

## **COUNCIL MEETING - 20 JULY 2004**

### **RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL** **COUNCILLOR EDWARDS – ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

#### **The Future of Waste Collection and Recycling in Taunton Deane**

A joint meeting of the Executive and the Health and Leisure Review Panel held on 30 June 2004 considered proposals for changes in the methods of collection of household waste for disposal and recycling. The proposals concern the introduction of services that will achieve the statutory recycling/composting targets in 2005/06. In addition to this joint meeting this matter was also considered by the Health and Leisure Review Panel at its meeting on 1 April 2004.

Consideration, in some detail, was given to the options, issues and implications of the service developments necessary to deliver the statutory recycling targets for 2005/06 and beyond.

Plans are already in place to expand the dry recycling collection service. However, collection services for food and garden wastes need to be developed and residual wastes minimized if the Council is to achieve the next targets.

The Council have previously endorsed the introduction of wheeled containers as part of the waste services Best Value Review. Wheeled containers will provide a mechanism for controlling residual waste arisings and offer a means of limiting cost increases by reducing collection frequencies.

In order to achieve the level of performance required for 2005/06 it will be necessary to:

- Provide a multi material collection service including glass to all the main residential areas of the Deane.
- Increase access to, and participation in collection services for garden and food wastes.
- Constrain waste arisings through enforcement of a waste minimisation/collection policy and by the provision of containers for wastes.

These requirements have been the subject of several reports to the Health and Leisure Review Panel over the last two years.

The performance of recycling services is driven by the level and quality of participation by the customer. If the challenging targets imposed by the Government are to be achieved the services must overcome the initial perceived barriers to participation by being convenient, easy to use and reliable to initiate householders into recycling and for the services to become habitual.

Frequency of collections is a key element in the convenience of the service. Regular weekly collections are more likely to encourage the recycling habit because collection days are easier to remember and storage of materials is less of an issue.

Of the various options for delivering the services Option 8, as set out in the report to the Joint meeting on 30 June 2004, most closely fits these determinants of recycling behaviour. It delivers a weekly recycling service that includes food waste each week. This overcomes

many of the participation barriers associated with fortnightly refuse collection services and uses the reduced frequency to drive use of the recycling services. Alternating collections of garden and residual wastes are a major factor in controlling the costs of the combined waste services. It is considered that this apparently radical approach to configuring the services will ultimately change the perceptions or "mindset" of the customer from "rubbish" to "recycling".

Option 8 has the potential to provide the basis for waste collection services in the borough for at least the next ten years and is the preferred option.

Attached as an Appendix is a summary of the costs associated with each of the service delivery options that were considered. Also attached are the projected costs of implementing the preferred Option 8 over the next 4 years.

The full detailed report on this matter was circulated to all Councillors with the agenda for the Joint Health and Leisure and Executive meeting held on 30 June 2004. Further copies of the report can be obtained from the Member Services Manager.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that:

- (a) Supplementary Estimates be made in 2004/05 to implement Option 8 as shown in the report to the Joint Executive/Health and Leisure Review Panel at its meeting on 30 June 2004:
- from unallocated Capital Resources      £622,290
  - from General Fund Reserve                      £9,113
- (b) the ongoing reserve costs associated with Option 8 (as shown in the report) be included in the Authority's Medium Term Financial Plan and future years' budgets (ongoing eventual costs of £294,947).

