

RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION TAKEN BY AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER OR OFFICER

This form can be used for any decision but **MUST** be used to record:

- any decision taken by the Elected Mayor or an individual Councillor
- a key decision taken by a Council Officer

In these circumstances the form must be completed and passed to the Head of Members' Services no later than NOON on the second working day after the day on which the decision is taken. No action may be taken to implement the decision(s) recorded on this form until 7 days have passed and the Head of Members' Services has confirmed the decision has not been called in.

1. Description of decision

That the funding award from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) from the Weekly Collections Support Fund, in the sum of £3.14 million for the period 2012/2013 to 2014/2015, be accepted and that, in doing so, the Council:

- (a) Commits to keeping a weekly refuse collection service until at least 2016/2017 and, assuming that the award is for the full amount of the bid, allocates the sum of £2.3 million to enable this commitment to be funded;
- (b) Allocates the remainder of the funding awarded to projects which are designed to minimise and recycle more waste;
- (c) Delegates authority to the Executive Director of Environment and Sustainable Communities, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport, to agree the detail of the award, the delivery of associated projects and provide necessary evidence to support the grant award in line with the funding conditions set by DCLG.

2. Date of decision

27 November 2012

3. Reasons for decision

The funding awarded to the Council is for projects that 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 will enable the Council to continue to fund a weekly refuse collection service until 2016/2017.

4. Alternatives considered and rejected

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

5. How decision is to be funded

The final bid to the fund was for £3,137,983 over a 3 year period. £2.3 million was sought to retain weekly refuse collections until 2016/2017. The remainder (£837,983) was sought for projects designed to improve customer experience and increase recycling by providing new recycling services and to reward and incentivise communities to improve recycling performance. The funding award would not commit additional revenue to projects long term, beyond the commitment to keep weekly refuse collections until 2016/2017.

This funding 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.

6. Conflicts of interest

| Name of all Executive members who were consulted AND declared a conflict of interest. | Nature of interest | Did Standards Committee give a dispensation for that conflict of interest? (if yes give details and date of dispensation) |
|---|--------------------|---|
| | | |
| | | |

The Mayor has been consulted on this decision

Not Applicable

Signed *D. A. Hodgson* Date *29th November 2012*

Name of Decision Taker The Mayor

This is a public document. A copy of it must be given to the Head of Members' Services as soon as it is completed.

Date decision published: *28th November 2012*

Date decision can be implemented if not called in: *7th December 2012*

Bedford Borough Council – Elected Mayor

November 2012

Report by the Assistant Director (Environment & Communities) and Head of Environment

Subject: DCLG WEEKLY COLLECTIONS SUPPORT FUND

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report confirms that the Council has been successful in its bid to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Weekly Collections Support Fund for £3.14 million. Attached at **Appendix A** is a copy of the letter from the DCLG.
- 1.2 To receive the funding the Council must commit to keeping a weekly refuse collection service until at least 2016/2017.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the funding award made by DCLG be accepted and, in doing so:
- (a) The Council commits to keeping a weekly refuse collection service until at least 2016/2017 and, assuming that the award is for the full amount of the bid, allocates £2.3 million to enable this commitment to be funded.
 - (b) The Council allocates the remainder of the funding awarded to projects which are designed to minimise and recycle more waste.
 - (c) Delegated authority is given to the Executive Director of Environment and Sustainable Communities, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Transport, to agree the detail of the award, the delivery of associated projects and provide necessary evidence to support the grant award in line with the funding conditions set by DCLG.

3. Reasons For Recommendations

- 3.1 The funding is awarded to the Council is for projects that 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.

3.2 The funding will enable the Council to continue to fund a weekly refuse collection service until 2016/2017.

4. Key Implications

Legal Issues

4.1. As a Waste Collection Authority (WCA) and Waste Disposal Authority (WDA), the Council has a number of statutory obligations. These include:

- (i) A duty under Section 45 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA 1990) to collect household waste and, if requested, to make arrangements of the collection of commercial waste within the Borough.
- (ii) A duty under Section 45A of the EPA 1990 to make arrangements for the collection of at least two types of recyclable waste together or individually separated from the rest of the household waste
- (ii) Responsibility under Section 48 of the EPA 1990 to arrange and provide places for the disposal of waste collected by Bedford Borough Council within its function as a WDA.

