

LEISURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
26 JUNE 2018

GARDEN WASTE – POSITION PAPER

1.0 Purpose of Report

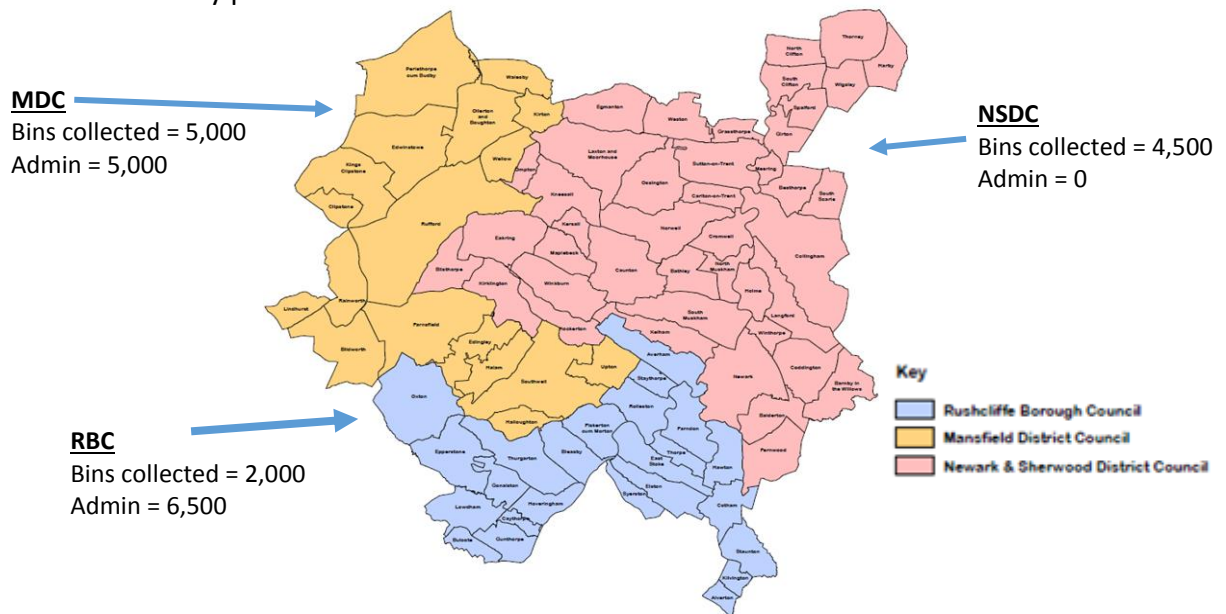
1.1 Members have requested a review of garden waste provision within the district. The proposals below are for early consideration to determine which options members would want to pursue. This would enable officer resource to be directed towards providing full business case information including financial modelling only for options members would consider.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 The current ‘as is’ arrangement is delivered in partnership with Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC) and Mansfield District Council (MDC) and has been operating since 2014. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by the three local authorities to deliver the service across the district. The garden waste service currently has 11,500 garden waste customers and operates a mixed delivery approach within the district (see image below).

MDC	RBC	NSDC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5,000 bins collected • Administration for the 5,000 is provided by MDC • Customer expected to contact MDC customer services to register for service or report missed bin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,000 bins collected • Administration provided by RBC for 6,500 and includes the 4,500 collected by NSDC • Customer expected to contact RBC customer services to register for service or report missed bin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,500 bins collected • Administration for the 4,500 is provided by RBC • Customer expected to contact RBC customer services to register for service or report missed bin

The map below illustrates the garden waste service provision delivered in the district broken down by parish.



2.2 The cost of the garden waste collection for customers is now harmonised and all customers pay the same regardless of where they live within the district and which local authority collects their garden waste.

2.3 Given the rural nature of the district, the current arrangements provide an effective service with both MDC and RBC collecting in areas in close proximity to them by utilising their capacity. The 4,500 bins collected by NSDC provides an overall income of £4k per annum.

3.0 Proposals

3.1 An early proposal to improve customer experience and create additional income

When the garden waste service commenced in 2014, an arrangement was reached whereby RBC provided the administration for the 4,500 bins collected by NSDC. The service has now matured and NSDC can accommodate this within its current Customer Services team. This would mean that the current £6.80 paid to RBC per customer for administration would no longer be required. This administrative service could be provided by NSDC at no additional revenue cost.

