



Report to Cabinet

Subject Summer Service Weekly Collection of Domestic Waste

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1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To advise Members of the operational issues created by the introduction of weekly collections of domestic waste from all properties in the borough during the summer period.
- 1.2 To inform Members of the predicted recycling rate for 2007/08 following the introduction of the weekly summer service.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 At Council on 16th May 2007, Members agreed to the introduction of a weekly collection of domestic waste from Monday 25th June 2007 until Friday 14th September 2007 (12 weeks).
- 2.2 The estimated cost of the service was £151,000 consisting of hired vehicles, agency drivers and labourers, fuel and publicity.
- 2.3 The purpose of the introduction of the weekly residual collection was to reduce the number of complaints from residents during the summer period regarding maggots and smelling bins.
- 2.4 During the period 16th May 2007 to 22nd June 2007 (26 working days) the following works were undertaken: -
 - Production, printing and distribution of a leaflet to every household advising them of these new arrangements. The message also requested that they continued using the green bin for all recycle materials.
 - Arrangements for the hire of 5 additional refuse freighters for the period in compliance with the Council's contract standing orders.
 - Recruitment and training of 7 temporary staff, and the hiring of 4 agency loaders and 2 LGV qualified drivers.
 - The transfer of 2 LGV Drivers from Parks and Street Care Section for the period.

2.5 The scheme commenced as planned on the 25th June 2007.

3.0 Findings

3.1 The public response to the new service was favourable with many verbally communicated compliments to Council employees and five written compliments. There were 37 received from those against the weekly service. The main complaint during the summer service operation was with regard to the number of wheelie bins on the footpaths. All our recent publicity has included an article requesting that residents remove bins from footpaths as soon as possible after emptying. The other main comment was for the introduction a free garden waste service.

3.2 During the period of the weekly collections only five complaints were received regarding smells and maggots in the bins. This is around the same number of complaints we used to receive prior to last year.

3.3 At the Gedling show, staff received compliments on the introduction of the service and many advised that they had only taken the opportunity to dispose of general waste from sheds, garages and lofts. They advised that they had continued to use the recycling facilities and our records of tonnages (Para 3.7 below) confirm this trend.

3.5 With regard to operational issues, we had no problem obtaining hired refuse vehicles for the period, through a quick tendering process, we managed to obtain a very good deal, far cheaper than we obtain 'spot hiring' refuse vehicles.

3.5 The only operational problem we encountered was the recruitment of LGV qualified drivers that were needed. With the service operating at peak holiday times, our own LGV qualified drivers, had to be supplemented by agency drivers, and other staff were transferred from street cleansing when required. On occasions, services such as bin deliveries and special collections had to be undertaken at weekends.

3.6 Our message to the residents (Para 2.4) to keep on recycling was very successful. In the same 12 week period in 2006, 2,090 tonnes of recycle material was collected compared to 2,163 in the 2007 summer service 12 week period. Therefore the re-introduction had no effect on recycle tonnages collected.

3.7.1 The table below shows all the results over the 12 week period for kerbside collections. It is pleasing that all recycled and garden waste collection quantities are higher than in previous years. (Note: 3 main bring sites at Sainsbury's, Adsa and Tesco's were limited for some or all of this period due to building works. Some recyclates from these may have been diverted into the twin bin scheme).

2007				Total tonnes	Total tonnes
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	Green Bin	Glass	Garden	Recyclables	Black Bin
Week 1	219.96	53.32	55.84	329.12	689.34
Week 2	155.96	50.86	52.78	259.60	602.14
Week 3	210.38	64.46	65.78	340.62	643.54
Week 4	146.06	58.26	72.46	276.78	612.80
Week 5	217.54	52.52	58.34	328.84	608.84
Week 6	137.98	50.52	67.28	255.78	620.82
Week 7	215.06	64.74	67.38	347.18	596.74
Week 8	149.66	50.10	57.82	257.58	559.92
Week 9	216.94	52.94	46.98	316.86	567.43
Week 10	131.78	42.62	60.26	234.66	541.11
Week 11	209.82	65.60	62.34	337.76	654.24
Week 12	151.64	59.34	62.36	273.34	579.88
Total	2162.78	665.28	729.62	3557.68	7276.80

