

## CHANGES TO CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL'S GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE

### INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS

Garden waste collection is due to change on 18 November 2013. There will be no garden-waste collections between 18 November 2013 and 14 March 2014.

The Council states "Previous years have shown that the garden-waste service is used much less in the cooler winter months, with only a small percentage of garden waste collected. The Council is constantly looking to be more cost-effective and provide a value-for-money service. This change means that garden-waste collection vehicles will not be driving around the borough less than half full; this will mean a consequent saving in money and also be beneficial to the environment."

**The FAQ section on the Council's website comprises the following:**

- **Why are we doing this?**

We know that people use their garden waste bins far less during the winter months. We will be able to provide a more cost-effective service, giving better value-for-money to residents, by suspending our collections during these months, when we know the service is little-used.

- **Why are you suspending this service for this length of time?**

The Council collects around 36,417 tonnes of garden waste each year of which only 3,600 tonnes is collected during these winter months – that's just 10% of the total amount of waste collected for the whole year. People simply don't use their garden waste bins as much, if at all, from November to March.

- **Can I put garden waste in the black bin?**

No! During the winter please use a **compost bin** or take to a **Household Waste Recycling Centre**. Also find out how to make great **compost leaf mould** for next year and how it can be used around the garden.

- **Will you take excess garden waste on the last scheduled collection date of 2013 and first scheduled collection of 2014?**

No! We cannot take excess waste. Please make sure that you make best use of the remaining collections before the service stops in November 2013 and dispose of any build-up of winter garden waste in the first few collections next spring – better still, if you are able, take any winter garden waste to your local **Household Waste Recycling Centre**.

- **Do I get a council tax reduction?**

No. The Council is committed to offering a free garden waste service. These changes are needed so that we can continue to deliver this service without an additional charge. The Garden Waste collection service is not a statutory service which the Council is obliged to offer.

- **Will I have to leave my Christmas tree in my garden waste bin until March?**

No, you do not have to, although you can if you wish (remember to cut up larger trees so that the lid still closes). If you live in postcodes CW12, SK9-12 or WA16, East Cheshire Hospice will collect during the weekend of January 11 and 12 for a donation, visit [www.echtrees.org.uk](http://www.echtrees.org.uk). If you live in postcodes CW1-CW11, St Luke's Hospice may collect for a donation at [www.stlukes-hospice.co.uk](http://www.stlukes-hospice.co.uk) You can also dispose of your tree at your **Household Waste Recycling Centre**.

- **Will I get a refund for the additional garden waste container I purchased?**

No. Residents who have made an annual payment to have an additional garden waste bin were advised that the garden waste suspension period was under review. Terms and conditions issued to all residents with additional garden waste bins did feature the following section:

Suspension of the service during the winter period has been taken into account and as such no refunds in relation to the suspension will be offered. Suspending the garden waste collection service is a regular occurrence in Cheshire East and is common practice amongst other local authorities who are all faced with similar financial pressures.

If residents would like more information, please phone the Waste and Recycling Section on 0300 123 5034.