COUNCILLOR M EDWARDS

APPENDIX 2

SERVICE DESCRIPTION	Option 1	Option 2a (Bins)	Option 2b (Sacks)	Option 8	Option 9	Option 10
<b>Recycling</b>	Fortnightly Box	Fortnightly Box	Fortnightly Box	Weekly Box	Weekly Box	Fortnightly Box
<b>Food Waste</b>	Weekly With Refuse	Weekly With Refuse	Weekly With Refuse	Weekly Bin with Recycling	Weekly Bin with Recycling	Alternates With GW or Refuse
<b>Garden Waste</b>	Fortnightly Wheeled Bin/Sack	Fortnightly Wheeled Bin/Sack	Fortnightly Wheeled Bin/Sack	Fortnightly Wheeled Bin	Fortnightly Wheeled Bin	Fortnightly Wheeled Bin
<b>Refuse</b>	Weekly Sack	Weekly Wheeled Bin	Weekly Sacks	Fortnightly Wheeled Bin	Fortnightly Wheeled Bin	Fortnightly Wheeled Bin
<b>OPTIONS COSTS SUMMARY</b>	<b>TOTAL FULL YEAR</b>					
<b>CAPITAL COSTS</b>	<b>Option 1</b>	<b>Option 2a (Bins)</b>	<b>Option 2b (Sacks)</b>	<b>Option 8</b>	<b>Option 9</b>	<b>Option 10</b>
<b>COMPOSTING</b>						
Vehicles	£ 250,000	£ 625,000	£ 625,000	£ 368,000	£ 743,000	£ 625,000
Bins	£ 106,800	£ 712,000	£ 712,000	£ 338,200	£ 943,400	£ 765,400
<b>RECYCLING</b>						
Vehicles	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 211,000	£ 211,000	£ 118,000
Boxes	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 26,700	£ 26,700	£ 17,800
<b>REFUSE (Wheeled Bins)</b>	£ -	£ 712,000	£ -	£ 712,000	£ 712,000	£ 712,000
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL</b>	<b>£ 356,800</b>	<b>£ 2,049,000</b>	<b>£ 1,337,000</b>	<b>£ 1,655,900</b>	<b>£ 2,636,100</b>	<b>£ 2,238,200</b>
<b>REVENUE COSTS</b>						
<b>COMPOSTING</b>						
Staff & Operational Costs	£ 162,930	£ 528,810	£ 531,480	£ 369,453	£ 703,631	£ 528,276
Promotion	£ 22,250	£ 22,250	£ 22,250	£ 11,125	£ 11,125	£ 11,125
Customer Care & Enforcement	£ -	£ 17,500	£ 17,500	£ 17,500	£ 17,500	£ 17,500
<b>RECYCLING</b>						
Staff & Operational Costs	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 327,628	£ 327,628	£ 166,651
Promotion	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 11,125	£ 11,125	£ 11,125
<b>INCOME</b>						
Additional Recycling Credits (05/6)	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 51,387	£ 51,387	£ 50,942
Performance Reward (Min Forecast from 05/6)	£ 49,248	£ 49,248	£ 49,248	£ 49,248	£ 49,248	£ 49,248
<b>REFUSE SAVINGS</b>						
Alternating Collections	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 248,088	£ 248,088	£ 248,088
<b>TOTAL NET REVENUE</b>	<b>£ 135,932</b>	<b>£ 519,312</b>	<b>£ 521,982</b>	<b>£ 388,108</b>	<b>£ 722,287</b>	<b>£ 386,400</b>
<b>CAPITAL COSTS LESS FUNDING</b>	<b>Option 1</b>	<b>Option 2a (Bins)</b>	<b>Option 2b (Sacks)</b>	<b>Option 8</b>	<b>Option 9</b>	<b>Option 10</b>
<b>POTENTIAL DEFRA III CAPITAL FUNDING</b>	£ 350,800	£ 822,647	£ 822,647	£ 1,033,610	£ 1,100,610	£ 1,028,610
<b>NET CAPITAL COST TO AUTHORITY</b>	<b>£ 6,000</b>	<b>£ 1,226,353</b>	<b>£ 514,353</b>	<b>£ 622,290</b>	<b>£ 1,535,490</b>	<b>£ 1,209,590</b>
<b>OPTION PERFORMANCE</b>	<b>FULL COVERAGE</b>					
<b>ADDITIONAL TONNES</b>	<b>Option 1</b>	<b>Option 2a (Bins)</b>	<b>Option 2b (Sacks)</b>	<b>Option 8</b>	<b>Option 9</b>	<b>Option 10</b>
<b>RECYCLING (Mid-Projection)</b>	-	-	-	1,647	1,647	712
<b>COMPOSTING (Mid-Projection)</b>	2,003	10,235	10,235	5,340	13,573	12,460
<b>RECYCLING RATE (Mid-Projection)</b>	22%	37%	37%	35%	48%	44%
<b>RECYCLING RATE (High-Projection)</b>	23%	40%	40%	47%	59%	51%

This Table shows on-going annual revenue costs for established fully rolled-out services (excludes bin & box delivery except for charged GW collections, which are included) and each option

# **DEFRA III PARTNERSHIP PROJECT**

## **SOMERSET WASTE PARTNERSHIP**

### **Integrated Collections Project**

## **TAUNTON DEANE**

### **Comparing Option Budgets & Performances**

#### **NOTES**

1) This workbook uses the same assumptions and cost factors as used in the SWP DEFRA III Costs workbook.

