

DECISION-MAKER:	COUNCIL CABINET
SUBJECT:	INCREASING SOUTHAMPTON'S RECYCLING RATE AND ENHANCING COLLECTIONS
DATE OF DECISION:	14 NOVEMBER 2012 - COUNCIL 20 NOVEMBER 2012 - CABINET
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY:	
None	

BRIEF SUMMARY:

A bid for £8.28M has been submitted to the Government's Weekly Collection Support Scheme to:

- Retain weekly collections for a minimum of five years and fund the weekly refuse collection service until 2016/17.
- 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).
- Provide an enhanced home composting programme to increase the amount of material diverted from landfill through the provision of subsidised compost bins and food waste digesters, supported by a dedicated project officer and awareness raising campaign.
- 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 latest information from DCLG is that the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government will make announcements on the allocation of funding in early November 2012. At the time of writing there was no formal notification of whether Southampton's bid for £8.28M has been successful or not, however this report is seeking in principle approval to proceed subject to the bid being successful, thereby minimising potential delays in taking forward the scheme in the current year should DCLG approve the bid.

If, as part of the announcement, Southampton has been awarded an amount less than the total bid but the partial award still enables the key elements of the bid to be delivered it is recommended that delegated authority is given to the Director of Environment & Economy in consultation with the portfolio holder for Environment & Transport, portfolio holder for Resources, Head of Legal, HR & Democratic Services and Head of Finance & IT to proceed with accepting a reduced allocation.

Officers have calculated that an allocation of £7m or more would still result in a viable bid that was capable of delivering the key elements of the original proposal. A reduction in the award of £1.28m would mean a corresponding reduction to the provision of subsidised composters / food digesters and the glass collections element would need to be four weekly for years 2, 3, 4 and 5. Acceptance of a reduced

allocation would also be dependant upon agreement with the DCLG on the proposed changes to the delivery of the Southampton bid.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

COUNCIL

Subject to notification of the bid being successful in the sum of £8.28M, Council are recommended:

- (i) To accept government grant funding of £8.28m;
- (ii) 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, a total of £2,165,000 to be funded by government grants
- (iii) To approve capital expenditure on the capital scheme “Weekly Collection Support Scheme” of £2,165,000 phased £876,000 in 2012/13, £979,000 in 2013/14 £310,000 in 2014/15;
- (iv) To approve the addition of £1,097,000 to the 2012/13 revenue estimates of the Environment and Transport Portfolio funded by government grant and to note that further additions of £2,373,000 to the 2013/14 and £2,645,000 to the 2014/15 revenue estimates will be formally made as part of the preparation of those financial years’ budget;
- (v) To note if, as part of the announcement, Southampton has been awarded an amount less than the total bid but the partial award still enables the key elements of the bid to be delivered it is recommended that delegated authority is given to the Director of Environment & Economy following consultation with the portfolio holder for Environment & Transport, portfolio holder for resources, Head of Legal, HR & Democratic Services and Head of Finance & IT to proceed with accepting a reduced allocation of up to £1.28m.

CABINET:

Subject to notification of the bid being successful in the sum of £8.28M, Cabinet are recommended:

- (i) To approve the delivery of the bid projects, (full bid included as Appendices 1 and 2).
- (ii) To delegate authority to the Director of Environment & Economy, following consultation with the Head of Legal, HR & Democratic Services and Head of Finance & IT to undertake any work necessary within approved budgets and subject to compliance with Contract and Financial Procedure Rules to secure the implementation of the project outlined in this report.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The proposals included in the Weekly Collection Support Scheme Bid aim to increase recycling rates, reduce waste generated and make savings in the first two years which will fund weekly residual collections. Thereafter the project will become self funding up to year 5 as long as we revert to four weekly glass collections in years 4 and 5.
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 fortnightly 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 subsidised compost bins and food waste digesters.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED:

4. Alternative options are also currently being developed in conjunction with the Environment & Transport Policy Working Group, should the bid not be successful.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out):

5. The key objectives of Southampton's bid to the Weekly Collection Support Scheme are to;
 - Retain weekly residual collections
 - Improve the recycling service by expanding the range of materials collected for recycling, in this instance, glass, which would be collected fortnightly and then four weekly in years 4 and 5
 - Reduce waste and minimise the amount sent to landfill through the provision of subsidised compost bins and food waste digesters
 - Reduce environmental impacts through route-optimisation, use of innovative in-cab technology and increase efficiency
6. The funding would deliver the following outcomes:
 - Retention of the weekly refuse collection service by improving the recycling service and reducing waste through increased composting. We would be committed to weekly collections for five years.
 - Expansion of our kerbside recycling service by providing regular (fortnightly initially) glass collections to all houses and flats across the city. We will also be expanding 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 through the coordination of joint collections and also generate income.
 - An enhanced home composting programme to increase the amount of material diverted from landfill through the provision of subsidised compost bins (for up to 15,000 households) and food waste digesters (for up to 3,000 households), supported by a dedicated project officer and accompanying awareness raising campaign (this would be a short term contract).

7. The project will also:
- 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 in place).
 - 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.

8. The proposed project timetable is as follows, subject to confirmation the bid has been successful:

Date	Activity
Nov – Mar 2012/13	Project set-up
	Commence procurement
	Commence communications delivery
Apr – Sep 2013	Glass collections phased roll-out/Home composters rollout
	Complete procurement
	Communications
Nov – Mar 2013	Glass collections and home composters phased rollout
Apr – Mar 2013/14	Ongoing communications and support
Apr – Mar 2014/15	Ongoing communications and support

9. As part of the project roll-out and implementation we will monitor and report back to DCLG and Cabinet on progress and delivery against targets.
10. 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 will work with the Sustainability team 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.
- 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

11. If, as part of the announcement, Southampton has been awarded an amount less than the total bid but the partial award still enables the key elements of the bid to be delivered, officers have calculated that an allocation of £7m or more would still result in a viable bid that was capable of delivering the key elements of the original proposal. A reduction in the award of £1.28m would mean a corresponding reduction to the provision of subsidised composters / food digesters and the glass collections element would need to be four weekly for years 2, 3, 4 and 5. Acceptance of a reduced allocation would also be dependant upon agreement with the DCLG on the proposed changes to the delivery of the Southampton bid.
12. Due to short timescales detailed consultation 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.
13. 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 IMPLICATIONS:

Capital/Revenue:

14. 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	1,973	3,352	2,955	8,280

Funding is for 2.3 years, thereafter, there is no funding. 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:

15. Our additional assets will be accommodated at City Depot.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

16. The Council’s waste functions are carried out in accordance with the Environmental Protection act 1990 and associated secondary legislation.

Other Legal Implications:

17. The procurement would be carried out in line with the councils financial and procurement rules involving waste, legal, financial and procurement officers. Any procurement and project implementation will be undertaken having regard to the requirements of the Equalities Act 2010, Human Rights Act 1998 and s.17 crime & Disorder Act 1998.

18. The procurement would be carried out in line with the councils procurement rules involving waste, legal, financial and procurement officers.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS:

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

AUTHOR:	Name:	Gale Williams, Development & Performance Manager Waste & Fleet Transport	Tel:	023 8083 2536
	E-mail:	Gale.williams@southampton.gov.uk		

KEY DECISION? Yes

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	ALL
------------------------------------	-----

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1.	Southampton City Councils Weekly Collection Support Scheme Bid
2.	Financial data to support Weekly Collection Support Scheme Bid

Documents In Members’ Rooms:

1.	None
----	------

Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.	Yes
--	-----

Other Background Documents Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s) Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)

1.	None	
----	------	--