

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCILENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2007REPORT OF HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICESREFUSE/RECYCLING COLLECTIONS DURING CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR PERIOD**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 Following a request at it's meeting on the 4 June 2007, to advise Select Committee Members on details of previous refuse/recycling collections over the Christmas/New Year period.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That having considered the contents of this report, that Members of the Select Committee decide on any further action required and agree any recommendations they may wish to make to Cabinet based on the options stated in Section 2 of this report.

**3. Key Issues**

- 3.1 During the Christmas/New Year period of 2005/2006 garden waste collections (brown bin) were suspended for 2 weeks and replaced by weekly collections of household waste (green bin). The reason for the decision was that Members considered that households generate far more waste over the festive period such as packaging etc., a great deal of which could not at that time be recycled.
- 3.2 In considering the decisions as stated in 3.1 above, Members were also mindful that the Council has to continue to reduce the amount of waste it takes to landfill (BVPI 86) and therefore to providing weekly collections of green bin household waste for a longer period than 2 collection weeks, would be detrimental to the above and recycling performance.
- 3.3 During the Christmas/New Year period of 2006/07 alternate weekly collections of household/recyclable waste continued in line with Council Policy.
- 3.4 The Council figures on total composting/recycling for the period show;

	<b>2005/06</b>	<b>2006/07</b>
November	27.5%	36.15%
December	18.3%	29.3%
January	23.6%	30.8%
February	25.6%	31.69%

As shown above the provision of weekly household waste collections during December 2005/January 2006 had a detrimental effect on recycling performance. 2006/07 figures reflect improved recycling performance.

- 3.5 The Council introduced invessel composting throughout the district in April 2007. Invessel composting allows residents to put food waste, cardboard and garden waste into their brown wheeled bins. Some complaints were received from residents during the winter months of 2005-06 stating that they are not putting their brown bins out for collection because they do not generate garden waste in the winter months. Invessel composting should assist the residents in enabling food waste and cardboard previously put in the green household waste bin, to be included with their brown bin garden waste, leading to higher participation levels in brown bin collections during the winter months.
- 3.6 The suspension of brown bin collections as stated in 3.1 is similar to the collection arrangements adopted by Lichfield District Council who also continue to collect alternate weekly household/garden waste throughout the winter months. Other Staffordshire District Councils undertaking alternate weekly waste collections have or had the following arrangements in place.

**Council**

**Arrangements**

Tamworth District Council

Suspended one garden waste collection over the Christmas week.

South Staffs District Council

Suspended two garden waste collections over the Christmas week.

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

No suspensions planned this year as they now include Cardboard & food in their garden waste collection bins.

- 3.7 Based on the above information Members need to consider the options stated in Section 2 of this report.

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**Section 1****Background**

During the summer of 2005 the Council implemented a previous agreed policy option to introduce alternate weekly collections of household/garden waste.

The above was undertaken in 5 phases across the district between June and August 2005. The waste collection service comprised of household waste (non-recyclable) collections in green wheeled bin containers, garden waste collections in brown wheeled bin containers and a kerbside collection service of dry recyclables.

On completion of the above phased introduction the waste collection routes were amended to ensure that dry recyclable kerbside waste collections and brown bin collections were undertaken on the same week and respective collection day. This meant that residents waste was collected in a manner that week 1 was household waste (green bin collections) and week 2 was compostable/recyclable collections.

In order to assist residents on future collection dates all households were issued with calendars indicating their respective collection dates for the collections stated above.

**Section 2****Details of Matters to be Considered**

During the Christmas/New Year period of 2005/06 the brown bin garden waste collections were suspended on 2 collection weeks and replaced by weekly collections of household waste (green bin).

The main reason for the decision stated in key issues (3.1) of this report was that Members considered that households generate far more waste over the festive period such as excess packaging, a great deal of which could not at that time be recycled, additionally alternate weekly collections had only been introduced that year.

During the Christmas/New Year period of 2006/07 residents were then able to recycle cardboard with their kerbside paper collections. As cardboard recycling was not available during the previous period (2005/06) then it was considered, as this contributed largely to packaging, that the alternate weekly waste collections would continue for the 2006/07 Christmas/New Year period.

As previously stated in key issues (3.5) of this report, invessel composting collections were introduced across the district in April 2007. This now allows residents to put food waste and cardboard in their brown bins.