2) The budgets in this workbook do not include DEFRA III funding (except where stated). This can only be calculated by taking all Somerset District options into account and so is only shown in the SWP DEFRA III Costs workbook.

3) Total full year costs and performance are shown in the 'Summary (Full)' sheet to compare option costs regardless of roll-out timetables. These include total capital costs, which would not actually be incurred in a single year by the local authority because they will be funded by DEFRA or their cost spread over a number of years through leasing or inclusion as part of a long-term contract.



<b>Option 1</b>	<b>District Households</b>	<b>45630</b>
<b>NB Only adjust data in blue</b>	<b>05/06 TARGET</b>	<b>34%</b>

<b>ROLL OUT IN 2005/06</b>
Roll-Out
Month
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Feb
Mar
<b>TOTAL HOUSEHOLD</b>
<b>FIRST YEAR CONTRI</b>

<b>YIELD ASSUMPTIONS (KG/HH/YR)</b>	<b>Current Kerbside</b>	<b>Composting Yields</b>	
		<b>Mid-Projection</b>	<b>High-Projection</b>
Paper	70		
Glass	35		
Cans	5		
Textiles	1		
Organics Kerbside	<b>NEW Option 1</b>	30	30
REDUCTION in WCA waste by restricting garden in refuse (kg/hh)		0	

<b>PARTIAL YEAR ROLL-OUT EFFECTS</b>	
COMPOSTING Service Effect in 2005/06 (some households only have service for part of year)	79%

SEE RIGHT

**SERVICE ROLL-OUT NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE 05/06 TARGET**

<b>HOUSEHOLDS SERVED</b>	<b>NOW</b>	<b>2004/05</b>	<b>2005/06</b>	<b>FULL COVERAGE</b>
KERBSIDE Standard Materials	44500	44500	44500	44500
KERBSIDE Glass	15000	44500	44500	44500
KERBSIDE Composting	44500	<b>5000</b>	<b>42000</b>	44500

<b>TONNES</b>	<b>CURRENT ANNUAL</b>	<b>Mid-Projection 2005/06</b>	<b>High-Projection 2005/06</b>	<b>Mid-Projection FULL COVERAGE</b>	<b>High-Projection FULL COVERAGE</b>
<b>Bring Banks</b>					
Paper	848	473	473	473	473
Glass	1018	308	308	308	308
Cans	36	24	24	24	24
Plastic	102	104	104	104	104
Textiles	0	1	1	1	1
<b>Third Parties</b>	182	91	91	91	91
<b>Kerbside Recycling</b>					
Paper	2482	3115	3115	3115	3115
Glass	497	1558	1558	1558	1558
Cans	129	223	223	223	223
Textiles	88	45	45	45	45
<b>Kerbside Composting</b>	1191	1029	1029	1335	1335
<b>TOTAL RECYCLING*</b>	<b>6573</b>	<b>6969</b>	<b>6969</b>	<b>7275</b>	<b>7275</b>
<b>TOTAL WCA WASTE*</b>	<b>37423</b>	<b>37423</b>	<b>37423</b>	<b>37423</b>	<b>37423</b>
<b>RECYCLING RATE</b>	<b>17.6%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>19%</b>

\* No waste growth shown as assumed to apply equally to recycling and residual totals



**Option 1**

Recycling	Fortnightly	Box
Food Waste	Weekly	With Refuse
Garden Waste CHARGED	Fortnightly	Wheeled Bin/Sack
Refuse	Weekly	Sack

<b>TOTAL District Households</b>	45630.00
<b>Current Refuse Costs/Household</b>	£ 22.30
<b>COMPOSTING COLLECTIONS</b>	
Houses served per vehicle	46000.00
Exact Number of Vehicles Required	1.0