Policy Issues

The collection of kerbside waste and comingled recycling both contribute to the Council's recycling and diversion from landfill performance, and directly supports both the Corporate Plan and the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Corporate Plan 2012-16

Corporate Plan 2012-16 Theme 2, objective: "To ensure that the Borough reduces its carbon footprint, including managing our waste more effectively".

Sustainable Community Strategy:-

Theme 2 "A Greener Borough": Environment and Climate Change – has the goal of: a high quality natural and built environment which is valued and enjoyed by all; which encourages biodiversity and supports the development of a low carbon community, including local businesses, capable of adapting to the impacts of climate change. In particular, it aims to:

- Minimise carbon emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change focussing on transport, business and homes.
- Minimise domestic and commercial waste production and maximise reuse and recycling.

Resource Implications

- 4.2 The funding from the DCLG from the Weekly Collection Support Scheme is for £3,137,983 over a 3 year period. £2.3 million of which is to retain weekly refuse collections until 2016/2017. The £2.3 million will ensure the retention and improvement of the weekly waste collection system and also enhance delivery of the service. The remainder (£837,983) is for projects designed to improve customer experience and increase recycling by providing new recycling services and to reward and incentivise communities to improve recycling performance.

The funding award does not commit additional revenue to projects long term, beyond the commitment to keep weekly refuse collections until 2016/2017.

This funding 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. Without this funding the Council would face significant additional financial pressure over the next few years.

Risk Implications

- 4.3 There is a risk that, if DCLG funding is not accepted, consideration may need to be given to reducing refuse collections to fortnightly to save cost. New recycling projects would also not be delivered.

The Council is committed to provide a regular refuse collection service and take the management of the waste produced further up the waste hierarchy by increasing the amount of materials recycled, re-used and composted to reduce the reliance on landfill.

Environmental Implications

- 4.4. Landfill waste produces landfill gases which contribute towards global warming and has significant negative impact upon the environment. The Council is committed to reducing the amount of biodegradable waste sent to landfill. Increasing recycling is very important in meeting the challenge of diverting waste from landfill.

Each year the Council produces over 70,000 tonnes of household waste. This equates to just over one tonne of rubbish per household. It would clearly be beneficial if every household could prevent/ reduce the quantity of waste (including recycling) it produces for treatment by practising waste prevention. Reducing the total amount of waste produced will reduce the Council's costs and the energy used in processing it; and the less waste we introduce into the waste stream the less harm is inflicted on the environment.

Should the Council choose to accept any funding award, this funding will provide a better service to the residents of the borough but also importantly encourage recycling thus moving waste up the hierarchy.

Equality Analysis

- 4.5 In preparing this report, due consideration has been given to the Council's statutory Equality Duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations, as set out in Section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010.

A relevance test for equality has been completed. The equality test determined that the activity has no relevance to Bedford Borough Council's statutory equality duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relation. An equality analysis is not needed.

5. Details

- 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 was oversubscribed, all bids were assessed against detailed criteria and funding awards.
- 5.2 This Council submitted a final application in August for £3,137,983 over a 3 year period (2012/2013 being year 1 of the fund). One condition of any authority being awarded the funding is that it would commit to keeping a weekly refuse collection service until 2016/2017.
- 5.4 This Council's bid sought £2.3 million to retain and improve the weekly refuse collection service until 2016/2017 and the remainder (£837,983) to develop new recycling services and projects to reward and incentivise communities to minimise and recycle more waste.
- 5.5 The funding will allow the Council to deliver a range of projects, and works over a 5 year programme which will sustain and improve the waste and recycling services within the borough. The projects include the purchase of 5 new refuse freighters and other essential vehicles, replacement and provision of waste and recycling containers and the introduction of a "bartec system" which is a state of the art innovative computer solution that provides real time information to help reduce missed bins and improve customer service. Other works will focus on improving recycling and customer services.
- 5.6 The Council has been successful in its bid and is awarded funding, subject to accepting the funding and confirming its commitment to retaining the weekly refuse collection service until at least 2016/2017.
- 5.7 Final details on the roll out of projects will need to be agreed in line with the DCLG funding conditions. The funding is also conditional on the satisfactory and timely provision of evidence of the Council support for the bid (e.g. relevant Council meeting minutes; email from Council Leader etc) and setting