It is an E.U. Directive to reduce the amount of waste taken to landfill and each waste disposal authority has been given targets to achieve this outcome. Failure to reduce waste landfilled by reduction, reuse and recycling will result on financial penalty.

Members in considering the above information are advised that there are two possible options.

Option 1            To continue to undertake Council policy of alternative weekly collections of green and brown bins during the Christmas/New Year Period 07/08.

Option 2            To suspend brown bin collections over the Christmas/New Year Period for 2 collection weeks and provide weekly collections of Household Green Waste.

**Section 3****Contribution to CHASE**

E stands for environment which waste/recycling collection services make a major contribution to the living environment.

**Section 4****Section 17 Implications**

There were none identified in this report.

**Section 5****Human Rights Act Implications**

There were none identified in this report.

**Section 6****Data Protection Implications**

There were none identified in this report.

**Section 7****Risk Management Implications**

If any changes to refuse collection policies are made for the Christmas/New Year Period 2007/08, then residents will need to be informed of this change in advance of collections taking place.

**Section 8****Legal Implications**

The Council has a statutory duty to collect household waste. This statutory duty arising under the Control of Pollution Act 1974, Section 12 which states:

- (1) It shall be the duty of each collection authority—
  - (a) subject to subsection (3) of this section, to arrange for the collection of all household waste in its area except waste—
    - (i) which is situated at a place which in the opinion of the authority is so isolated or inaccessible that the cost of collecting it would be unreasonably high, and
    - (ii) as to which the authority is satisfied that adequate arrangements for its disposal have been or can reasonably be expected to be made by a person who controls the waste; and
  - (b) if requested by the occupier of premises in its area to collect any commercial waste from the premises, to arrange for the collection of the waste.

The Household Waste Recycling Act 2003 ('2003 Act') makes further provision regarding the collection, composting and recycling of household waste.

The 2003 Act also inserts into the Environmental Protection Act 1990 a new provision, namely, Section 45A (arrangements for separate collection of recyclable waste), which states:

- (1) This section applies to any waste collection authority whose area is in England (an "English waste collection authority").
- (2) ...
- (3) The arrangements are arrangements for the collection of at least two types of recyclable waste together or individually separated from the rest of the household waste.
- (4) The requirement in subsection (2) above shall apply from 31st December 2010.
- (5) ...
- (6) In this section, "recyclable waste" means household waste which is capable of being recycled or composted."

In essence the 2003 Act requires local authorities in England to provide kerbside collections for at least two recyclable materials by 2010.

The Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC) was adopted by the EU in 1999 and subsequently the directive brought into force in the UK on 15 June 2002 as the Landfill (England and Wales) Regulations 2002 ('the 2002 Regulations'). The 2002 Regulations requires the UK to reduce biodegradable waste going to landfill to 75% of 1995 level by 2010, 50% of 1995 level by 2013 and 35% of 1995 level by 2020.

Under the Landfill Allowance and Trading Scheme (England) Regulations 2004, the Council must not exceed any allowances granted in relation to the depositing of biodegradable municipal waste in landfill sites.

Any decision taken must have regard to the statutory obligations imposed upon this Council in terms of recycling targets and the limitations imposed in using landfill sites. Failing to comply with statutory requirements may result in the Council being liable to a financial penalty and adverse publicity.

## Section 9

### Financial Implications

In order to consider the above options the following Financial Implications need to be considered.

- Option 1            To continue to undertake Council policy of alternative weekly collections of green and brown bins during the Christmas/New Year Period 07/08.

This option will have no Financial Implications as this is the Council's currently policy.

Option 2 To suspend brown bin collections over the Christmas/New Year Period for 2 collection weeks and provide weekly collections of Household Green Waste.

This option would involve employing an additional team and it would reduce the amount of Recycling Credits achieved over this period particularly as Cardboard and Food waste can now be included in the brown bin. There is no current budget provision available for this option.

Staffing Costs	£3,100
Vehicle Running Costs	£3,700
Less: Recycling Credit Income (based on 06/07)	£2,600
100% increase in Credits for Cardboard & Food Waste 07/08	£2,600
Total Cost	£12,000

The Council may also incur additional excess tipping charges which can not be quantified at this time.

### Section 10

### Conclusions

That Members need to consider the contents of this report and determine if any recommendation on changes to refuse/recycling collections is required during the Christmas/New Year Period as stated in Section 2 of this report.

### Section 11

### Background Papers

None