1. SUMMARY

1.1 Report No ESO3385 to Environment Policy Development & Scrutiny and the Environment Portfolio Holder recommended the re-direction of the budget for the collection of Green Garden Waste (GGW) to provide approximately 50 Garden Waste Satellite Site weekends at various sites in the borough for 25 weekends between April and October 2004.

1.2 Report ES04087 (Environmental Initiatives) to the Executive on 5th April 2004 recommended the release of additional funds for provision of an increased number of Garden Waste Satellite Site weekends. This enabled the provision of 4 sites each weekend from 17th April through to 31st October.

1.3 The scheme has proven very successful. 41,563 customer visits were made to the sites, with 1,085 tonnes of material collected for composting.

1.4 An important element of the scheme was its expected beneficial effect on the congestion at the Civic Amenity sites at Waldo Road and Churchfields Road. The congestion was reduced dramatically, with very few complaints, allowing the sites to operate far more efficiently.

1.5 It is intended to operate the scheme again from April to October 2005, and appropriate budgetary provision for this has been made.

1.6 The increase in price of Garden Waste Stickers to £1 each, along with the introduction of the Garden Waste Satellite Sites gave rise to concerns that the number of stickers sold would fall below the threshold of 50,000 sticker sales per year, where Onyx's price per collection would increase. This has not proven to be the case, with sales averaging 64,000 for the year. However, the proposed further increase in sticker price to £1.30 is considered to be financially unwise, and prices will thus not be increased for 2005/06. Appropriate budgetary provision for this has been made.

1.7 The reduction in demand for the Garden Waste collection service increased the efficiency of the scheme and reduced congestion on the booking line, leading to the level of complaints falling to almost zero.
2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That Members note the success and popularity of this new service.

2.2 That Members note the intention to repeat the scheme from April to October 2005 and subsequent years.

2.3 That Members note the intention to maintain the price of Garden Waste stickers at £1 each in 2005/06.

2.4 That the Environment Portfolio Holder be requested to continue the scheme from April to October 2005 and subsequent years.
3. **COMMENTARY**

3.1 The Satellite Sites were operated every Saturday (from 12.00 hrs – 17.00 hrs) and Sunday (from 08.00 hrs to 12.00 hrs) from April 17th to October 31st.

3.2 Visitor numbers and tonnages collected from each site were measured. A calculation was also performed, based on the average time taken to visit Waldo Road, on the queuing time saved at Waldo Road. This was based on an average time of 4 minutes for each vehicle to dispose of its waste at Waldo Road, with 8 cars able to tip simultaneously:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Visitors</th>
<th>Tonnage</th>
<th>Queuing Time Saved (Hours)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Normans Park, Hook Farm</td>
<td>8703</td>
<td>231.29</td>
<td>72.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Darwin, Biggin Hill</td>
<td>5632</td>
<td>146.07</td>
<td>46.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Georges CP, Beckenham</td>
<td>6339</td>
<td>165.33</td>
<td>52.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shire Lane, Green-St-Green</td>
<td>20889</td>
<td>542.10</td>
<td>174.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>41,563</td>
<td>1,084.78</td>
<td>346.36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.3 The total volume of green waste collected for composting between April and October this year was 600 tonnes higher than in the same period of 2003. Whilst some of this tonnage may have been extra waste, a proportion will have been a result of improved quality (material from the collection scheme suffers from contamination) and the improved efficiency of accepting pre-separated waste (rather than needing to attempt to separate it from residents’ mixed waste at the Civic Amenity sites).

3.4 The practicalities of the sites chosen worked extremely well. However, The Shire Lane site, which attracted as many visitors as the other three sites combined, did attract some adverse comments, both from customers and local residents. Efforts will be made to find an alternative site, or to address the issues raised at this site.

3.5 To provide the Garden Waste sticker collection service, the Contract price charged by Onyx in the year ahead will be £1.29 per sticker. For the cost of stickers to reflect the whole cost of providing the service, the price per sticker to customers should thus increase to £1.30 including VAT.

3.6 However, were sales to fall below 50,000 stickers per year, Onyx’s collection price would increase to £2.04 per sticker. This would result in unbudgeted expenditure. Current sales are running at approx 65,000 per year. It is thus proposed to maintain the price at £1.00 per sticker for 2005/06, to ensure that demand for sticker sales is maintained above the critical level. The cost to the Council of funding this differential will be met from existing budgets.

3.7 It was assumed that the introduction of the Green Garden Waste Satellite Sites would have a positive effect on the demand for and the administration of the collection service. As expected, a proportion of customers utilised the Green Garden Waste Satellite Sites in preference to the collection service; phone congestion and the over-loading of the collection service thus eased; this led to fewer customer complaints and a higher standard of collection (in terms of both timeliness and the ability to sort and reject contaminants).

3.8 To ensure all residents have access to a garden waste service, particularly those residents who cannot compost at home or take material to the Green Garden Waste Satellite Sites
or Civic Amenity sites, (i.e. those without access to a car), the collection service will continue to operate in its current format.

3.9 A further benefit was the reduced number of visitors to the Civic Amenity sites. This not only led to a significant reduction in congestion at and around the sites, but also enabled the provision of a dedicated garden waste disposal area at both sites, further increasing tonnages of recyclate.

3.10 Due to the restrictions on the Waldo Road Transfer Station’s opening hours, the Council’s Beaverwood Depot was utilised as a storage area on Saturdays to enable the vehicles to operate through until 5 pm. This option may be unavailable next year. Officers will explore the possibility of an adaptation to the Waldo Road Site License for this service, and explore other practical solutions to maintain the current Green Garden Waste Satellite Site opening hours.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Environment Portfolio Plan 2003-2006 aims to see more household waste being recycled, less being sent to landfill and improved satisfaction with services. The rationalised green garden waste service contributes to these Portfolio aims as the satellite sites are a direct response to favourable customer feedback and the collected product will be composted rather than being sent to landfill. Similarly, the Best Value Performance Plan 2003-2006 has increased composting as an outcome and the proposed services will contribute to this outcome.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The 2005/06 budget for green waste stickers has been prepared using an assumption that 65,000 tickets will be sold at a price of £1 per sticker, resulting in a net cost of £20,800. However, it should be noted that should sales fall below 50,000 per annum, the cost of collection will rise to £2.04 per sticker and savings of £0.75 per sticker will have to be identified to absorb the potential overspend, this amount could be as high as £37,500.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The council has the power to charge for the collection of household garden waste. Under Section 45 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, waste collection authorities are required to arrange for the collection of household waste. No charge is to be made in respect of this duty except where prescribed in regulations. If a charge is to be made, then this charge shall be ‘reasonable’. The Controlled Waste Regulations 1992, Schedule 2, item 3, state that a charge may be made for the collection of garden waste and the Council utilises this power for the current Green Garden Waste collection service.

6.2 The Council does have a statutory duty to accept garden waste free of charge at the Civic Amenity sites under Section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (although we can require it to be kept separate from other waste). The Garden Waste Satellite Sites require only garden waste to be delivered, which is permitted under this power.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-Applicable Sections:</th>
<th>Personnel Implications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)</td>
<td>Report No. ES03385 to Environment Policy Development &amp; Scrutiny and Portfolio Holder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Report No. ES04087 to the Executive on 5.4.04</td>
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