

## **DEFRA BID / ALLOCATION OF RECYCLING FUNDING**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Members with details of the outcome of a recent bid for additional DEFRA funding for the smaller recycling vehicle and also to provide proposals for the allocation of the other external funding received for recycling initiatives.

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 In 2004 the Council was successful in achieving external funding from DEFRA of £351,800 via their Waste Minimisation Fund, for the purchasing of four kerbsider recycling vehicles.
- 2.2 These purchases enabled the launch of a new kerbside recycling scheme to span the whole District, covering approx. 29,000 out of the 33,500 properties that exist within the District.
- 2.3 The new scheme commenced in November 2004, with the intention to include the remaining 4,500 properties in the scheme during 2005. These properties consist of mainly flats, caravan parks and harder to reach properties etc. and therefore require a smaller recycling vehicle to be used for collection.

### **3 SMALL VEHICLE / DEFRA BID**

- 3.1 Lengthy discussions have taken place between Officers, Serviceteam and vehicle suppliers, in order to make the right decision on the most suitable vehicle to be used for collecting from the properties detailed in section 2.3 of this report.
- 3.2 As a result of these discussions, the vehicle chosen is a Seddon Atkinson narrow track vehicle, fitted with a narrow tipper body with three internal compartments; the total cost of which is £72,159.
- 3.3 From the successful Essex bid of £5.5 million to the DEFRA Waste Minimisation Fund, there has been underspend in the first year of just over £350,000 and therefore Essex County Council invited bids from District and Borough Councils for projects that could take up this underspend.
- 3.4 Officers submitted a bid for the £72,159 for the total cost of the vehicle and have been successful in receiving £61,355 towards the project (85%). It must be noted that the bids that ECC received far exceeded the funds available and so Rochford's funding was pleasing.

- 3.5 In order to purchase the vehicle, the Council will need to find a further £10,804 in addition to the DEFRA funding, which can be fully met from the Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant (WPEG) that has been awarded.
- 3.6 Following purchase the additional service will be added to the existing agreement with Serviceteam. Under this agreement the on going costs will be met by them and income above a set level shared with this Council. The vehicle will remain in the ownership of this Council.

#### **4 ALLOCATION OF VARIOUS GRANT FUNDING**

- 4.1 As previously mentioned, various grants related to recycling have been received and are detailed below:

▪ DEFRA Waste Minimisation Fund underspend:	£61,355
▪ Recycling Performance Grant (received in 2004/05, no commitments made)	£15,100
▪ Waste Performance & Efficiency Grant (WPEG) - (received in 2005/06, no commitments made)	£24,921

**TOTAL: £101,376**

- 4.2 There are a number of projects / equipment needed or planned that require funding and these proposals are detailed below:

▪ Smaller recycling collection vehicle:	£72,159
▪ Collection of old green bins (net cost of recycling)	£8,500
▪ Blue boxes for expansion from this report	£12,750
▪ Costs for continuing with the emptying of plastic recycling banks weekly:	£8,867

**TOTAL: £102,276**

- 4.3 The required additional funding of £900, over and above grant funding, can be met from existing budgets.
- 4.4 As regards future funding, it should also be noted that the WPEG grant funding has also been put in place for the next two years. The total “pot” to be shared nationally this year was £40 million and it has been confirmed that there will be approx. £105 million in 2006/7 and £110 million in 2007/8.
- 4.5 Taking into account that the formula used for calculating each authority’s share is fairly rigid and based essentially on population, it is estimated that

Rochford will receive approx. £65,500 in 2006/7 and a further £68,500 in 2007/8.

**5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Further expansion of the Council's recycling service will improve the environmental conditions that exist within the District and will increase the amount of waste that is diverted from landfill.

**6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Implementing the items detailed in section 4.2 of this report can be done by utilising various grant funding that has been received. The additional £900 can be met from existing budgets.

**7 RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RECOMMENDS**

That Members agree to the implementation of the following recycling initiatives:

- a) Purchase of smaller recycling collection vehicle.
- b) Collection of old green bins for recycling.
- c) Purchase of blue boxes.
- d) Continue with emptying of plastic recycling banks on a weekly frequency

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**Background Papers**

None.

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