

## EXECUTIVE BOARD – 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011

<b>Title of paper:</b>	<b>Food Waste Collections</b>	
<b>Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):</b>	John Kelly Corporate Director - Communities  Andy Vaughan, Director - Neighbourhood Services	<b>Wards affected:</b> Dales, Bridge, Arboretum, Berridge, Radford and Park, Sherwood and St Anns
<b>Portfolio Holder(s):</b>	Councillor Alan Clark, Portfolio Holder for Energy and Sustainability  Councillor Alex Norris, Portfolio Holder for Area Working, Cleansing and Community Safety	<b>Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s):</b>  23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2011
<b>Report author and contact details:</b>	Antony Greener, Waste & Energy Strategy Manager Tel: 0115 8765643 <a href="mailto:antony.greener@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">antony.greener@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Other colleagues who have provided input:</b>	Cheryl Connelly, Account Manager, Communications and Marketing Tel: 0115 8763323 <a href="mailto:cheryl.connelly@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">cheryl.connelly@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a>  Gail Scholes, Head of Energy and Sustainability Tel: 0115 86 65652 <a href="mailto:gail.scholes@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">gail.scholes@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a>  Dave Halstead, Head of City Services Tel: 0115 8765634 <a href="mailto:dave.halstead@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">dave.halstead@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a>  Ian Greatorex, Strategic Finance Manager Tel: 0115 8763703 <a href="mailto:ian.greatorex@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">ian.greatorex@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a>  Tony Maione, Solicitor Tel: 0115 8764384 <a href="mailto:tony.maione@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">tony.maione@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Yes	
<b>Reasons for Key Decision:</b>		
Revenue expenditure of £1,000,000 or more taking account of the overall impact of the decision		
Revenue income of £1,000,000 or more taking account of the overall impact of the decision		
Savings of £1,000,000 or more taking account of the overall impact of the decision		
Capital expenditure of £1,000,000 or more taking account of the overall impact of the decision		
Capital income of £1,000,000 or more taking account of the overall impact of the decision		
To be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area consisting two or more wards in the City	✓	

<b>Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:</b>	
World Class Nottingham	
Work in Nottingham	
Safer Nottingham	
Neighbourhood Nottingham	✓
Family Nottingham	
Healthy Nottingham	
Leading Nottingham	
<b>Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):</b>	
This report proposes the cessation of food waste collections following a difficult budget settlement from Central Government.	
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	
1	To cease the food waste collections from domestic properties across the city from 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2012
2	To approve the accompanying communications plan to aid understanding and smooth implementation of this service withdrawal

## 1 **BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The City Council's waste service has been through significant change and growth over recent years. The Council's current recycling performance is 38% and the collection service broadly consists of:
- Fortnightly Recycling Service
  - Fortnightly Residual Waste Service
  - Seasonal Garden / Green Waste Collection Service
  - Food Waste Pilot in specific areas of the city
- 1.2 The Council provides, as part of its food waste collection pilot, weekly segregated food waste collections to 21,530 properties across the Dales, Bridge, Arboretum, Berridge, Radford and Park and Sherwood wards of the city. The pilot areas were selected and introduced to the food waste collection scheme in two phases during 2008 and 2009.
- 1.3 The food waste is collected and currently bulked locally before being sent to an In-Vessel Composting facility in Norfolk. The scheme contributes approximately 1% to the council's recycling performance of ~38% as well as providing for a weekly collection of smelly putrescible wastes in areas of the city with high density housing.
- 1.4 This proposal would see this food waste collection pilot being ended, with residents reverting to putting food waste back into their 'green bins' for processing at Eastcroft Incinerator.

- 1.5 The food waste collection service was introduced as a pilot and given the Council's broader financial challenges, it is appropriate to review this arrangement on an ongoing basis. Following this review, this report proposes the discontinuation of this pilot.
- 1.6 Subject to consideration by Executive Board, an extensive communication plan will be executed so that affected residents are fully informed of these changes.
- 1.7 To deliver the associated saving for the 2012/13 financial year, it is proposed that this communication plan takes place over February and March, with the changed collection arrangements implemented as from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2012.

## **2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)**

- 2.1 The separate collection of food waste is not a statutory service and given the overall financial context is appropriate to review.

## **3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 In order to contribute to the council's overall funding gap, a number of savings have been proposed from waste management services. This proposal does not mean that food waste will not be collected, just that this will be collected via the residual waste bin as is the case in most parts of the city.

## **4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)**

- 4.1 The savings identified cover both collection (Area Working Cleansing & Community Safety portfolio) and disposal (Energy & Sustainability) costs and are presented below separately.
- 4.2 The proposal will result in a saving in collection costs as there will be a reduction of 3 waste collection crews comprising 6 fte staff and 3 vehicles. Based on average employee and vehicle costs the full year savings are estimated at £238,000 per annum.
- 4.3 The proposal will also result in savings in waste disposal costs as the waste will be disposed of in the same manner as the rest of the Municipal Waste Stream via incineration or landfill resulting in cost savings due to cheaper contractual costs when compared to a dedicated disposal route. Based on current tonnages and contract prices the estimated full year savings are estimated at £52,000 per annum.
- 4.4 The full year total savings from this proposal, combining both collection and disposal are estimated at £290,000 per annum.
- 4.5 There are no anticipated redundancy costs associated with this proposal as the reduction in employee numbers will be managed through a combination of natural wastage (e.g. retirements) and the off-hiring of workers on temporary contracts.
- 4.6 The existing fleet of three food waste collection vehicles will be sold and revenues used to meet the existing outstanding financing arrangements for these vehicles. It is not anticipated that this will generate an additional one-off income.