2006				Total tonnes	Total tonnes
	Green Bin	Glass	Garden	Recyclables	Black Bin
Week 1	239.86	58.20	53.48	351.54	339.12
Week 2	104.16	52.18	45.46	201.80	696.16
Week 3	242.90	65.70	44.62	353.22	377.24
Week 4	93.46	55.66	27.00	176.12	693.56
Week 5	238.00	62.56	36.08	336.64	324.22
Week 6	112.34	49.10	34.58	196.02	631.52
Week 7	239.16	55.38	40.82	335.36	324.28
Week 8	113.10	47.10	34.02	194.22	661.22
Week 9	250.84	51.22	50.94	353.00	310.46
Week 10	78.36	39.20	38.66	156.22	652.90
Week 11	273.60	56.96	57.96	388.52	340.68
Week 12	104.86	59.56	66.40	230.82	735.46
Total	2090.64	652.82	530.02	3273.48	6086.82

- 3.8 Although I estimated that up to 5,400 tonnes could be collected (a calculation based on pre-alternate weekly collections) residents did not take full advantage of the service. My predictions were unfounded, residents either only used the service when they needed to, or they presented half full bins each week. Just under 1,200 tonnes of extra waste was collected, an average of only 100 tonnes per week during the twelve week period. In addition, the actual tonnage of waste sent to landfill or incineration for the period 1st April 2007 and 30th September 2007 from Gedling Borough residents has only increased by 679 tonnes and if the trend continues for the second half of the year, then any extra cost of disposal to be incurred by Nottinghamshire County Council would be negligible.
- 3.9 Although we have only a limited amount of data over the period, our estimated participation rate was in the region of 40% and I'm reasonably satisfied that this reflects the whole period.
- 3.10 Our recycling rate in 2006/07 was reported as 35.69% but this has been recently adjusted for contamination in accordance with the Government's waste dataflow database. Our official figure for 2006/07 is now 34.73%

- 3.11 Using the tonnages above, together with the tonnages recorded between 1st October 2006 and 31st March 2007, it is estimated that our recycling rate for the year ending 31st March 2008 will be around **35.10%** (allowing for the same amount of contamination as in 2006/07 waste dataflow capture) despite the 2% drop during the twelve-week period.
- 3.12 The number of customers in the Garden Waste scheme increased from 5560 in 2006/07 to 6034 this year although many new customers joined before the summer service began. Approximately 268 people joined the scheme during this period.

4.0 Financial issues

- 4.1 The final cost of the service was £152,300, which was slightly over the estimate. The cost per household for the additional collections was approximately £3.00 per annum or over the period £0.50 per collection per property.
- 4.2 The additional cost incurred in carrying out other works on Saturdays due to the summer service have been included in this figure. This includes bin deliveries and special collections, as it was not always possible to carry out these services during the normal week.

5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1 The Summer Service was well received by the residents; they did not take full advantage of the opportunity to dispose of their waste arisings with only 100 tonnes on average being collected each week of the period.
- 5.2 Residents responded to our message to keep on recycling, putting an average of 180 tonnes per week in the green bin during the period. Residents should be commended for their recycling efforts.
- 5.3 The number of complaints regarding maggots and smelling bins reduced compared with 2006..
- 5.4 The number of garden waste customers may reduce next year if the summer service scheme continues. It may be prudent to review the pricing structure of this service in future years.
- 5.5 If the pattern of recycling continues for the remainder of the year, then the Authority's recycling performance will not have been adversely affected by the introduction of the service.
- 5.6 The establishment of the Refuse Section will need to be reviewed if the scheme is to continue. We will need to employ more LGV qualified drivers (although this may be a good training opportunity for some of our existing staff) and should the scheme continue a report on this issue will be prepared for Personnel & Resources Committee.

6.0 Background Paper

- 6.1 Report to Council 16th May 2007