

BRIEFING PAPER

SUBJECT: INCREASING SOUTHAMPTON'S RECYCLING RATE AND ENHANCING COLLECTIONS

DATE: 11 OCTOBER 2012

RECIPIENT: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

THIS IS NOT A DECISION PAPER

Cabinet have been asked to consider the report, Increasing Southampton's Recycling Rate and Enhancing Collections and to approve the delivery of the bid projects, subject to the bid being successful. They have also been asked to recommend that Council approve the addition of the capital scheme "Weekly Collection Support Scheme (WCSS)" to the Environment & Transport Capital Programme, that Council approve capital expenditure on the WCSS plus the addition of funding to revenue estimates as a result of obtaining government grants.

The report is a joint Cabinet/Council report and on 14 November 2012, Council will be asked to accept government grant funding of £8.28m should the bid be successful, to approve the addition of the capital scheme "Weekly Collection Support Scheme" to the Environment & Transport Capital Programme in order to deliver the outcomes of the bid, approve capital expenditure on the WCSS plus the addition of funding to revenue estimates as a result of obtaining government grants and to delegate authority to the Director for Environment and Economy, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, to undertake necessary work to implement bid projects.

SUMMARY:

The Council has submitted a bid to the Government's Weekly Collection Support Scheme for £8.28m funding to:

- 1) Retain weekly collections for a minimum of 4.3 years and fund the weekly refuse collection service until 2016/17.
- 2) Expand the kerbside recycling service by providing fortnightly glass collections to all houses and flats across the city. (In order for glass collection proposals to become cost neutral in years 4 and 5, glass collections would need to become four weekly rather than fortnightly).
- 3) Provide an enhanced home composting programme to increase the amount of material diverted from landfill through the provision of subsidised compost bins to 15,000 households and food waste digesters to 3,000 households, supported by a dedicated project officer and awareness raising campaign.
- 4) Funding is for 2.3 years. It will be used to purchase vehicles, pump prime the new services and make savings in order to fund weekly collections in years 4 and 5.

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government will announce successful bids about mid-October 2012.

BACKGROUND and BRIEFING DETAILS:

1. The proposals included in the Weekly collection Support Scheme Bid aim to increase recycling rates by nearly 5% reduce waste generated and make savings in the first two years which will fund weekly residual collections. Thereafter the project will become self funding as long as we revert to four weekly glass collections in years 4 and 5.

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2. The bid enhances our recycling service offer to our customers and will enable us to raise awareness and drive up recycling behaviours by introducing glass collections.
3. The bid will enable us to reduce the amount of material sent to landfill through an enhanced home composting programme and provision of compost bins and food waste digesters that are cost neutral, which will be supported by a project officer on a short term contract and a communications campaign.
4. Alternative options are also currently being developed in conjunction with the Environment and Transport Policy Working Group.
5. The bid also aims to:
 - Reduce environmental impacts through route-optimisation, use innovative in-cab technology and increase efficiency
 - Purchase ten replacement refuse trucks (currently at end of lease life) and hire three more, as well as purchase containers for glass to support retention of weekly collections and collection of glass.
 - Expand our commercial waste recycling service to the city's business community by the introduction of a chargeable glass recycling service which will enable greater efficiencies and generate income through the coordination of joint collections.
 - Use innovative in-cab technology (Bartec Collective) to identify residents who do not recycle or who contaminate their recycling, and provide targeted communications linked to rewards to promote behavioural change (this technology is already starting to be rolled out).
 - Promote channel shift and the use of new technology (social media/web based solutions etc) to focus and target communications to residents.
 - Enhance communication channels with residents about recycling and waste minimisation.
 - Reduce short journeys to recycling banks by introducing a route-optimised, kerbside glass recycling scheme, saving energy and reducing carbon emissions in support of Southampton's Low Carbon City Strategy.
6. The bid demonstrates the following environmental benefits:
 - An increase in the amount of glass recycled – it is estimated that 60 kgs of glass per household would be diverted via a two weekly glass collection service and 40 kgs via a four weekly service.
 - An increase in recycling performance of dry mixed recyclables of 0.5% is anticipated – this is a 'feel good factor' spin off from recycling glass
 - A reduction in the amount of waste sent to landfill – this has not been quantified. By taking glass out of the general waste bin, it will create space. Some residents however, might fill this space with other waste.
 - Reduced CO2 emissions of 6,675 tonnes through more effective collection and processing arrangements.
 - Reduction in short journeys to recycling banks will result in reduced carbon emissions. This has not yet been quantified and we would need to work with Sustainability to see how we can capture this information.
 - Implementation of route-optimised, co-collections of household and commercial glass will save energy and reduce carbon emissions.

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- Supports positive behavioural change which will reduce impacts of negative behaviour on the local amenity.
 - Improvements to the streetscene and reduced enforcement activity around the presentation of waste.
7. If the bid is successful, we intend to commence a phased roll-out of glass collections and home composters/food digesters from April 2013.
 8. Consultation – detailed consultation due to short timescales has not yet been undertaken with Trade Unions, Staff, Resident Groups and other stakeholder groups. Once we know if our bid has been successful a planned programme of consultation will take place.
 9. We do not anticipate any anti-social behavioural issues relating to the collection of glass and roll-out of home composters and food digesters. Feedback from four authorities in Hampshire, including Eastleigh Borough Council, our nearest neighbour, who operate glass collections, informs us that anti-social behaviour relating to glass collections has not been incurred.

RESOURCE/POLICY/FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Capital/Revenue:

CAPITAL/REVENUE: THE LEVEL OF GRANT SOUGHT FROM DCLG IS £8.28M, AS SHOWN IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE:

Type	2012/13 £000	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000	Total £000
Capital	876	979	310	2,165
Revenue	1,097	2,373	2,645	6,115
Total	1,974	3,352	2,955	8,280

Funding is for 2.3 years. It will be used to purchase vehicles, pump prime the new services and make savings in order to fund weekly collections in years 4 and 5.

Property/Other:

There should be no property implications as assets will be kept at City Depot.

Legal:

The Council's waste functions are carried out in accordance with the Environmental Protection act 1990 and associated secondary legislation. The Council's S151 officer approved the outline bid. Procurement would be carried out in line with the councils procurement rules involving waste, legal, financial and procurement officers.

Policy Framework Implications:

The proposals are not contrary to the Council's policy framework.

Further Information Available From:

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