
REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	AGENDA ITEM: 7
DATE OF MEETING:	27 th JANUARY 2005	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	PAUL EVANS (EXTN. 5764).	DOC: s:\cent_serv\committee reports\environmental & development\27-jan-05\compost scheme - policy review.doc
SUBJECT:	COMPOST SCHEME – POLICY REVIEW	REF: PE
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS07

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 Members are asked to review existing policies in regard to forthcoming changes to, and associated with, the Compost Scheme.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Members will be aware of the forthcoming changes required in regard to the processing of waste into compost.
- 2.2 The Animal By-Products regulations require waste, including kitchen waste, to be processed in an "in vessel" system instead of the current "open windrow" system in order to minimise the risk of the spread of human and animal diseases.
- 2.3 This Committee, at its meeting on 30th September 2004, approved plans to expand the Compost Scheme into the north east part of the district in the next financial year, making use of a new "in vessel" compost facility.
- 2.4 The facility was scheduled to open in March 2005 but it is anticipated now that the opening will be delayed until June 2005.
- 2.5 The Council has committed to delivering a minimum of 800 tonnes of waste each year to the new facility.
- 2.6 The plan is to expand the Compost Scheme to include an additional 3,000 households in Findern, Micklover and Stenson Fields during the next financial year. The waste from these properties will be sent to the new facility. Compostable waste from properties previously in receipt of "Brown Bin" collections will still be sent for "open window" treatment during 2005/06.

3.0 Detail

3.1 One of the consequences of the change from "open windrow" to "in vessel" composting is a significant increase in the range of materials that may be placed in the brown bin. At the same time, the rigour of the monitoring of the types of waste being processed in "open windrow" systems will increase and the pressure to transfer to "in vessel" systems will mount. This consequence will need to be reflected in the publicity material issued to residents when the Council's existing "open windrow" compost service resumes in March.

3.2 The additional materials allowed to be placed in the brown bin under the new scheme are as follows:

- Food leftovers.
- Meat.
- Fish.
- Bones.
- Cardboard (no cellotape or foam packaging).

The additional materials will help to increase the amount recycled.

3.3 In view of the above changes, and the fact that householders in Findern, Mickleover and Stenson Fields receive the "green boxes" recycling service, Members are asked to review current policies in regard to the extension of the Compost Scheme.

3.4 The Compost Scheme has attracted some exceptions to normal policy in order to help householders meet the demands of the alternate brown bin, black bin weekly collection system. The exceptions are detailed below:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Normal Policy.</u>	<u>Current Compost Scheme Policy</u>	<u>New Compost Scheme Policy Suggestions.</u>
Larger bin issued.	Families of six or more.	Families of five or more.	Families of six or more.
Side refuse taken.	None.	One sack taken on "black bin" week.	None.
Service provided throughout the year.	Weekly collection throughout the year.	Scheme closes down during December, January & February.	Scheme closes from mid-December to mid-January only.

3.5 Waste analyses indicate that around 70% of normal "black bin" contents could be collected through the new "brown bin" and the "green boxes" schemes.

3.6 The withdrawal of the policy exceptions, in the area subject to the extension of the composting scheme, would save costs due to purchasing fewer larger bins and would contribute towards the Waste Minimisation efforts now being required of all Councils.

- 3.7 It would be helpful for any decisions regarding policy changes to be made now so that the information can be included in the publicity material for the new scheme. Bearing in mind that the scheme is a new one, it would seem sensible to proceed on a "trial basis" and to consult fully with householders throughout the year to ensure the success of the scheme.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The additional costs of processing waste through the "in vessel" facility have been allowed for in the budget.
- 4.2 The withdrawal of the policy exceptions would save around £4,000 per year over the next three years in the costs of purchasing larger bins.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 The new compost scheme allows for a much wider range of materials to be placed in the brown bin and, therefore, will ease residents' concerns regarding the alternate week collection system and, at the same time, increase the amount being recycled.
- 5.2 The new system gives the Council the opportunity to revert to its normal policy in regard to the refuse collection service thereby saving money and also contributing to the Council's Waste Minimisation efforts.
- 5.3 The scheme is a new one and, therefore, offers the option to proceed on a "trial basis", including full consultation with householders, to evaluate the success of the scheme.