			<b>ROLL OUT</b>				
			2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	
<b>YIELDS (KG/HH/YR)</b>	<b>Typical</b>	<b>Maximum</b>	<b>COMPOSTING Houses Served</b>	5000.00	42000	44500.00	44500.00
Garden Waste	40	50	ALTERNATING Houses Served	0	0	0.00	0.00
Food Waste	0	0	% of Year Served	50%	100%	100%	100%
Cardboard	5	5	Composting Vehicles	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
<b>TOTAL COMPOSTING</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>55</b>	Recycling/Food Vehicles	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>ADDITIONAL DRY RECYCLING (1)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	Recycling Vehicles	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TONNES PER ANNUM (All Houses)</b>	<b>Typical</b>	<b>Maximum</b>	Recycling Credits	£ 28.21	£ 31.21	£ 34.21	£ 37.21
Garden Waste	1825	2282	Garden Waste (Tonnes)	100	1680	1780	1780
Food Waste	0	0	Food Waste (Tonnes)	0	0	0	0
Cardboard	228	228	Cardboard (Tonnes)	13	210	223	223
<b>TOTAL COMPOSTING</b>	<b>2053</b>	<b>2510</b>	<b>TOTAL COMPOSTING</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>1890</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>DRY RECYCLING</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>MAX COMPOSTING</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>2310</b>	<b>2448</b>	<b>2448</b>
			<b>ADDITIONAL RECYCLING</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>COMPOSTING</b>							
<b>CAPITAL</b>	Unit Costs	Number	TOTAL FULL YEAR	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Composting Vehicles	£ 125,000.00	1	£ 125,000	£ 125,000	£ -	£ -	£ -
Bin-lift Modification to RCV	£ 20,000.00	0	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Recycling Vehicles (for Food Waste)	£ 46,500.00	0	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Recycling Vehicles (Food Waste Mods)	£ 3,000.00	0	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Roll-on/off Food Bulking Containers	£ 3,500.00	0	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Wheeled Bins (assume 10% take up & 2% new/yr)	£ 16.00	4450	£ 71,200	£ 8,000	£ 73,440	£ 18,240	£ 14,240
MiniMax Bins	£ 4.00	0.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Kitchen Caddies	£ 1.20	0	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL</b>			<b>£ 196,200</b>	<b>£ 133,000</b>	<b>£ 73,440</b>	<b>£ 18,240</b>	<b>£ 14,240</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>							
Composting Crew (2.75)	£ 20,000.00	2.75	£ 55,000	£ 3,090	£ 51,910	£ 55,000	£ 55,000
Recycling Crew (2.5)	£ 20,000.00	0.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Crew Cover (20%)	£ 20,000.00	0.6	£ 11,000	£ 618	£ 10,382	£ 11,000	£ 11,000
Composting Vehicle Operating Costs	£ 17,500.00	1	£ 17,500	£ 983	£ 16,517	£ 17,500	£ 17,500
Recycling Vehicle Operating Costs	£ 10,500.00	0	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Depot Costs (£3,500/New Vehicle)	£ 3,500.00	1	£ 3,500	£ 3,500	£ 3,500	£ 3,500	£ 3,500
Food Waste Bins Delivery	£ 0.50	0	£ -	£ 2,500	£ 18,500	£ 1,250	£ -
Garden Waste Bin Delivery (10% take up)	£ 1.00	4450	£ 4,450	£ 500	£ 4,590	£ 1,140	£ 890
Supervisory Ratio (£6,000/New Vehicle)	£ 6,000.00	1	£ 6,000	£ 3,000	£ 6,000	£ 6,000	£ 6,000
Administration Costs (Charged GW Bins/Sacks)	£ 1.50	4450	£ 6,675	£ 375	£ 6,300	£ 6,675	£ 6,675
Promotion	£ 0.50	44500	£ 22,250	£ 1,250	£ 21,000	£ 22,250	£ 22,250
Bin Survey, Customer Care & Enforcement	£ 17,500.00	0	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Overhead & Contingency (12% of Revenue)	£ 126,375.00	12%	£ 15,165	£ 1,898	£ 16,644	£ 14,918	£ 14,738
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>			<b>£ 141,540</b>	<b>£ 17,714</b>	<b>£ 155,343</b>	<b>£ 139,233</b>	<b>£ 137,553</b>

<b>RECYCLING (Weekly &amp; Alternate Addition)</b>							
<b>CAPITAL</b>	Unit Costs	Number	TOTAL FULL YEAR	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Boxes	£ 2.00	0	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Forklift	£ 25,000.00	0.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Recycling Vehicles	£ 46,500.00	0.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL</b>			<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>							
Recycling Crew (2.5)	£ 20,000.00	0.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Crew Cover (20%)	£ 20,000.00	0.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Recycling Vehicle Operating Costs	£ 10,500.00	0	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Depot Costs (£3,500/New Vehicle)	£ 3,500.00	0	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Supervisory Ratio (£6,000/New Vehicle)	£ 6,000.00	0	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Promotion	£ 0.25	0	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Overhead & Contingency (12% of Revenue)	£ -	12%	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>			<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ -</b>

