



CAI.03 13/14
Challenge and Improvement Committee
11 June 2013

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Subject: Winter Garden Waste

Report by:	Rachel North
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Purpose / Summary:	To provide Members with an update on the implementation of changes to Winter Green Collections as recommended by Committee in July 2012.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1) Members note the update to the cessation of winter green waste and efficiency savings

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: The Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Sec 45) places responsibilities on Councils in relation to waste collection. Additionally, garden waste is identified by the Controlled Waste Regulations 2012 as household waste for which a charge for collection can be made.

Financial : No financial implications as demand is low

Staffing : None

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

A full impact assessment was carried out as part of the original report in 2011, a new report is not required although this policy would contribute to WLDC's equality objectives by providing a choice for residents who are unwilling or unable to dispose of garden waste by other means.

Risk Assessment : There were risks with reducing the green waste service as it was anticipated that there may be some adverse reaction from the community that value the winter collection service. Although complaints were low, this policy may placate some residents in providing another option for disposing of garden waste in winter.

Residents will continue to be encouraged to dispose of garden waste by other means such as home composting, using the Household Waste Recycling Centres or simply storing it in their green bins until collections resume. Take up has proven to be low and the service is viewed as a low risk venture.

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :

Reducing the numbers of collections has reduced the CO² emissions from the fleet. Although take up for this bespoke service is anticipated to be low, some people may choose to recycle green waste in this way rather than visiting a Household Waste Recycling Centre in their own vehicle. There is likely to be a neutral impact CO² as cars do more miles per gallon than the bulky waste vehicle. However, if more garden waste was recycled rather than going in landfill then this will decrease methane emissions.

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this

report:

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Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

Yes

No

Key Decision:

Yes

No

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The collection of green waste is a mandatory service, which can be charged for, and which the Council chooses to collect separately on a fortnightly basis for most of the year. A free green waste collection was introduced as part of the triple bin scheme in 2009. The aim was to significantly increase the Council's overall recycling rate to meet the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership target of 55% and reduce waste to landfill. In 2010/11 West Lindsey District Council achieved the best recycling rate in the county at 56% - amongst the top 20 performing authorities in the country.
- 1.2 In 2010/11 the Council decided to suspend the green waste service for four months during the winter period in order to make efficiency saving as well as recognising the need to reduce CO2 emissions from its vehicles as a result of collecting relatively small amounts of green waste during the winter period.
- 1.3 In 2011/12, following consultation with residents the actual shutdown period was moved from the months of November/February to December/March. This was amended following feedback from residents who said that they undertook more work in their gardens during November than they do in March.
- 1.4 The Council also took the opportunity to introduce a 'bespoke service' for residents who still wished to dispose of green waste during the winter months. This comprised of affording residents the opportunity to purchase sacks to store this green waste, these bags would then be collected as part of the bulky waste collection service.
- 1.5 Members asked for an update on the effectiveness of the winter shutdown and the bespoke service to be provided in May 2013.

2. RESIDUAL WASTE

- 2.1 The following table shows the rate of residual waste in West Lindsey over the last three years.

Year	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Tonnage	16834	16804	17293

- 2.2 The increase in residual waste during the last year can be attributed to the increase in new build properties, there was also a period where road sweepings were disposed at landfill following Environment Agency guidance which dictated they could no longer be recycled.

3. RECYCLING RATE

The table below shows the recycling rate for the last three years. It can be seen that the winter cessation has had little effect on the recycling rate which remains above the national target of 50% by 2020. The reduction can be attributed to the reduction in street sweepings which were not recycled. It should be noted however that both 2011/12 and 2012/13 were particularly good growing seasons which can contribute to increased tonnages being collected.

Year	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Recycling Rate	56% (Before winter cessation)	55%	54.7%

4. EMISSIONS

The table below shows how the Council's vehicle mileage has reduced following the introduction of the winter cessation, data is not yet available for 2012/13.

Year	2010/11	2011
KMs travelled	455578	435801

5. BESPOKE SERVICE

There were no requests during the last winter period for the bespoke bagged collection service. Providing this service comes at no cost to the Council.

6. FINANCIAL SAVINGS

In 2010 officers identified £156k of potential savings as a result of stopping collections of green waste in winter and a collection round redesign. These savings have been achieved.

7. COMPLAINTS

Officers received four complaints last year regarding the winter cessation. Generally, these were around the fact that collections stopped at all, rather than the actual length of the cessation or the specific months chosen.

8. CONCLUSION

It can be seen from the evidence above that the cessation of winter green waste collections has achieved its original objectives in realising financial savings, as well as reducing the mileage travelled by its fleet. Although there was no take up for the bespoke service officers recommend continuing to make this available to residents, any uptake can be absorbed by the bulky waste collection service.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members note the update to the cessation of winter green waste and efficiency savings