
REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES.	AGENDA ITEM: 8
DATE OF MEETING:	5th OCTOBER 2006.	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES.	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	PETER McEVOY	DOC:
SUBJECT:	GREEN WASTE COLLECTION SCHEME – REVIEW OF WINTER CLOSEDOWN PERIOD	REF: PE
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL.	TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS07

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the period of the windrow composting scheme remains unaltered and that the success of the 11 months per year “in vessel” composting pilot be monitored with a view to the roll out of that scheme as the preferred solution to any concerns over the winter closedown period.

2.0 Detail

- 2.1 The current scheme commences during the week in which the 1st March falls and closes during the week in which 1st December falls.
- 2.2 The table below details the amounts of green waste collected, for composting, in tonnes both at the start and end of the collection period as well as the average monthly amount collected over the past three years:

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Feb./March.</u>	<u>Nov./December.</u>	<u>Average per Month over Whole Year</u>	<u>Comments.</u>
2003/04	311 tonnes	349 tonnes	341 tonnes	
2004/05	425 tonnes	519 tonnes	572 tonnes	5,900 properties added to the scheme in April 2004.
2005/06	251 tonnes	457 tonnes	542 tonnes	

- 2.3 The table shows that the amounts collected at the start of the collection period are, at best, within 9% of the monthly average and, at worst, 54% below the average. The amounts collected at the end of the collection period are, at best, 2% more than the monthly average and, at worst, 15% below the average.

- 2.4 The amounts collected will be influenced to some degree by the weather conditions prevalent at the time. The amount collected during February/March 2004 reflects an early warm spring whereas wintry conditions have prevailed during the February/March period in the subsequent two years.
- 2.5 Members will be aware of the Council's plans to move from the current "open windrow" to the "in vessel" composting process starting with a pilot scheme for 3,000 householders in Findern, Mickleover and Stenson Fields in September 2006. The "in vessel" system allows a much wider range of waste, including meat, fish, food leftovers and cardboard, to be composted. The plan is to place all properties in the district on to the new system over the next three or four years provided that the pilot scheme is successful.
- 2.6 Members have approved a change to the collection period for the pilot scheme, in recognition of the wider range of materials that can be included, whereby it will close down only between mid-December and mid-January.
- 2.7 Members may wish to take into account, therefore, the potential impact of the new system in considering changes to the existing scheme.

3.0 Financial Implications

- 3.1 None.

4.0 Community Implications

- 4.1 The Compost Service operates in around half the district at the moment. It is planned to place all households in the district onto the scheme during the next three or four years.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 The success of the compost service both at the start and the end of the collection period is influenced to a large degree by the weather conditions prevalent at the time.
- 5.2 The pilot scheme for the new "in vessel" compost system, with the wider range of materials that can be placed in the brown bin, has just started on the basis that the collection period will be all year round except for the Christmas / New Year period.
- 5.3 It may be prudent to defer any changes to the collection period until the results of the new "in vessel" scheme have been considered.