

REFUSE COLLECTION – BLOCK SCHEDULING

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of Service Team's proposals to change their scheduling of the refuse rounds to a "block scheduling" basis.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Following the award of the new refuse collection contract that commenced 1 April 2001, the Council's contractor, Service Team Ltd, have reviewed their timetabling of the refuse collection rounds in order to operate the contract in a more efficient manner.
- 2.2 This would involve timetabling the collection rounds on a "block scheduling" basis around the District as detailed below.

3 BLOCK SCHEDULING PROPOSAL

- 3.1 The "block scheduling" method of collection rounds will only affect which day of the week people have their refuse collected and not any other area of the service.
- 3.2 At present, ServiceTeam's refuse vehicles are working in different areas of the District on each day of the week, eg, Friday has 2 rounds in Hockley, 2 rounds in Rochford, 1 round in Rayleigh plus Canewdon and Stambridge.
- 3.3 The "block scheduling" would re-organise the fleet so that all vehicles are operating in a similar area of the District on each day, eg, Monday and Thursday, all vehicles are in Rayleigh.
- 3.4 The advantages of changing this system are as follows:
- Vehicle breakdowns can be covered with less delay.
 - Disruption to residents' collection service is minimised in such circumstances.
 - Provides greater flexibility to the Contractor as resources are being utilised with greater efficiency.
 - The properties on each individual round will be concentrated into a smaller area.

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- 3.5 The proposed changes to the round timetabling would obviously result in a large number of households having a new collection day, although this would be kept to a minimum by considering the current locations of each day's rounds.
- 3.6 Service Team will undertake the notification to residents of their new collection day by means of a standard letter.
- 3.7 The collection rounds that are on the kerbside recycling scheme will remain on the same day as at present with the exception of the small round in the Little Wheatleys area of Rayleigh that was supplemented to the original expansion. This round would have had to change its collection day in any case as there is already a full recycling round on a Monday.
- 3.8 It is envisaged that the change for the "block scheduling" method would commence in early November 2001.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The effective collection of domestic refuse contributes to the overall environmental conditions throughout the District.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no resource implications for the Council but it will enable the Council's contractor to operate the refuse collection service with much greater efficiency and flexibility.

6 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That Members note the content of this report and approve the move to a "block scheduling" of the refuse collection service.

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Background Papers:

None.

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