

**From County Councillor,
Richard Blunt**

Leader
Melton Borough Council

1st June 2012

Dear Byron,

Re: Exploring Opportunities for a Potential Future Joint Waste Collection Service

It is clear from the various District Leaders meetings over the past few months that there is a clear appetite to explore ways of implementing a joint waste collection service for the whole of Leicestershire.

Not only will this achieve definite benefits in the delivery of our services to residents, it will also demonstrate that we are serious about pooling resources to achieve outstanding outcomes for the people we serve and be far more transparent and easier to understand.

Some initial research has shown that there are two counties at present, Somerset and Dorset, that have or are about to adopt such an approach.

Somerset's five District Councils have operated a joint collection contract since October 2007 with the service provided by May Gurney Ltd. Previously there were nine different collection services provided by four private contractors and one in-house direct labour organisation. There is now a single common service across all districts. The Somerset Waste Board which oversees the contract has representation of two Members from each Authority. A saving of approximately £1.5m per annum has been achieved and this is distributed in proportion to the number of households in each district although a cost adjustment is included in the agreement to compensate the more rural districts.

Dorset's six District Councils are committed to a new joint collection contract which is due to start in October 2012. The contract will be provided by a single in-house direct labour organisation. The existing twelve different collection services are currently provided by one private contractor and five in-house direct labour organisations. These are being replaced by a single common service across all districts. The Dorset Waste Partnership which oversees the contract has representation of a Member and officer from each Authority. A

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saving of £1.4m is estimated in the first year of the contract and this is to be distributed in proportion to the scale of each District's existing waste budget.

If you are all agreeable I will request the waste officers at the County Council to look further into the options available for implementing a joint waste collection service.

You may already be aware of some of the quick-wins we can achieve by going down this road, but let me outline a few more areas for substantial savings:

- vehicle reductions and associated maintenance costs
- operational staffing level cost reductions; productivity savings
- management and support staff reductions
- improvements in purchasing of fuel, vehicles etc.
- cost savings from depot rationalisation

For information, I am enclosing a summary of our current collection arrangements including the contractual position in relation to termination of existing contracts with private contractors where these apply.

As the Waste agenda is fast moving and evolving, we cannot stand by and let opportunities to improve the cost effectiveness of the services that we provide to residents to pass us by. With these ideas in mind, I should like to receive your initial thoughts to gauge people's opinion and your support for attending a "waste summit" to explore proceeding with such a proposal. If, in the meantime, you would like to discuss this with me in greater detail, then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

With best regards,



Richard Blunt CC

SUMMARY OF WASTE COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS

1. RESIDUAL WASTE

The following table sets out the current residual waste collection arrangements.

| | Residual Waste |
|------------------------------|--|
| Blaby DC | Collected weekly using 140 litre wheeled bins. There is a charge for larger bins or additional 'side waste' sacks. Service provided in-house. |
| Charnwood BC | Collected fortnightly via a 140 litre or 240 litre wheeled bin. Service provided by a private contractor. Earliest contract termination is 2017. |
| Harborough DC | Collected fortnightly via a 240 litre wheeled bin. Service provided by a private contractor. Earliest contract termination is 2016. |
| Hinckley & Bosworth BC | Collected fortnightly via a 240 litre wheeled bin. Service provided in-house. |
| Melton BC | Collected fortnightly via a 240 litre wheeled bin. Service provided by a private contractor. Earliest contract termination is 2017. |
| North West Leicestershire DC | Collected fortnightly via a 240 litre wheeled bin. Service provided in-house. |
| Oadby & Wigston BC | Collected weekly via a sack(s) with a maximum of three sacks per week. Service provided in-house. |

2. DRY RECYCLING

All seven Authorities carry out kerbside collections of a variety of recyclable materials including paper, card, glass and cans. In addition to these materials some also collect plastic bottles and textiles at the kerbside. The following table sets out the current dry recycling collection arrangements.

| | Dry Recycling |
|---------------|--|
| Blaby DC | Fortnightly collection (on alternate week to residual waste) using a combination of boxes and 140 litre wheeled bin receptacles, accepting glass, cans, foil, plastics, paper, cardboard, batteries aerosols and small WEEE. Textiles are collected fortnightly by the charity Mind. |
| Charnwood BC | Fortnightly collection (on alternate week to residual waste) using a wheeled bin accepting glass jars and bottles, cans, foil, aerosols, paper, cardboard and a wide variety of plastics including film and Tetra Pak. Textiles are collected fortnightly by the charity Mind. |
| Harborough DC | Weekly collection is provided using blue and green boxes, accepting glass, cans, paper, aerosols and foil. Cardboard is collected in the garden waste wheeled bin (see below). There is no kerbside collection for |

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| | Dry Recycling |
|------------------------------|--|
| | plastics or textiles. |
| Hinckley & Bosworth BC | Fortnightly collection (on alternate week to residual waste) using a wheeled bin and inner caddy accepting glass, cans, paper, card and most plastics, drinks cartons, batteries and textiles. |
| Melton BC | Fortnightly collection (on alternate week to residual waste) using a wheeled bin accepting glass, cans, foil, paper, card and plastic bottles. |
| North West Leicestershire DC | Fortnightly collection (on alternate week to residual waste) using a combination of boxes and bags accepting glass, cans, paper, card, foil, textiles and mixed plastics. |
| Oadby & Wigston BC | Weekly collection via a sack(s) accepting cans, paper, card, textiles, Tetra Pak, foil and all rigid household plastics. Glass is collected fortnightly in a separate box. |

3. GARDEN WASTE

The following table sets out the garden waste collection arrangements.

| | Garden Waste |
|------------------------------|--|
| Blaby DC | Collected via a wheeled bin on a fortnightly frequency. 'Opt in', paid service. |
| Charnwood BC | Green waste collected fortnightly on an 'opt in' basis using 240 litre wheeled bins available for an annual fee. |
| Harborough DC | Collected fortnightly free of charge. A 240 litre green wheeled bin is provided and cardboard may also be placed with the green waste. |
| Hinckley & Bosworth BC | Collected fortnightly free of charge via a 240 litre brown bin. |
| Melton BC | Collected via a 240 litre green wheeled bin on a fortnightly frequency. 'Opt in', paid service. |
| North West Leicestershire DC | Collected fortnightly free of charge in a 140ltr or 240 litre wheeled bin. |
| Oadby & Wigston BC | Collected fortnightly free of charge from participating households using a reusable sack. |

4. FOOD WASTE

Harborough District Council is the only authority at present providing a weekly food waste collection service to residents. This is a free service with residents using a combination of a small kitchen caddy and a larger externally stored container.

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