



Report to Cabinet

**Subject: Refuse Collection – Christmas and New Year Arrangements
2008/09**

Date: October 2008

Author: Head of Direct Services

1. Purpose of the Report

To advise members of the refuse collection arrangements over the Christmas and New Year holiday period 2008/09.

2. Background

In previous years, since the introduction of the alternate weekly collection arrangements, properties that did not receive a collection due to the normal collection day being either Christmas Day or Boxing Day, had their refuse or recycling bin emptied on either the following Saturday or Sunday. This arrangement has worked well.

However, this year it will not be possible to collect domestic waste on Sunday 28th December 2008 as no disposal facilities will be available. The landfill sites will be closed and remedial works planned for the Eastcroft incinerator commencing in mid December result in a very restricted service over the holiday period.

In addition, our neighbouring Authorities have taken the decision not to collect waste on Sunday 28th December 2008 and have opted to collect waste in their areas on the three Saturdays over the Christmas period instead.

Other Authorities in the County already operate this system whereby collections in the week when Christmas Day falls are all moved forward by one day with the normal Monday collection being organised for collection on the proceeding Saturday. Normal collections immediately following Christmas Day are moved

back one day, with another Saturday collection being undertaken in lieu of Boxing Day.

The collection which would otherwise be undertaken on New Year's Day will be undertaken on the following Saturday.

The effect of such a proposal is that all properties within the Borough are affected. This needs to be closely managed with clear, effective and continued communication before, during and after the holiday period.

The following communication channels have been identified:-

Revised calendar to all properties.

Signage on the refuse freighters.

Leaflets and posters in supermarkets, newsagents, libraries, leisure and community centres

Advertise in the local papers.

Key message on Council's website.

3. Proposals

The following collections days are therefore proposed: -

NORMAL COLLECTION DAY	PROPOSED COLLECTION DAY
Monday 22 nd December 2008	Saturday 20 th December 2008
Tuesday 23 rd December 2008	Monday 22 nd December 2008
Wednesday 24 th December 2008	Tuesday 23 rd December 2008
Thursday 25 th December 2008	Wednesday 24 th December 2008
Friday 26 th December 2008	Saturday 27 th December 2008
Monday 29 th December 2008	Normal Collection
Tuesday 30 th December 2008	Normal Collection
Wednesday 31 st December 2008	Normal Collection
Thursday 1 st January 2009	Saturday 3 rd January 2009
Friday 2 nd January 2009	Normal Collection

From Monday 5th January 2009, normal collection arrangements for all properties would resume.

In 2009, Christmas Day will fall on a Friday and, again, we will have no disposal outlets available on Saturday 26th December 2009 (Boxing day). If the proposed system works this year then it could also be applied in 2009 and subsequent years.

Separate arrangements will be made for trade waste collections and clinical waste collections as in previous years.

4. Financial Implications

The costs of collection are contained within existing budgets and the production and delivery of revised refuse collection calendars for the period 1st December 2008 until 30th November 2009 was also planned for within existing budgets.

However, advertising costs and posters for the refuse freighters will be in the region of £2,500.00. This has been reduced as advertising costs in the local papers will be shared with our neighbouring authorities who are doing the same collections this Christmas. The cost of this advertising will be contained within existing budgets.

5. Recommendation

That Cabinet approve the proposed refuse collection arrangements over the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

6. Wards Affected

All.

7. Background Papers

None.