There would be a small one off cost for the expansion of the current customer records management system (CRM) to accommodate the service. Moving to this option would result in an additional £30k income per annum as well as an improved customer experience.

A move towards unifying the administration of garden refuse with the collection authority would provide an enhanced customer experience by ensuring each customer has their waste collected by the same authority who provides their administration and information for the service.

However, it should be noted that if this option is pursued, RBC may decide that it needs to review the 2,000 bins that are both collected and administered within the Newark and Sherwood district. This is discussed further in 3.5.

3.2 Wider Considerations and risks

3.3 Members may wish to explore bringing all of the garden waste service within the district back in house. However, there are a number of implications that should be understood prior to officers working up a full and robust business case to detail this option. It should also be recognised that the continued 'as is' service provision may not be possible longer term.

3.4 NSDC bins currently collected and administered by MDC

There are approximately 5,000 bins collected and administered by MDC within Newark and Sherwood district. A memorandum of understanding has been signed for the next 12 months for the provision of this service, however, MDC have indicated that they may wish to alter or withdraw from this service in the future.

If MDC choose that they no longer wish to provide this service, members need to consider what provision, if any, they would consider appropriate. Should members wish NSDC to provide this service this could be accommodated.

Members should note that it would require significant capital investment in acquiring additional vehicles and ongoing revenue obligations in additional staffing resource. This option would need considerable more work to put definitive detail on both capital and revenue costs along with projection of ongoing cost vs income.

However, high level consideration indicates this option would result in revenue costs in excess of income. There would also be TUPE implications (and any associated pension strain) and further costs associated with bin ownership/transfer.

3.5 NSDC bins currently collected and administered by RBC

These are approximately 2,000 bins which are both collected and administered by RBC within Newark and Sherwood district. A memorandum of understanding has been signed for the next 12 months, should members approve the move of bringing the administration back in house detailed in 3.1 above, it should be noted that this could trigger a review by RBC and may result in them wishing to withdraw from the current collection arrangement.

If RBC choose that they no longer wish to provide the collection service, members need to consider what provision, if any they would consider appropriate. Should members wish NSDC to provide this service this could be accommodated.

Members should note that it would require capital investment in acquiring additional vehicles and ongoing revenue obligations in additional staffing resource. This option would need considerable more work to put definitive detail on both capital and revenue costs along with projection of ongoing cost vs income.

However, high level consideration indicates this option would result in revenue costs in excess of income. There would also be TUPE implications (and any associated pension strain) and further costs along with details of associated with bin ownership/transfer.

- 3.6 Members could decide to proactively bring all garden waste service in house. However, members should be aware to do this, it is likely to incur a significant cost. Costs would be based upon and estimated 3 additional vehicles and the resource to operate the vehicles. Early indications are that these costs would be in excess of any income received from customers paying for the garden waste service.
- 3.7 Members may not wish to incur this cost in proactively bringing the service in house but as detailed in 3.4 and 3.5 above there is a risk that either one or both RBC and MDC choose to no longer provide the service in which case members might wish to determine in this instance they would reactively bring the garden waste service in house.
- 3.8 Members could choose to continue with the provision as long as RBC and MDC wish to provide it and then cease the service rather than incur significant costs of bringing the service back in house.

4.0 Equalities Implications

4.1 There is no equality implications within this report, an equalities check list has been completed. A full EQIA will be completed as part of the business case for any options brought forward.

5.0 Impact on Budget/Policy Framework

5.1 There are no budget/policy implications in relation to this report. It is acknowledged that the next stage of the process in reviewing the garden waste service could have financial and policy implications and these will be considered in detail.

6.0 Recommendations that:

- (a) the Committee approve the proposal in 3.1 of this report and agree to transfer the administration back to an in house provision and for officers to give the associated notice required as part of the MOU;
- (b) the Committee consider if they would like officers to explore the full costs of proactively bringing all services in house on the current assumption that this could lead to a net revenue cost, or;
- (c) the Committee consider that should circumstances arise where either one or both Mansfield District Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council no longer wish to provide the service, then the garden waste service cease to be provided in that area(s) rather than incur a potential net cost to provide in house.

Reason for Recommendation(s)

To ensure that the work of officers in pursuing options is focused on options that members would consider appropriate.

Background Papers

Nil

For further information please contact Deborah Johnson Ext 5800

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