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| REPORT TO: | ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE | AGENDA ITEM: 7 |
| DATE OF MEETING: | 07TH JANUARY 2003 | CATEGORY: DELEGATED |
| REPORT FROM: | DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE | OPEN |
| MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT: | GILLIAN COATES (5783) | DOC: GVMC c:\myfiles\reports\composting expansion 070103.doc |
| SUBJECT: | EXTENSION OF COMPOST SCHEME | REF: GVMC070103 |
| WARD(S) AFFECTED: | TICKNALL, SMISBY, CALKE, MIDWAY, HARTSHORNE, WOODVILLE | TERMS OF REFERENCE: ES07 |

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the scheme be extended to 800 households in Ticknall, Calke and Smisby in March 2003, to 2,400 households in Midway during July 2003 then 3,500 households in Woodville and Hartshorne during March 2004
- 1.2 That the green waste collected be taken to the composting facility operated by SITA at Lount.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To advise Members of the ongoing development of the Compost Scheme and to seek approval to expansion of the Scheme.

3.0 Detail

Background

- 3.1 The Compost Scheme commenced in 1996 with a trial in Etwall and Egginton. The success of the trial has led to the Scheme expanding to 8,100 households in total including Hatton, Willington, Twyford, Milton, Hilton, Repton, Melbourne and Kings Newton. Until 2001 the green waste collected was composted at Park Farm, Etwall. The development of composting sites by Biffa Waste at Etwall and SITA at Lount allowed the Council to focus on expansion of the composting scheme to reach recycling targets.

- 3.2 Between September 1996 and March 2002 approximately 4,800 tonnes of waste were composted and therefore diverted from landfill.
- 3.3 Further background details regarding the Composting Scheme may be found in the Environmental Services Committee Report for 30th May 2002 appended to this report as Background Papers.

Current Situation

- 3.4 In Spring 2002 the Environment Agency (EA) restricted the quantity of paper and card that could be composted via the brown bin scheme. In response to this restriction 'superbanks' for cardboard, yellow pages and junk mail were installed in Station Road, Hatton and Twyford Road, Willington for the benefit of compost scheme residents. Officers are working to install a further superbank in Melbourne.
- 3.5 There is an ongoing national issue that could effectively ban the composting of catering wastes using the open windrow system. The Department of Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) are currently undertaking a consultation with the Composting Industry in the light of an European Order regarding the composting of material containing animal by-products. It is possible that the resulting legislation would mean any green waste including kitchen waste will have to be composted under covers or even in closed containers. The consultation period ceases in February 2003. Officers are seeking the advice of the Composting Association and the Council's composting contractors to determine the implications of the proposed legislation.
- 3.6 Delivery of the Council's statutory recycling targets, in conjunction with the Cleansing of the Environment Best Value Review Action Plan, will require expanding the Scheme by around 4000 properties per year for 2002/03 financial year and the three following years.
- 3.7 The expansion of the scheme to the 6,700 households in the Ticknall, Calke, Smisby and urban areas will bring the Composting Scheme up to the target specified in the Best Value Plan by the end of 2003/04.
- 3.8 A programme of waste analyses has shown that the domestic waste stream in these areas contains a level of waste materials suitable for composting using the alternate weekly, twin bin collection system.
- 3.9 The previously approved expansion of the Composting Scheme to Melbourne and Kings Newton households in September 2002 has proven to be very successful along with the Council's partnership with SITA. It is proposed to take the compostable wastes from these 6,700 households to SITA in line with the proximity principle that any waste should be disposed of as close as possible to its point of origin.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The level of charge paid by the Council to Biffa and SITA is such that the Scheme is now operationally self-financing within the level of the recycling credit received, including the purchase of brown bins by leasing. However this is dependant on the amounts of waste collected per property remaining at levels so far achieved and future amounts will need to be monitored, especially in the light of the consultation regarding Animal By-Products legislation.
- 4.2 A service development proposal of £11,000 has been submitted in the budget round to assist in extending the scheme. This is being sought in regard to new areas on the scheme delivering to SITA at Lount over potentially longer haul distances than to the landfill site at Bretby.
- 4.3 As regards the service development proposal, this scheme was one of the highest scoring bids submitted. Consequently, the Service & Financial Planning Working Group, have proposed that this bid be approved as part of the Council's budget for 2003/04 (see separate budget report elsewhere on this Agenda). This will be subject to approval by the Finance & Management Committee.

5.0 Community Implications

- 5.1 The Scheme requires significantly more effort by residents in separating their waste. The extension of the Scheme to around another 16,000 properties during the next four years will have a marked impact on the community.
- 5.2 Maintaining the quality of the waste collected to the satisfaction of the EA, may require the rejection of some of the brown bins presented and subsequent public complaint. Failure to do so however could lead to loads being rejected at the composting facilities and potentially to prosecution of the Council.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 The Compost Scheme is now established and is contributing in a very cost-effective manner to delivering the Council's recycling targets. Expansion of the Scheme is essential if the Council is to meet its statutory targets.
- 6.2 The Scheme relies on the efforts of residents in separating their waste. Their co-operation so far has been invaluable.
- 6.3 To minimise costs and satisfy the proximity principle other outlets for composting green waste are now needed and are being sought to allow for further expansion into the urban and southern areas of the District.
- 6.4 The future of open windrow composting of green waste is currently under review by DEFRA and this may ultimately mean changes will be required to the way the Council's brown bin waste is composted with associated cost implications.

7.0 Background Papers

