) That the collection frequency for the green waste service reverts to a 4-weekly collection for the winter period, from Monday, 26th November 2012 to Friday 29th March 2013.**
- (b) Approve the suspension of green waste collections during the Christmas/New Year holiday period to divert resources onto residual waste/recycling collection.**

7. Proposals and Details

On 27th February 2012 a report was presented to the Cabinet Member for Waste and Emergency Planning outlining changes to the kerbside collection of green waste and dry recyclables.

One of the resolutions from this meeting was that clean green waste only be placed in the green bin for collection. The new working arrangements were introduced on to the service with effect from Monday 19th March 2012.

The implementation of the clean green only collections this was incorporated to the normal alternate week collection arrangements.

As the growing season comes to an end it is expected that the volume of green waste collected will reduce significantly with the result that only small quantities of clean green waste would be presented if the normal alternate week collections remain in place.

Consideration has been given to the options available with respect to this service over the winter period. The basic options were:

- a) Cease the service altogether over the winter period – this may breach the council's statutory duty to provide a collection service for green waste.
- b) Maintain the service provision over the winter period by moving from an alternate week to a 4-weekly collection frequency.
- c) Maintain the service provision over the winter period by moving to from an alternate week to a 4-weekly collection service, with a suspension of any green waste collections over the Christmas / New Year holiday period to cater for:
 - The provision of a weekly collection of residual waste for 10 days when the service is in a backlog situation and demand is at its annual peak.
 - Support the collection of paper and cardboard when there is a traditional increase in cardboard and paper presented for collection on dry recycling after the holiday period.

Following deliberation of these options it is proposed to adopt option (c) a 4-weekly collection with a Christmas/New Year suspension over the winter period. This will meet our objectives of the continued provision of a green waste service whilst releasing resources to support Christmas working arrangements which will minimise the impact on collection frequencies for our customers.

8. Finance

The proposals contained within this report will be maintained within the Waste Management Budget.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The proposal to reduce the frequency of collection of clean green waste may lead to some individuals seeking to put contaminants in the green bin because of the capacity available. The waste collection crews will continue to inspect all bins presented for collection and if contamination is present the bin will be tagged to inform the resident that it will be emptied on the next scheduled collection if the offending material has been removed.

Our current green waste outlet has been consulted on these proposals and arrangements are in hand to ensure green waste outlets are made available over the winter period.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The proposals outlined in this report will ensure that:

- Residents will still have the opportunity to dispose of small elements of garden waste over the winter period.
- There will be minimal disruption to residual waste collection over the Christmas / New Year holiday period.

11. Background Paper and Consultation

Report to Cabinet Member for Waste and Emergency Planning – 27th February 2012.

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