- 4.7 Each participating property has been issued with a 23 litre food caddy (for the presentation of food waste for collection) and a 7 litre kitchen caddy (for the management of food waste inside the home). These caddies are the property of the Council. Citizens will be asked to present both receptacles and they will be collected during the last scheduled collection. Caddies will be either stored for potential future use or sent for recycling depending upon their condition.

## **5 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS)**

- 5.1 Whilst the Council has no statutory duty to undertake segregated collections of food waste, weekly collections in the higher density housing areas of the city contribute to public acceptability of fortnightly residual rubbish collections through maintaining a weekly collections service for putrescible (smelly) household waste. The collections also contribute directly to higher recycling of other materials through influencing citizen recycling behaviour and encouraging participation in other recycling services targeting different materials. There are risks that citizens will potentially become disenchanted with waste management services offered by the Council as a consequence of service withdrawal and a Communication Plan is required to mitigate this risk and successfully explain the withdrawal of this service in order to minimise the potential reduction in customer satisfaction with waste collection services.
- 5.2 It should be noted that the Council's Waste Strategy, *A Waste-less Nottingham*, assumes the expansion of food waste collection to meet its 50% recycling target and this is also a target of the Nottingham Plan. This target will need to be revised in light of this proposal as part of the next strategy review. This waste strategy pre-dates the significant cuts in funding experienced by Local Government in general, and the City Council in particular.
- 5.3 Additionally, food waste is ideal feedstock for Anaerobic Digestion, as cited in the Energy Strategy. This decision would mean that delivery of this element of the Energy Strategy would be dependent upon merchant capacity and commercial food waste.
- 5.4 The collection of segregated food wastes is not a statutory service. Legal services will provide assistance with all contractual matters arising from the cessation of the food waste pilot should the recommendations of this report be approved. The learning the Council has derived from this pilot service will assist the Council should it decide to re-introduce segregated food waste collection at some later date. In terms of Crime and Disorder Act implications this process is not considered likely to cause negative issues. Legal services will assist in ensuring that any legal issues arising from the resultant change in both the composition and quantity of waste being input into the Eastcroft energy from waste plant are minimised.

## **6 Communications Plan - cessation of food waste collections**

- 6.1 The Communications Plan for this service change will use all appropriate channels and platforms to:
- ensure that citizens understand, in good time, the change being made and why;
  - ensure that citizens are made aware of what to do with their food waste to avoid smells etc,

- ensure that all ward councillors understand the changes being made, the rationale and are equipped with key messages for citizens;
- ensure that the media have a full rationale for ending the food waste pilot scheme.
- ensure appropriate communication and engagement with special interest groups.

## 6.2 Key activity will include:

- personalised letter to affected citizens;
- bin sticker to warn that change is happening and what to do with waste
- press release to explain rationale;
- Prominent placement on the Council's website for the information about the change;
- briefing for neighbourhood teams so that they can be advocates for the change and for the Customer Call Centre so that the team have appropriate information and script for the change
- Preparation of a FAQ with full details of change, the number of homes and the areas affected and its rationale;
- a press statement to be released if required;
- A briefing to special interest groups.

## 7 **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)**

### 7.1 Has the equality impact been assessed?

- Not needed (report does not contain proposals or financial decisions)
- No
- Yes – Equality Impact Assessment attached

### 7.2 The Council has a legal duty to have due regard for the equality impact of proposed new or changing policies, services or functions, including decisions on funding for services, and decisions on implementation of policies developed outside the Council.

### 7.3 EIA must be shown to have been carried out before decisions are made. Where possible, the assessment should be informed by consultation of relevant groups. The time and effort involved in the assessment should be in proportion to the importance of the policy to equality and good relations.

## 8 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION**

### 8.1 None

## 9 **PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT**

### 9.1 A Waste-Less Nottingham – A Municipal Waste Strategy for Nottingham 2010-2030

## Equality Impact Assessment

<p><b>Name and brief description of proposal / policy / service being assessed</b>                  Cessation of Food Waste Collections</p>			
<p><b>Information used to analyse the effects on equality</b>                  Analysis of properties and communities serviced by this service.</p>			
Could particularly benefit (X)	May adversely impact (X)	How different groups could be affected: Summary of impacts	Details of actions to reduce negative or increase positive impact (or why action not possible)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>The current provision of food waste collection is concentrated in city areas such as the Meadows, St. Anns and Arboretum with high proportions of BME and young people so this proposal may be statistically more likely to affect these groups.</p> <p>For citizens where English is not their first language, communicating the changes will need to factor in effective methods of reaching these groups.</p> <p>For blind service users, similar consideration is required in terms of communicating the changes.</p>	<p>The Council is unable to continue this service due to financial constraints but the main waste collection will continue and provision is therefore still available for the collection of food waste through normal refuse collection arrangements.</p> <p>Communications Plan has been developed to alert service users to the discontinuation of this service including the consideration of hard to reach groups.</p> <p>The Council provides assisted collections to citizens unable to present their refuse receptacles for collection</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<p><b>Outcome(s) of equality impact assessment:</b>                  No major change needed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adjust the policy/proposal <input type="checkbox"/> Adverse impact but continue <input type="checkbox"/> Stop and remove the policy/proposal <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>Arrangements for future monitoring of equality impact of this proposal / policy / service:</b>                  Assessment will not be reviewed as it is a one-off change to collection services, and alternative provision already exists for managing this waste stream.</p>			
Approved by (manager signature): Antony Greener, Waste & Energy Strategy Manager <a href="mailto:antony.greener@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">antony.greener@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a> Tel: 0115 8765643		Date sent to equality team for publishing: Subject to Executive Board approval 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2012	