
REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM:
DATE OF MEETING:	17TH APRIL 2008.	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES	OPEN:
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	PAUL EVANS (EXTN. 5764).	DOC:
SUBJECT:	WASTE & CLEANSING SERVICES – POLICIES / SERVICE LEVELS REVIEW.	REF: PE
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS 07,08 & 09.

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 Members are asked to review and approve the policies and service levels that define the baseline service for waste and cleansing in the district.

2.0 Detail

2.1 Members will be aware that the Waste & Cleansing Services are being market tested this year. The tender documents will be issued in July this year and are currently under preparation. Decisions on service levels are required at this time in order to complete contract specification documents.

2.2 Policies and service levels across the service as a whole were approved by Members as part of the Cleansing the Environment Best Value review in the year 2000.

2.4 Whilst the basic refuse collection activities remain similar, the dramatic development of the recycling and composting schemes has introduced significant changes to the service. The year just ended will be the first in which we have recycled or composted approaching one third of all waste collected, a substantial landmark of progress. Furthermore our understanding of environmental constraints has developed dramatically since 2000 and with it an increased focus on costs and the appreciation of correlation between total tonnages collected and cost of collection per head of population.

2.5 The Council's Audit letter for last year drew attention to comparatively high total tonnages and costs per head of population. These policy adjustments proposed offer response to that and will have a positive effect on the issue of waste minimisation and whilst they will not bring huge reductions they will restrict or prevent further growth and maintain the pressure to recycle.

2.5 The current policies and service levels are appended at Annexe A.

2.6 A column has been added to indicate if there are any proposed changes to the current policies and service levels.

2.7 In summary the changes are as follows:

- Restricting the amount of side waste collected, for householders who miss a collection during the Christmas and New Year period, to a maximum of three sacks. (Currently no limit is stipulated.)
- Introducing a policy whereby only bins with lids closed will be emptied (following the issue of warning stickers for first time offenders, bins with lids propped up will not be emptied).
- Decisions regarding the issue of larger bins to householders on the basis of medical needs to be delegated to officers.
- A new proposal has been added in regard to garden waste being placed in the residual waste bin.

2.8 The full details are appended at Annexe B.

2.9 It is not proposed, at this time, to make any changes to the existing policy regarding the closedown of the “brown bin” collections for a short break during the Christmas and New Year holiday period. Current concerns about the disruption to the service are recognised, although there may be even more concerns if there was no closedown. The current policy allows for a short closedown period at that time of year and it is suggested that this be left unaltered for the time being. This allows flexibility to provide improvements on recent years arrangements without being too inflexible. Once the proposals in the tender bids for the Waste & Cleansing service have been evaluated, Bank Holiday collection arrangements will be finalised and publicised. There are concerns also still to be addressed from the Council’s Compost Facility providers regarding the potential difficulties that may be caused to the composting process at that time of year if the waste contains a disproportionate amount of cardboard.

3.0 Financial Implications

3.1 Current policies and service levels are being delivered within the current budget.

3.2 The proposed changes should have little impact on costs.

3.3 The market testing exercise will determine costs from 2009/10 onwards.

4.0 Community Implications

4.1 The proposed changes regarding side refuse at the Christmas / New Year period, the non- emptying of bins where the lids are propped up

5.0 Conclusions

5.1 The policies and service levels approved by Members will form the basis of the contract documentation for the market testing exercise.

5.2 The current arrangements and some proposed changes are detailed for Members' consideration and approval.