

**ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS**

<b>1. Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>
<b>2. Date:</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> September 2014</b>
<b>3. Title:</b>	<b>Green Waste Service – Summer Only Collection</b>
<b>4. Directorate:</b>	<b>Environment and Development Services</b>

**5. Summary**

The green waste service is a seasonal service which is subject to high demand in summer and a very low demand over the winter period. During the last two years the service has dropped to a monthly service over the winter period operating with a maximum of 3 vehicles out of the current fleet of 7 vehicles. This report outlines the proposal to revert to a summer only collection of green waste to meet the requirements of the medium term financial plan

**6. Recommendations**

**That Cabinet:**

**Approves the proposal to revert to a summer only collection of green waste.**

## **7. Proposals and Details**

The green waste collection service is a seasonal service which is normally subject to high participation within the summer months with a tailing off in demand for the service over the winter period.

The current front line fleet of seven vehicles is normally complemented by the hiring in of one extra vehicle for a period of approximately 20 weeks during the summer growing season. In the last two years the service has seen a significant reduction in participation in collections in the winter period with the result that the number of vehicles used has reduced to a maximum of 3 vehicles and schedules have reverted to a monthly collection from the summer alternate week collection schedule.

Based upon a five year average the service collects around 18,624 tonnes of green waste per annum; of which only 2,694 tonnes is collected over the period November to March, this represents 14.47 % of the total green waste figure. It is however important to note that of the green waste collected over this five month period 1,672 tonnes of the waste is picked up in March.

This can be summarised as follows:

Total tonnes collected = 18, 624 tonnes  
Tonnage November to March = 2,694 tonnes (14.47%)  
Tonnage November to February = 1,022 tonnes (5.49%)  
Tonnage March = 1,672 tonnes (8.98%)

In order to achieve the requirements of the Medium Term Financial Plan 2014 it is proposed that with effect from this year the green waste service ceases operation at the end of October 2014. The service will then re-commence operations with effect from April 2015 and operate over the summer period only.

This situation has been discussed with our partner, Yorkshire Horticulture who processes the green waste collected on the service and they have confirmed the transfer station they operate at Maltby will close for the winter period.

The proposal to cease collections over the winter period has been fully discussed with Trade Union Representatives in terms of reducing the establishment on Waste Collection Operations through the Voluntary Severance Scheme and taking vehicles off the road. I can report that the current fleet of vehicles are coming to the end of their lease periods and it has been agreed with our Transport Partner to leave them in the Depot to support servicing and repair of the specialist fleet over the winter period.

## **8. Finance**

The proposal to cease the collection of green waste with effect from the end of October 2014 and operate a summer only service in subsequent years will assist the Council in achieving the requirements of the medium term financial plan.

It has been calculated that the cost saving in the 2014/15 financial year will be £122,000 as a consequence of:

- Taking vehicles off the road over the winter period.
- Reducing the establishment of the Waste Collection Operation by 21 posts from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

The proposal to suspend green waste collections over the winter period will not prove to be popular; being seen as an erosion of the service. In terms of suspending collections over the winter period it is expected that any green waste produced will either be composted at home, some may find its way into the residual black bin; there may be cases of fly tipping green waste; however it is important to note there is an outlet for this waste as it will continue to be accepted at the Councils four Household Waste Recycling Centres.

## **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

It is expected that the implementation of this proposal may reduce the Councils overall recycling rate by approximately 2%; however this needs to be measured against the requirements to meet the objectives of the medium term financial plan.

## **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

Medium Term Financial Plan 2014  
Consultation with Trade Union Representatives  
Consultation with Waste Management Workforce

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