<b>REFUSE (Wheeled Bin Costs)</b>							
<b>CAPITAL</b>	Unit Costs	Number	TOTAL FULL YEAR	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL: Wheeled Bins</b>	£ 16.00	0	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
<b>TOTAL REVENUE: Bin Delivery</b>	£ 1.00	0	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -



SERVICE DESCRIPTION	OPTION 8			
Recycling	WEEKLY BOX			
Food Waste	WEEKLY BOX WITH RECYCLING			
Garden Waste	FORTNIGHTLY CHARGED 180 WHEELED BIN AND SACKS			
Refuse	FORTNIGHTLY 180 WHEELED BIN			
<b>ROLL OUT</b>				
Number of properties served	5000	42000	44500	44500
Alternating properties served	5000	42000	44500	44500
% of year served	50%	79%	100%	100%
<b>OPTIONS COSTS SUMMARY</b>				
<b>CAPITAL COSTS</b>	<b>2004/05</b>	<b>2005/06</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08</b>
<b>COMPOSTING</b>				
Vehicles	£ 178,000	£ 190,000	£ -	£ -
Bins	£ 38,000	£ 281,200	£ 19,000	£ -
<b>RECYCLING</b>				
Vehicles	£ 46,500	£ 164,500	£ -	£ -
Boxes	£ 3,000	£ 22,200	£ 1,500	£ -
<b>REFUSE (Wheeled Bins)</b>	£ 80,000	£ 592,000	£ 40,000	£ -
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL</b>	<b>£ 345,500</b>	<b>£ 1,249,900</b>	<b>£ 60,500</b>	<b>£ -</b>
<b>REVENUE COSTS</b>				
<b>COMPOSTING</b>				
Staff & Operational Costs	£ 47,340	£ 278,831	£ 339,524	£ 335,419
Promotion	£ 625	£ 8,313	£ 11,073	£ 11,125
Customer Care & Enforcement	£ 13,125	£ 17,500	£ 17,500	£ 17,500
<b>RECYCLING</b>				
Staff & Operational Costs	£ 42,271	£ 254,407	£ 326,273	£ 327,628
Promotion	£ 625	£ 8,313	£ 11,073	£ 11,125
<b>REFUSE</b>				
Bin delivery	£ 7,500	£ 55,500	£ 3,750	£ -
<b>INCOME</b>				
Additional Recycling Credits (05/6)	£ 2,609	£ 38,396	£ 56,063	£ 61,266
Performance Reward (Min Forecast from 05/6)	£ -	£ 49,248	£ 98,496	£ 98,496
<b>REFUSE SAVINGS</b>				
Alternating Collections	£ 13,938	£ 185,369	£ 246,926	£ 248,088
<b>TOTAL NET REVENUE</b>	<b>£ 94,939</b>	<b>£ 349,851</b>	<b>£ 307,708</b>	<b>£ 294,947</b>

TOTAL COSTS LESS DEFRA III FUNDING	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
POTENTIAL DEFRA III CAPITAL FUNDING	£ 216,000	£ 817,610	£ -	£ -
<b>NET CAPITAL COST TO AUTHORITY</b>	<b>£ 129,500</b>	<b>£ 432,290</b>	<b>£ 60,500</b>	<b>£ -</b>
POTENTIAL DEFRA III REVENUE FUNDING	£ 85,826	£ -	£ -	£ -
<b>NET REVENUE COST TO AUTHORITY</b>	<b>£ 9,113</b>	<b>£ 349,851</b>	<b>£ 307,708</b>	<b>£ 294,947</b>

## **COUNCIL MEETING 20 JULY 2004**

### **REPORT OF COUNCILLOR MARK EDWARDS – ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

It has certainly been a very busy period for my portfolio and a great deal of progress has been made. I apologise for the length of my report but with so much being achieved this is the result.

#### **WASTE SERVICES**

##### **Street Scene**

A number of new initiatives have been introduced to ensure that the Deane looks at it's best.

- 24 new high capacity litterbins with ashtrays are being installed in the pedestrianised areas of the town centre.
- chewing gum removal is taking place from the pavements of High Street, parts of Fore Street, Paul Street and Cheapside.
- 30 cubic metres of rubbish including shopping trolleys, trees and old motorbikes were removed from the River Tone during the first clean up of the river organised by the River Tone Partnership. Work is underway to bring other businesses with links with the river into the partnership to fund further clean ups and generally promote the river as a key feature of the town centre.
- The railings outside "Pound stretcher" have been repainted.
- In Wellington Cornhill is being pressure washed.

