



# STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## Agenda Item 14

### Member Questions to Environment Committee

QUESTIONS FROM	QUESTIONS TO
<b>Councillor John Jones</b>	<b>Chair of the Environment Committee</b>
<p>The Garden Waste Collection scheme. This has been welcomed in many parts of the District, particularly in the more rural areas where access to a local tip with garden waste, is often time consuming, expensive to make special journeys to the tip, as well as making the inside of a car smelly and full of debris and insects. Even anyone lucky to have a trailer to transport garden waste finds the journey time consuming when queuing time at the tip is taken into account as well.</p> <p>1. The scheme this year finished at the end of November. Given that growing seasons are extending even more towards the end of the year, with lawns still growing well into November, are there any plans in place to extend the Garden Waste collection scheme into December in the future, or even all the year round? Most people would expect to pay a little more if the scheme were to be extended by another month at least; this would give gardeners the ability to use the scheme to remove items such as rose bush prunings and leaves, as well as other end of the year garden debris.</p>	<p>It is useful to know that the current garden waste service has been welcomed and is seen as a positive element of the council's efforts to divert increasing amounts of waste from landfill.</p> <p>1. The current service has been modelled around a ten month period to keep costs to the customer as low as possible and, to avoid unnecessary use of expensive resources at a time of the year when the tonnage of material produced by residents would be at its lowest yield and significantly lower than the growing season.</p> <p>The suggested change would have a financial impact on the service which would have a knock-on effect on both existing and new customers. The key objective for the 2017/18 financial year is for the service to cover its contracted costs. The council has taken a number of steps to ensure this target will be met but of course we will not know for sure until next year.</p> <p>Bearing in mind this key objective together with the fact that we are entering only our second year of operation, we are unable to consider making such a service change until 2018 at the earliest providing the case for doing so can be clearly demonstrated.</p>
<p>2. Could the question of extending the scheme to a year round, or eleven month operation be included in the Council's telephone canvassing of residents the next time that is done?</p>	<p>2. This can be considered but will depend on the financial position of the current service nearer the time.</p>