

Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	7.
Date:	3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2011	Status	Open
Category	1. Key decision included in Forward Plan		
Subject:	Alternate Week Collection procedures		
Report by:	Head of Community & Street Services Manager		
Other Officers Involved	Street Services Manager Waste Services Manager		
Director	Director of Neighbourhoods		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor D. Kelly, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change Champion		

### **RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS**

**ENVIRONMENT** – Promoting and enhancing a clean and sustainable environment  
This service has a direct impact on the sustainable environment by collecting less waste which will go to landfill and more waste which will be recycled. Fewer vehicle movements will also contribute to the Council’s reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

**STRATEGIC ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT** – Continually improving our organisation.

The provision of an integrated residual and green waste collection service will remove the requirement to use temporary staff and hire vehicles on green waste collections. This removes the additional staffing, vehicle hire and fuel costs associated with a separate collection service. It will generate savings on the Waste Services budget and assist the Council in meeting its savings targets whilst also generating more efficient methods of working.

### **TARGETS**

None directly, as there is not a current Corporate Plan. However, the Council aims to meet statutory performance targets for waste recycling as required by the European Landfill Directive; that is to recycle 40% of household waste by 2010, 45% by 2015 and 50% by 2020.

### **VALUE FOR MONEY**

The reduction in the use of temporary staff, hire vehicles and fuel use will result in savings for the Council and more efficient methods of working.

## THE REPORT

### Background

At a Council meeting on the 20 July 2011 members voted to introduce an Alternate Weekly Refuse Collection Scheme (AWC), to begin on 1 November 2011. (Minute No 220 refers).

A move to AWC represents a significant change to residents and it is crucial to the success and long term future of AWC that the procedures and rules surrounding the scheme are clear and fully supported by members.

In order for residents to receive the correct guidance and information it is necessary to identify how the service will operate.

Following advice from best performing Local Authorities and the Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP), Officers recommend that the following service procedures are adopted.

### Scope

The AWC service will apply to all domestic household properties throughout Bolsover District. Each property will receive a garden waste (green bin) and recycling (burgundy bin) collection one week and a residual waste (black bin) collection the following week. Commercial and trade properties will not be included and will continue to receive weekly collections.

### Routes

It is proposed that the current zoning system is retained. It is also proposed that both green and residual waste will be collected each week (i.e. half the District receiving a residual collection and the other half a green waste collection). This system has a number of advantages:

- A steady stream of material will be sent to the reprocessing facility each week.
- Vehicles collecting both types of material will be available in the area each week to collect missed bins.
- The weekly commercial waste collections can be accommodated

To fairly distribute the workload between the refuse crews, each one will collect one load of residual waste and one load of green waste per day. Residents will have the same day of collection (albeit on different weeks) for all services.

To accommodate this it may be necessary for a number of properties to change collection days. Residents will be notified where this is necessary in the service information provided.

### Additional Waste Capacity

Presently those properties where 6 or more residents permanently reside are issued with additional bin capacity to accommodate their waste. It is proposed that this policy remains unchanged. However, AWC collections may lead to those residents becoming the victims of 'bin envy'. A clear policy from the Council will help residents understand why some houses are allocated larger sized/additional bins. Additionally, residents with young children in nappies may require additional assistance. The following criterion for receiving additional capacity is suggested:

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Entitlement</b>
Properties with 6/7 permanent residents.	1 x 360L Black Residual Bin
Properties with 8-10 permanent residents	2 x 360L Black Residual Bin
Properties with 10+ residents	Individual assessment
Properties containing 5 permanent residents including a child in nappies	1 x 240L Black Residual Bin plus yellow sack collection
Properties containing 4 permanent residents with more than one child in nappies.	1 x 240L Black Residual Bin plus yellow sack collection

The above criteria does not apply to multiple occupancy premises such as residential homes or communal properties such as flats which already have different arrangements for refuse collection. This may include the use of large trade and burgundy bins for containment.

### Closed Lids & No Side Waste

A closed lid/no side waste policy means that crews will only collect bins with a closed lid and will not collect any material left alongside the bin. This has a number of aims:

- Restricting side waste encourages waste minimisation and recycling.
- It helps reduce overall waste volumes and encourages greater recycling participation.
- It increases crew efficiency and reduces occupational health & safety risks including needle stick/sharps and lifting injuries.
- It provides baseline weight data and assists with resource allocation.
- It reduces litter.

For the above reasons it is recommended that a closed lid/no side waste policy is adopted.

For definition purposes a closed lid will be one which has a gap of less than 3 inches from the bottom of the lid to the top of the bin.

### Enforcement

It is vital that the material presented in either the green or burgundy bin is not contaminated with other waste. Contaminated loads carry the risk of rejection

at the processing site. This could result in either the Waste Disposal Authority and or our recycling contractor seeking financial recompense for the transfer of the contaminated waste to landfill and the subsequent landfill charges incurred. It would also adversely affect both Bolsover District Council and Derbyshire County Council recycling and composting performances.

The change to AWC will be significant for householders. It is anticipated that during the first few weeks of implementation, residents may inadvertently place the wrong material into their bins. A robust monitoring scheme will be administered with officers inspecting bins to identify where contamination occurs. It is intended that where this is discovered, the bin is not emptied and the resident is informed which materials are responsible for the bin not being collected.

However, a minority of residents may be unwilling to cooperate with the new collection arrangements and it is essential that a clear approach is agreed on the appropriate enforcement action for repeat offenders. It is suggested that the following is adopted:

- Where contamination is present, the resident will be informed of this, advised of the appropriate disposal outlet and asked to remove the contamination. They will be offered the option of de-contaminating the bin and having it emptied at the property's next scheduled collection day for that material. Alternatively they may elect to pay for a bulky waste collection beforehand (it is intended to add a category of one off bin lift to the bulky schedule of charges at cost of £10).
- Should contamination occur again at the same property, the procedure will be repeated with the addition of an invitation to the resident to contact the Council if they are experiencing particular difficulties in complying with the scheme and/or require further advice or clarification. The resident will also be warned that any future contamination will result in the removal of the bin.
- Where contamination is present a third time the resident will be informed that the bin will be removed and no further collections will be made.

It is intended that identifying where contamination is present will be undertaken by the refuse crews after the initial bedding in of the scheme. It will be important to support those crews who have rejected side waste or contaminated bins. If they are regularly sent back to collect rejected bins they may be inclined not to reject it in the first place.

#### Exceptional Circumstances/Inclement Weather.

There have been occasions during the previous two years where refuse collections have been suspended due to severe weather conditions. When operating an AWC service, consideration should be given to the appropriate action if a scheduled collection cannot take place, as residents could

potentially be left with a month between residual waste collections. It is proposed that should this occur, those affected residents will receive a residual waste collection in lieu of the green waste and the details will be available on the internet and on telephone messages.

### **IMPLICATIONS**

Financial: Small income could be derived from the additional bulky item.

Legal: None

Human Resources: None

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. The collection rules identified in the report are implemented in conjunction with the move to Alternate Week Collections commencing 1 November 2011.**
- 2. The Patch Management Group develops a comprehensive Waste Collection Policy to cover all waste collection activities undertaken by the Council.**
- 3. Amend the Bulky Waste charges to include a one off bin empty at £10.**