out of how the Council intends to promote the commitment to weekly collections for (a minimum of) five years to residents. For example, this could be via the authority's website, in waste and recycling collections literature for householders, or as a statement in the authority's annual report/accounts.

- 5.8 Delegation is, therefore, sought for the Executive Director of Environment and Sustainable Communities, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport, to agree the detail of the projects to be delivered and provide the necessary evidence to support the grant award in line with the funding conditions set by DCLG.
- 5.9 Should the Council accept the funding award, DCLG must be notified in accordance with grant acceptance timescales and a project timeline which has been submitted with the bid will be followed.
- 5.10 As the offer of grant funding must be accepted by 30 November and the Council could not achieve this because of the call-in period of 7 working days after the date the decision was taken during which the decision could not be implemented, the Assistant Chief Executive (Governance) as Monitoring Officer has indicated that this would constitute a serious adverse impact on the Council's legal position in relation to the acceptance of the decision and therefore proposes to exempt it from the call-in procedure, but this decision would be able to be subject to any post-implementation scrutiny

6. Summary of Consultations and Outcome

- 6.1 The Environment Portfolio Holder supports the proposals in this report.
- 6.2 The Chair of Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee supports the proposal in this report.
- 6.3 The following Council Units or Officers and/or other organisations have been consulted in preparing this report:

Management Group
All relevant Heads of Service
Section 151 Officer

- 6.4 No adverse comments have been received.

7. Ward Councillor Views

- 7.1 Not applicable to this report

Report Contact Officer:

*Paul Pace, Head of Environment
e-mail: paul.pace@bedford.gov.uk*

File Reference:

DCLG/ WCSF

Previous Relevant Minutes:

None

Background Papers:

None

Appendices:

*Appendix A – Letter from DCLG dated
21 November 2012*

Shehla Husain

Department for Communities and Local Government
 Eland House
 Bressenden Place
 London SW1E 5DU

E-Mail: Shehla.Husain@communities.gsi.gov.uk
www.communities.gov.uk



Department for Communities and Local Government

22nd November 2012

Natasha Ingram
 Bedford Borough Council

Dear Natasha Ingram,

Weekly Collection Support Scheme Final Bid

Name of Bid: Waste Collection Service Enhancement Project

Thank you for submitting a bid to the Weekly Collection Support Scheme (WCSS). We are writing to inform you that your bid has been successful.

We are delighted to offer you £3,137,983 according to the profile set out in the table below:

| 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | Total |
|----------|------------|------------|------------|
| £905,373 | £1,087,874 | £1,144,736 | £3,137,983 |

Please note that funding is conditional on the satisfactory and timely provision of evidence that you have council support for your bid (e.g. relevant Council meeting minutes; email from Council Leader etc) and setting out of how you intend to promote your commitment to weekly collections for (a minimum of) five years to your residents. For example, this could be via an authority's website, in waste and recycling collections literature for householders, or as a statement in the authority's annual report/accounts.

If the Department is not satisfied that these conditions have been achieved then there is a possibility that funding may be withheld. As outlined in the WCSS Prospectus, the Department reserves the right to request additional information year on year on how funds will be spent.

If you would like to accept this offer of funding, subject to the terms and conditions outlined above, then please confirm your decision by emailing the WCSS Team at

WeeklyCollectionSupportScheme@communities.gsi.gov.uk by 5pm on the 30th of November. If you wish to decline this offer or have any queries then please also e-mail us by the 30th November. Upon receipt of acceptance we will then issue you with a formal offer letter with a Grant Determination for 2012/13 (if applicable to your bid).

Yours sincerely,

Shehla Husain