
PROPOSALS FOR THE SPENDING OF THE WASTE PERFORMANCE AND EFFICIENCY GRANT 2007/8

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with proposals for the spending of the Council's 2007/8 funding allocation under the Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant scheme (WPEG).

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 As Members are aware, the Council has been awarded funding over a three year period from DEFRA's Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant, with 2007/8 being the final year. This award has been made to all local authorities in England who have waste management responsibilities and allocations being made according to population size, and for 2007/8 the allocation is £68,554.10.
- 2.2 There is no bidding process involved in accessing funding and in past years, no prescription on how it is used. However, in April 2006 the Office of Deputy Prime Minister announced that the WPEG would no longer be allocated to individual waste authorities in areas covered by Local Area Agreements (LAA). All the individual District allocations within the County would be pooled and allocated to the lead partner of the LAA (Essex County Council) and be used to achieve the objectives of the LAA. It has subsequently been agreed by the Essex Partnership Steering Group, which oversees the LAA, to honour the original basis of distribution and therefore to allocate the WPEG related funds to each authority to the levels originally announced by DEFRA.
- 2.3 However, as part of this revised method of allocating funding, the Council is now required to notify the County Council of its proposals for spending the grant, with preferably the split being approximately 50/50 capital and revenue expenditure. From conversations with the County Council this split is not essential and if necessary, can be "balanced" by other allocations within the County's overall WPEG allocation.

3 PROPOSALS FOR SPENDING WPEG FUNDING

- 3.1 Listed below are the various items and associated costs, which are being suggested for implementation using the WPEG funding. Following this list are further details explaining the reasons for and the benefits of these items being chosen:-

Serviceteam cost for running narrow access vehicle for round 6.	£28,000
Additional collection / vehicle costs for flats recycling.	£14,750

Textile collection – twice yearly, District-wide, in partnership with the Salvation Army	£13,300
Consultation on new collection / recycling scheme for new contract.	£3,000
Recycling education / awareness projects and promotions.	£9,504
TOTAL	£68,554

- 3.2 The Serviceteam costs for running round 6 were agreed in last year's WPEG spending and as 2007/8 is the final year of the current contract, there is a commitment to allocating this amount again in 2007/8.
- 3.3 The additional costs for the newly implemented flats recycling were agreed by Members to be funded from the WPEG funding as part of the recent budget setting process and cover the additional vehicle costs that are needed to cope with the extra materials and weekly collection frequencies relating to flats.
- 3.4 At previous meetings of this Sub-Committee, Members have discussed the possibilities of introducing textile collections and/or working in partnership with a specific charity in relation to textile recycling. Officers have investigated the possibilities in this area and the proposals detailed in the above table would be fully undertaken by the Salvation Army, including promotion/advertising of the collections, delivering the bags District-wide and then collecting the materials that are subsequently for recycling/re-use. This additional material would contribute to the Council's recycling percentage and would also be eligible for claiming the recycling credit from the County Council.
- 3.5 The recycling proposals consultation item was discussed at the previous meeting of this Sub Committee and would take place in the form of residents Focus Groups at the stage within the contract procurement process, where detailed solutions have been received from industry and the Council has decided in broad terms, the main service aspects to be considered.
- 3.6 The final item listed in the above table is to take up the remaining balance and utilising it for funding ongoing education and awareness schemes, specific promotions and possibly associated participation monitoring. Again at previous meetings Members have discussed and acknowledged the importance of continually promoting the Council's recycling service, in order to increase participation rates across the District and maximise the benefit from and performance of the current kerbside and bring bank service.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The implementation of the items listed in section 3.1 of this report would assist the Council in increasing its recycling rate and therefore have a positive impact on the environmental standards within the District.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Implementation of the items detailed in section 3.1 of this report could all be funded from the Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant allocation for 2007/8.

6 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the spending of the Council's Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant of £68,554 for 2007/8 be allocated to the items listed in the table in section 3.1 of this report.

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Background Papers:-

None.

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