

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 6

meeting date: TUESDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 2020
title: UPDATE ON RECYCLING AND THE DISTRICT GRANT FUND APPLICATION
submitted by: JOHN HEAP – DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
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1 PURPOSE

1.1 To provide Members with an update on recycling rates and the District Grant Fund Applications.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives – To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley.
- Corporate Priorities – To protect and enhance the existing environmental quality of our area.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Following several new measures including the collection of pots, tubs and trays, staff training and enforcement, the collection of co-mingled materials (glass, cans and plastic) has continued to increase and in accordance with the Reduce Reuse and Recycle the quantity sent to landfill has reduced.

2.2 As reported at the January meeting of this Committee a bid was submitted to Lancashire County Council for a District Grant Fund of up to £20,000.

2.3 Lancashire County Council are now asking for new bids for the 2020/21 District Grant Fund.

3 ISSUES

3.1 Figures recently published by LCC have shown excellent results for Ribble Valley recyclers. Two-year analysis has shown the following for Ribble Valley statistics the most improved performance for collection of green waste, we have increased the amount of green waste collected by 24% over the last 2 years.

3.2 Our co-mingled collections also topped the table for the most improved performance, our recycling has increased by 22% over the same period.

3.3 Ribble Valley was the only borough to show a reduction in the amount of waste that went to landfill over the last 2 years.

3.4 Our residents also seem to understand the messages we give on social media, labels, leaflets and in the media regarding which items go in which bins. The waste sent to the recycling facility is audited for levels of contamination, figures have shown that we are

sending 78% of the right materials to LCC for recycling, putting us fourth best in Lancashire.

- 3.5 Since October 2019 when LCC launched the 'pots tubs & trays' campaign, greater emphasis has been placed on the type of waste we collect and recycle, Ribble Valley was top of the table for quality of target material 85% average in the last 2 quarters. Dense plastics, plastic film and paper are the main contaminants.

District Grant Fund 2019/20:

- 3.6 £15,600 was received from LCC to increase recycling in the borough. The project put forward was to change 400 lilac sack customers to bins thus enabling them to recycle their household waste.
- 3.7 Officer activity has been low on this to date due to the constraints imposed in visiting households due to the pandemic, however to date nearly 100 households have requested the exchange to bins. The aim is to concentrate on these areas and to encourage their neighbours to also do the same.
- 3.8 Those residents who wish to recycle but cannot due to location and/or storage space could be offered a clear plastic sack into which they can place their recyclable items (not paper).

District Grant Fund 2020/21:

- 3.9 LCC have now recognised the logistical challenges facing districts over infrastructure and the layout of the likes of depots, yards and bunkers, and are offering financial support for one-off capital improvements in the county between September 2020 and February 2021.
- 3.10 Up to £30,000 is available per district, for a maximum of four districts.
- 3.11 All proposed activity will be directly relating to increasing the quality of recycling, re-use or to further encourage waste minimisation:
- Covers for skips, bays and bunkers to reduce moisture, particularly involving paper and card.
 - Surfacing improvements to ensure that cross-contamination is minimised between materials.
 - Sight-line or proximity changes to facilitate more effective inspection of bunkers, so allowing staff to be better-able to pull out contaminants.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:
- Resources – As well as officer time LCC will expect a financial contribution towards the District Grant Fund Scheme.
 - Technical, Environmental and Legal – The update on the increased recycling and the associated reduction of waste going to landfill can only be considered as positive.

- Political – This will be welcomed by the public who genuinely want to recycle more and send less to landfill.
- Reputation – This rise in the rate of recycling and the reduction of landfill rates can only be good for the authority.

5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 5.1 Note the increases in recycling and reduction of landfill elements of the report.
- 5.1 Approve that officers investigate options for the District Grant Fund Capital Schemes and make an application for the funds.
- 5.3 Offer clear recycling sacks to current lilac sack households that do not have sufficient space for recycling bins. Sacks to be paid financed via the current District Grant Fund

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