

**MINUTES OF THE WASTE TASK GROUP, HELD AT COUNCIL OFFICES,  
WIGSTON,  
On 14 JULY 2014**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillors, F S Broadley(Chair) L A Bentley, G A Boulter J Kaufman P Swift  
L Darr ( part)

Officers: Mrs A Court- Director of Services and Monitoring Officer  
Brian Kew – Operations Manager  
Karen Parkes – Recycling Co-Ordinator

	<b>Narrative</b>	<b>Officer Responsible</b>
<b>1.</b>	<p><b><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></b></p> <p>Received from Councillors B Dave, Miss M V Chamberlain and D M Carter</p>	
<b>2.</b>	<p><b><u>DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE</u></b></p> <p>This item (3) on the agenda was moved forward to agree before discussing further business on the agenda. Terms agreed subject to including at paragraph 1 b) operational changes will be recommended to Service Delivery committee.</p>	
<b>3.</b>	<p><b><u>REPORT ON CURRENT WASTE COLLECTION STREAMS AND FUTURE PROPOSALS</u></b></p> <p>The report set out the current position with the current range of waste services. There was a brief discussion on the current food waste trial on three rounds, particularly highlighting that other than an initial spurt this had not had the intended effect of reducing the number of domestic refuse bags, the majority of households were continuing to put out 3 refuse bags per week. Suggestions of reducing the black bags to a maximum of 2 per household and “food cones” were discussed. The ongoing</p>	

revenue implications and the future position with Leicestershire County Council supporting food disposal are also considerations. On the positive side, the introduction of the food caddies appeared to have reduced the splitting of refuse bags and strewing of rubbish by foxes. Mrs Court confirmed that a further report on the future collection of food waste would be brought to the Task Group and summarised the main two points of the report that direction from the Group was required to deal with current operational matters as follows:-

### **Recycling Collections - Contamination**

- i) Mrs Court briefly summarised the current issue of increasing contamination in recycling bags despite attempts of educating residents and awareness raising sessions at recent Residents Forums. The Group endorsed that Officers should continue to reject the collection of contaminated recycling bags in the meantime whilst further steps to educate residents are introduced such as wider promotion eg on collection vehicles, Letterbox newsletter; clearer guidance on what can and cannot be put into recycling bags on stickers for bags. Discussion also took place on whether the collection of bulky and “white” goods was cost effective in view of other collectors of scrap metal operating within the Borough, whose operation would be a matter for the licensing committee.

### **Green Waste Collection**

- ii) Mrs Court briefly summarised the main issue with the current operating method of green waste collection of health and safety not only from a manual handling perspective but also ingestion of dust and strewn sacks on the highway liable to cause road traffic accidents. It was highlighted that this Borough is the only district within Leicestershire collecting by sacks and recent articles demonstrate that nationally, Councils are withdrawing garden waste sacks on health and safety grounds. A major issue at present is the volume of sacks being put out by residents and photographic evidence to demonstrate this was circulated. In addition. A further major issue is the proposed withdrawal by Leicestershire County Council of green recycling credits which will mean a revenue income loss of £84,000. Mrs Court emphasised that a decision was needed on this as the DCLG grant funding needs to be spent by March 2015 so by October the specification for procurement for new vehicles dependant on the methods and types of collection that are to be operated needs to have commenced at the very latest.

The Group considered the potential immediate and longer term solutions set out in the report. In terms of immediate solutions the Group agreed to consider ceasing the green waste collection

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service during the winter months but suggested that this be November, December, January and in the meantime to promote the garden "cone" composting available via Leicestershire County Council. In the longer term the Group were willing to consider a new collection method by rigid plastic containers to address the highlighted health and safety issues and financial pressures. Mr Kew had brought to the meeting a demonstration model of such a container, which confirmed it's capacity to take at least 4 of the existing waste sacks at 7kg per sack. The charging schemes of some of the other local district councils were set out in the report and the initial thoughts were that a 240 litre container or a 140 litre be supplied free of charge per household and a second could be provided at market cost. The Group asked for a further report setting out the costings for implementation eg purchase and bins and vehicle requirements and ongoing operating such a service and lead in time for delivery of containers, viability for smaller properties, such as terraced.

The meeting finished at 8.15 pm.