The waste Services Unit now has to keep detailed records of incidents of flytipping in order to meet new government requirements. In the first quarter commencing in April 68 deposits of fly-tipped waste were removed at a cost of £4600.

#### **Waste Collection and Recycling**

It was agreed at a special Executive meeting at TDBC on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2004 to make the first change in twenty years to the waste collection service. The change has been brought about to increase recycling rates to achieve challenging government targets and to reduce the amount of rubbish committed to landfill. The new system will involve the introduction of the wheeled bin in Taunton for the first time.

The structure of the new collections will be:

- Alternate weekly collection of residual waste
- Option of chargeable garden waste collection
- Weekly collection of recycling waste
- Weekly collection of food waste

There will be a promotional campaign to explain the new service and a full survey to assess suitability and fully explore any objections that might exist in some more difficult to access areas of the district. It is also planned to trial the service in 5000 houses in Taunton and Wellington later this year to make sure the service works as planned with a full roll out in 2005.

The first phase of these developments is the expansion of the existing service for the collection of dry recyclable materials to all areas of the Deane. All properties included in the service will be sent a new leaflet and calendar of collection days in time for the first collections in mid August. The range of materials that can be recycled has also been increased to include yellow pages, motor oil and car batteries.

## **CEMETERIES & CREMATORIUM**

### **Enlarged Waiting Room/Upgraded Office**

Plans have been prepared to enlarge the Crematorium waiting room and upgrade the office. It is hoped that building works will start later this year to more than double the existing waiting room space and provide two new public toilets. The building is 'listed' and a great deal of thought and effort has been applied to keep all alterations within keeping.

The office improvements will include better access for disabled persons, an extension for use by the bereaved requiring personal and private attention by our staff and a more friendly and modern working environment.

### **Probes**

New probes have been fitted that accurately measure emissions from each Cremator. The data from the probes is downloaded onto the Crematorium computers so that any problems can be swiftly identified and action taken to remedy the situation. The accuracy of the readings are sufficiently high that they may eventually lead to a reduction in the requirement for regular independent testing of the crematory equipment, thereby reducing expenditure in the long term.

Taunton is the first crematorium to install these probes following their initial testing at Manchester Crematorium. We managed to negotiate a favourable price on condition that we demonstrate their operation and accuracy to crematory operators.

## **HIGHWAYS D.L.O**

### **Abandoned Vehicles**

At the 31<sup>st</sup> March we will have completed 2 years of pro-active working as part of the Somerset Waste Partnership Best Value Review. Attached are charts showing the level and trends. It is now widely acknowledged that our rapid removal and disposal in conjunction with the police has greatly reduced the number of burnt out vehicles with the resulting saving of budget for the Fire Brigade and the improvements in quality of life for residents in the areas previously dogged with arson attacks.

**TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
ABANDONED VEHICLES 2002-2003**

	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	TOTAL
<b>Reports</b>	81	72	54	92	70	53	77	62	55	65	51	56	788
<b>Scrapped</b>	34	28	33	45	35	27	35	33	26	34	31	34	395
<b>Stored</b>	8	6	3	9	5	3	2	3	1	0	1	1	42
<b>Total removed</b>	42	34	36	54	40	30	37	36	27	34	32	35	437
<b>405</b>	1	8	5	4	2	2	1	3	2	16	14	15	73
<b>Burnt</b>	2	4	4	6	5	3	10	7	2	6	5	7	61

**TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
ABANDONED VEHICLES 2003-2004**

	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	TOTAL
<b>Reported</b>	53	46	60	68	50	50	84	44	46	43	39	41	624
<b>Scrapped</b>	34	18	27	39	34	28	57	27	33	25	14	15	351
<b>405</b>	14	9	11	13	14	18	31	10	16	18	7	8	169
<b>Burnt</b>	1	0	3	3	6	2	2	2	4	3	0	1	27
<b>Stored</b>	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	5
<b>Total removed</b>	34	18	27	39	34	29	57	28	36	25	14	15	356

**CLEANSING DLO**

**Street Cleansing**

The aging Johnson mechanical road sweeper has been renewed it is now more efficient and reliable, and with much improved weed spraying equipment. In addition a new Taunton Town centre cleansing regime has been introduced with an extra Town Centre Caretaker. This allows seven day working with greater presence in the Town Centre concentrating on peak times and high usage areas.

