

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

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Agenda  
Item No.

meeting date: 15 JANUARY 2013  
title: KERBSIDE COLLECTION OF MIXED FOOD AND GARDEN WASTE  
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
principal author: PETER McGEORGE, WASTE MANAGEMENT OFFICER

## 1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise Members that £750k funding has been secured through the Weekly Collection Support Scheme to introduce the kerbside collection of mixed food and garden waste, and;
- 1.2 To seek guidance from Members on the policies needed to support the new service.
- 1.3 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:
  - **Community Objectives** – To protect and enhance the existing environmental quality of our area.
  - **Corporate Priorities** – To increase the recycling of waste material.
  - **Other Considerations** – To be a well-managed Council, providing efficient services based on identified customer needs.

## 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Earlier last year (2012) the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) launched the prospectus for its £250 million Weekly Collection Support Scheme.
- 2.2 The aim of the scheme is to support local authorities to:
  - introduce, retain or reinstate a weekly collection of residual household waste, supplemented by a separate recyclables collection at least once a fortnight, or;
  - propose improvements to an existing waste service that is already centred around a weekly residual collection, or;
  - add a weekly food waste (or organic waste) service to an existing fortnightly collection of residual household waste, where an authority can credibly demonstrate this represents the preference of local people.
- 2.3 The application for funding began in May 2012 and was completed in 3 stages, from the submission of an expression of interest, then a detailed outline bid, and finally by the submission of a final bid in August 2012.
- 2.4 To meet the conditions for funding, we needed to offer improvements to the kerbside recycling services we currently provide to our residents (additionality) whilst committing to the retention of weekly collection of residual / general waste for at least the next five years.

- 2.5 The grant sought totalled £750k to provide capital finance for the purchase a delivery of approx 15,000 x 240 litre wheeled bins, 2 split bodied collection vehicles, and all appropriate publicity and promotional costs.
- 2.6 It is proposed that we replace the 140 litre wheeled bins provided to gardened properties for the recovery of garden waste with a larger 240 litre wheeled bin. This will allow householders to include certain types of compostable food waste with their garden waste. To ensure that this service is provided to all domestic properties within the Ribble Valley and to keep costs to a minimum, the recovered 140 litre wheeled bins will be then re-distributed to non-gardened properties to recover their food waste for composting. We will thereby meet the conditions for funding by extending the range of recycling collection services we offer to our residents.
- 2.7 The inclusion within the application for 2 replacement split bodied collection vehicles was due to the accelerated wear and tear on the current vehicles due to the abrasive nature of the glass recyclate collected within the co-mingled waste stream. The wear and tear is such that the current vehicles need to be replaced earlier than the budgeted replacement programme and, without funding, places some risk on whether weekly collections and the extensive recycling kerbside recycling service could be sustained. It should be reported that, following discussions with manufacturers, our vehicle specifications now include a more resilient body that will successfully accommodate the abrasive glass over a longer, more acceptable, period.
- 2.8 I am pleased to report that on 22 November 2012, officers received formal confirmation from the DCLG that our application had been successful, and that we had been offered the full amount bid of £750k. We have since officially accepted the offer.

### **3 ISSUES**

- 3.1 It is not anticipated that the provision of a larger wheeled bin will have an adverse effect on the efficiency of the collection service, or require any additional resources. Positively, the additional material recovered for composting will improve this Council's overall waste management performance.
- 3.2 Officers are planning to introduce the larger wheeled bins and the redistribution of the recovered wheeled bins in June 2013.
- 3.3 Members are asked to consider whether or not:
- the provision of larger green wheeled bins to gardened properties should be compulsory or whether householders can opt out but retain their smaller wheeled bin, and;
  - the provision of the recovered 140 litre green wheeled bins should be delivered to non gardened properties currently using the wheeled bin service or whether householders can opt out of receiving the additional wheeled bin for their food waste.
- 3.4 Extensive publicity and promotion will be undertaken ensuring that householders receive sufficient information on the improvements and benefits of the changes to the collection service.

#### 4 RISK ASSESSMENT

The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- **Resources** – The capital costs for the purchase of the larger 240 litre wheeled bins, and for the purchase of the replacement split bodied collection vehicles, are all covered by the grant funding. Additionally, the associated costs for delivery of the wheeled bins, both for exchange and redistribution and related promotional costs, are also covered by the grant funding.
- **Technical, Environmental and Legal** – As explained earlier in the report, it is not anticipated that the provision of a larger wheeled bin will have an adverse effect on the efficiency of the collection service, or require any additional resources. Positively, the additional material recovered for composting will improve this Council's overall waste management performance.
- **Political** – No implications identified
- **Reputation** – Householders have been requesting larger green wheeled bins since the onset of the 3 stream collection system and, therefore, for the majority, we do expect them to be largely welcomed.
- **Equality & Diversity** – The kerbside collection of food waste is to be offered to all residents of the Ribble Valley.

#### 5 RECOMMENDATION

That Members agree to a Council policy that will allow householders with gardens to 'opt out' of the provision of a larger green wheeled bin, or for non-gardened properties to 'opt out' of the provision of a 140 litre wheeled bin for their food waste.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS - Waste Management Files  
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REF: Peter McGeorge/IW/Community Services 15.1.13