

## KERBSIDE COLLECTION OF GLASS FOR RECYCLING

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet support for the implementation of a district-wide kerbside glass recycling scheme which will be funded until March 2015 from the successful bid from the government's Weekly Collection Support Scheme.

### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In October 2012 the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) announced that it was making £250 million available under the Weekly Collections Support Scheme with the following aims of (a) introducing or retaining a weekly collection, (b) proposed improvements to an existing waste service and (c) adding a weekly food waste service to an existing fortnightly collection. This funding would be made available over 3 financial years with £50 million in 2012/13, £100 million in 2013/14 and £100 Million in 2014/15. The bidding process for funding would be in 3 phases, expression of interest by 16<sup>th</sup> March 2012, outline bid by 11<sup>th</sup> May 2012 and a final bid submission by 16<sup>th</sup> August 2012. The 3 criteria for the award of this grant would be to deliver:
- a weekly collection of residual waste to residents
  - value for money (in terms of cost effectiveness)
  - an environmental benefit over current performance
- 2.2 On 14<sup>th</sup> February 2012 a task and finish group was formed from the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel to discuss kerbside glass collections and subsequently two visits were arranged to neighbouring authorities, Eastleigh and East Hampshire to see their kerbside glass collection in operation.
- 2.3 The task and finish group met again on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012 and recommended to the Portfolio Holder that the implementation of a kerbside glass collection scheme be considered, with an application being made to the Weekly Collection Support Scheme for funding.
- 2.4 On 16<sup>th</sup> March 2012, following agreement from the Portfolio Holder and the Executive Management Team, an expression of interest was submitted.

### 3. KERBSIDE GLASS COLLECTION

- 3.1 Significant work was undertaken with other local authorities who have previously implemented a similar scheme to understand how this would work in the specific environment of the New Forest. Members of the working group considered the

type and size of boxes to be used and the best vehicles, especially taking into account the rural nature and accessibility of some properties. Finally members considered the frequency of collections.

- 3.2 The working group tasked officers to work up a scheme which included using 40 litre boxes to collect glass from every household on a 4 weekly basis.
- 3.3 The review team also considered how the scheme could be phased into the District and it was recommended that the scheme should be implemented in 3 phases starting in the spring of 2013. These 3 phases would cover approximately 25,000 properties per phase with the final 5,000 hard to reach and multi occupancy properties being brought on line at the beginning of 2014.
- 3.4 An outline bid on this basis was therefore submitted to the Weekly Collection Support Scheme on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2012, together with a financial appraisal of the scheme's costs. Officers from this Council had discussions with representatives from the Local Government Association following the submission of this outline bid to ensure that the criteria for the final bid were fully met.
- 3.5 A very detailed final bid was completed and the task and finish group met again on the 14<sup>th</sup> August to agree the content. A further meeting was held on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2012 with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency and the Portfolio Holder for Environment and representatives from the Executive Management Team to consider every aspect of the bid before final submission. The final agreed bid was submitted on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2012 for funding over 3 financial years of £1,880,120.
- 3.6 At the meeting of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2012 the finalised bid, together with all the appendices and supporting information, was presented to Members.
- 3.7 On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November the Council was notified by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) that it had been successful in its application and had been awarded the full grant as requested.
- 3.8 Further work is currently being undertaken with suppliers of vehicles and containers to understand the current levels of demand and delivery times prior to finalising a detailed timetable for implementation.

#### **4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Council's recycling performance has stagnated over recent years with its recycling performance fluctuating between 31 and 33%, despite the Council's waste strategy and overall Project Integra targets identifying 40% by 2012. Prior to the submission for funding a detailed waste analysis identified that in rural areas the amount of glass placed out for collection in the black household waste sacks exceeded 10% of the total weight of the sack. In urban areas it was nearer 7%. Therefore it is estimated that this scheme would remove approximately 2,800 tonnes of glass from the waste stream.
- 4.2 It is anticipated that following the full implementation of this scheme the Council's overall recycling rate will rise to 38%. With other initiatives currently in progress to increase the amount of paper collected it is hoped that the 40% target will be reached in 2014/15.

## 5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The table below identifies the total amount of grant awarded to the Council.

2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Total
£404,270	£956,690	£519,160	£1,880,120

5.2 The annual cost of running this service from 2015/16 has been estimated at approximately £250,000 per annum, with additional recycling income offsetting these costs.

## 6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Through the task and finish group concerns were raised and explored with other authorities about any crime and disorder implications from placing glass in containers out for collection overnight. None of the authorities reported any significant problems. In rural areas where properties are open to the Forest, residents will be asked to keep the boxes behind their gate or cattle grid. Where this is not possible lids will be made available for the boxes

## 7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 This scheme will allow the elderly or infirm to recycle glass at the kerbside. This scheme will be included in the same arrangements that we currently undertake for back door collections.

## 8. PORTFOLIO HOLDERS COMMENTS

8.1 I would like to thank the Task and Finish group for all their hard work in pulling this scheme together and fully support the implementation of the kerbside collection of glass for recycling which will remove over 2800 tonnes of glass from the waste stream.

## 9. RECOMMENDATION

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet support the implementation of a district-wide kerbside glass collection scheme and accept the funding of £1,880,120 from the Weekly Collection Support Scheme.

### Further information:

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### Background Papers:

Environment Review Panel presentation 13<sup>th</sup>  
September 2012