**Public conveniences**

Deane DLO is now providing the public convenience cleansing service. The transfer of the staff to the direct control of the Council has resulted in a distinct improvement in service quality. The judges who recently assessed Wellington Park for a green flag award specifically noted the high quality of cleaning in the park toilets.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

### **Environmental Protection**

**Odour Problem.** An end may now be in sight now for the long-standing odour problem arising from the Wyvern Waste composting site at Priorswood, affecting residents on the Maidenbrook Estate.

Complaints began in 2000 and investigations have been going on since that time. The longer than usual timescale for solving the problem has been due to:

- a) Difficulties in establishing a statutory nuisance, despite officer attendance at short notice whenever complaints were received
- b) Lack of information on the best practice treatments for composting sites
- c) Enforcement powers split between ourselves and the Environment Agency, who are responsible for issuing the site Licence and enforcing the Conditions imposed.

The Team sent representatives to the quarterly Liaison meetings held between Wyvern Waste and residents and the strength of local feeling became very evident.

It was finally possible to establish nuisance in October 2003 and an Abatement Notice was immediately served. The Notice required, among other things, that:

- a) Compost should not be turned whilst a South Westerly wind was blowing
- b) The amount of compost entering the site would be significantly reduced, with much being diverted for treatment on licensed farms.
- c) A biological dressing would be added to the raw compost to speed up the composting process
- d) Misters should be used on the boundary between the site and residential premises to contain odours.

There appears to have been full compliance with the Notice and the results are already apparent, with the majority of residents noting a significant reduction in the problem.

In the longer term, we are supporting a Planning Application by Wyvern Waste for an enclosed area for composting, which is more distant from local homes than the existing site.

**Private Water Supplies.** A project to sample for the presence of Radon and Uranium has shown that there are no health risks from these natural contaminants associated with drinking the water from privately owned sources.

38 of the most vulnerable supplies within Taunton Deane were sampled and the results in every case were well within recommended limits. It is thought to be the first time that such a project has been undertaken in Somerset.

**Dog Fouling.** Progress on plans to reduce dog fouling is as follows:

- a) Investigation into a long-term measure to provide Dog Tracks in Parks areas has been included in the Green Spaces Strategy. If implemented, hard surfaced tracks around the periphery of parks would be constructed specifically for use by people walking their dogs, who would not be permitted to take their animals into other areas of the park.
- b) Ten additional dog bins have been purchased and will be located in those areas most in need of them, following a simple scoring exercise.
- c) The extension of authorisations for the service of Fixed Penalty Notices is being examined as part of the Street Scene initiative.
- d) Dog bags are now issued free of charge to members of the public.
- e) Parks staff keep a supply of dog bags to pick up and dispose of mess that they see and to hand out to dog owners.
- f) Covert anti-fouling patrols have been increased and will be adjusted for time of day, day of the week and location, in response to information received from members of the public. This approach has led to a successful prosecution.

### **Food Safety**

Educational Initiative The team has been successful in a competitive bidding process, and as a result has secured a grant of £10,000 from the Food Standards Agency to develop an educational game, in conjunction with a commercial partner. This is a board game to be used within local schools, youth groups, etc, focussing on a number of key hygiene issues, such as cross contamination and hand washing.

The aim of the game is to identify how and where a food poisoning outbreak occurred, thus raising awareness of how poor hygiene practices can have serious public health consequences.

The target audience for the proposal is children within Key Stage 2 and local community groups and in particular children from deprived wards within the Borough.

Schools and other groups will receive an attractive package, comprising a full teaching pack and board game. It is intended that the Campaign will be informative and educational, but above all fun. The use of a game format should encourage target groups to engage with the subject.

This project will build on our current work with schools and form an important part of food hygiene awareness work in the future. The game may also be developed for use on food hygiene training courses.

### **Health and Safety**

**Child safety.** Officers visited a range of businesses during National Child Safety Week, checking for children at work and ensuring that they have work permits from the County Council, and that the employer is complying with child employment and health and safety laws.

### **Licensing**

**Licensing Act 2003** The Licensing Unit continues to prepare for the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003. Current indications are that the first appointed day will be in February 2005.

**Councillor Mark J Edwards**