



Report to Cabinet

Subject: Refuse Collection Changes 2009

Date: 28th May 2009

Author: Head of Direct Services

1. Purpose of the Report

To advise members of changes to the refuse collection arrangements from 15th June 2009

2. Background

In December 2008 the new Material Recycling Facility (MRF) opened on the Crown Farm Estate in Mansfield. In accordance with the new partnership agreement between the districts of Nottinghamshire and Nottinghamshire County Council we are required to deliver 25% of our kerbside collected recycling materials to this new MRF. (This site is currently being monitored in accordance with planning consent that has restricted vehicle movements, and it is anticipated that our input could increase to around 60% if planning issues are resolved).

In July 2009 phase 1 of the construction of the transfer station in Freeth Street, Nottingham will be completed and we will be required to deliver the remaining amount of recycling materials to this site. We currently deliver these materials to the Biffa site in Colwick.

In both situations we incur additional costs in complying with these requirements as refuse rounds are not being completed within the allocated times and assistance is, therefore, having to be given on a daily basis to the majority of the refuse crews. Fuel consumption is also increasing due to the extra mileage travelled.

Currently we deliver the residual waste collected (approximately 27,000 tonnes per annum) from the black bins to Dorket Head landfill site and the Eastcroft incinerator. Prior to the introduction of the twin bin schemes in the County, we

were required to deliver only a few hundred tonnes to the Eastcroft incinerator. Over the past couple of years this has increased to around 16,000 tonnes per annum and in order to accommodate neighbouring Authorities in areas where landfill disposal facilities have either closed or are in the process of closing, we are being diverted away from Dorket Head and it is expected that we will deliver the majority of our residual waste to the Eastcroft Incinerator from now on.

In 2007/08 as part of a countywide review of refuse collection, a consultancy firm, funded through the East Midlands Centre of Excellence identified that a further four days collections would be necessary to offset the extra travelling incurred and subsequent reduction in bin collection time availability. At the Personnel & Resources Committee on 6th April 2009 approval was granted for the additional staff required to accommodate the changes in the waste disposal arrangements and the Direct Services establishment has been increased. The recruitment process is currently being undertaken and the salary estimates for 2009/10 include funds for these additional posts.

3.0 Proposals

I propose that changes to the domestic refuse rounds will be implemented from 15th June 2009.

Where possible, I have tried to limit the number of properties affected by the changes. However, changes have been necessary to ensure the refuse rounds are as efficient as possible whilst being achievable within normal working hours and as a consequence the majority of wards have been affected.

In addition, even if the day of collection has not altered, it is most likely that the time of collection will be different and therefore, this needs to be closely managed with clear, effective and continued communication before, during and after the implementation period.

By introducing the changes in the fortnight prior to the introduction of the refuse summer service (commences on 29th June 2009) information and revised calendars will be delivered along with the summer service leaflet.

In accordance with the new waste agreement with Nottinghamshire County Council, districts are now allowed to divert recyclate materials collected from businesses to the new MRF and these can be collected by the domestic refuse collection crews providing an appropriate audit trail of weights and collections is recorded. Where appropriate, and to ensure efficiency, local businesses who have requested recycling of their waste will be added to the domestic refuse rounds.

4. Financial Implications

The costs of the proposed changes are contained within the salary estimates for 2009/10 as reported to the Personnel and Resources Committee in April 2009.

Costs of advising residents of these changes is contained within the budget for publicity as it will be advertised along with the introduction of the Summer Service for 2009.

Fuel consumption and overtime payments will be monitored closely throughout 2009/10 and any financial impact from these will be reported through the normal quarterly performance monitoring process.

5. Members are requested to note that changes to domestic refuse collection arrangements will commence from 15th June 2009.

6. Wards Affected

All.

7. Background Papers

None.