

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Cabinet	
MEETING DATE:	10th October 2012	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 2485
TITLE:	DCLG Weekly Collections Support Fund	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The Council has submitted a final bid to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) "Weekly Collections Support Fund". A government announcement on the outcome of this bid is anticipated sometime in October. Should the Council be successful in this bid and choose to accept any funding award, it must commit to keeping a weekly refuse collection service until at least 2016/17 if it wishes to utilise money expressly allocated for that purpose.
- 1.2 The Council has sought funding to retain a weekly refuse collection service until 2016/17 and to deliver a range of projects that will incentivise communities to minimise and recycle more waste.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet agrees that:

2.1 If a funding award is made by DCLG from the weekly collections support fund:

- a) The Council commits to keeping a weekly refuse collection service until 2016/17 and, assuming that the award is for the full amount of the bid, allocates £1.6 million to do this.
- b) The Council allocates the remainder of the funding awarded to projects which are designed to minimise and recycle more waste.

2.2 Delegated authority is given to the Divisional Director of Environmental Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods to agree the detail of the award and the delivery of associated projects with DCLG.

And notes that :

Council as part of its budget setting process will consider the allocation of resources towards achieving its waste and recycling objectives in the light of the money available from DCLG and the conditions attached thereto.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The final bid to the fund was for £2,185,082 over a 3 year period. £1.6 million was sought to retain weekly refuse collections until 2016/17. The remainder (£585,082) was sought for projects designed to improve customer experience by providing new recycling services and to reward and incentivise communities to improve recycling performance.
- 3.2 The funding award would not commit additional revenue to projects long term, beyond the commitment to keep weekly refuse collections until 2016/17.
- 3.3 This funding, if awarded will enable Council to review its resource allocations within Waste Services over the programme period, to ensure maximum benefit of the funds available and reduce the Council's waste disposal financial liabilities in the long term.

4 CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live
- Building a stronger economy

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 DCLG created a £250 million fund for which councils were invited to apply in order to fund the retention or reinstatement of weekly refuse collections. As the fund is oversubscribed, all bids are being assessed against detailed criteria and funding awards will be announced in October to those authorities who are successful.
- 5.2 This Council submitted a final application in August for £2,185,082 over a 3 year period (2012/13 being year 1 of the fund).
- 5.3 One condition of any authority being awarded the funding is that it would commit to keeping a weekly refuse collection service until 2016/17.
- 5.4 This Council's bid sought £1.6million to retain a weekly refuse collection service until 2016/17 and the remainder (£585,082) to develop new recycling services and projects to reward and incentivise communities to minimise and recycle more waste.
- 5.5 If the Council is successful in its bid and is awarded funding, the Cabinet is asked to confirm its commitment to retaining the weekly refuse collection service until at least 2016/17, and to delegate authority to the Divisional Director of Environmental Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, to agree the award and the detail of the projects to be delivered with DCLG.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 The report author and Lead Cabinet member have fully reviewed the risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed. No adverse or other significant issues were found.

8 RATIONALE

8.1 If this funding is awarded to the Council, projects will be delivered which will have a long term benefit in minimising and recycling more waste and will therefore improve environmental performance and reduce the Council's waste disposal financial liabilities in the long term. The funding sought will enable the Council to continue to fund a weekly refuse collection service until 2016/17.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 Not to accept the award. The Cabinet would then be asked to consider reducing refuse collections to fortnightly to save cost. New recycling projects would not be delivered.

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 Cabinet members; Trades Unions; Stakeholders/Partners; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer

10.2 Consultation was carried out through dialogue when an initial expression of interest was given, an outline bid scoped and a final bid submitted to DCLG.

11 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

11.1 Customer Focus; Sustainability; Human Resources; Young People; Health & Safety; Impact on Staff; Other Legal Considerations

12 ADVICE SOUGHT

12.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to advise on the detail of this report.

Contact person	Carol Maclellan, Waste Services Manager 01225 394106
Sponsoring Cabinet Member	Councillor David Dixon
Background papers	None
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	