

**WASTE STRATEGY: DEFRA GRANTS  
(Report by Head of Environment & Transport)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 13 November 2003 Cabinet authorised the Director of Operational Services to seek capital funding from the latest round of DEFRA recycling challenge fund.
- 1.2 The council has been successful in securing a total of £1.6 millions over the two years 2004/05 and 2005/06. This report details the service improvements that will be delivered with this funding. In addition the council has secured a further capital grant of £169k in the current year to deliver improved service arrangements for the collection of dry recyclables in the existing garden waste trial area.

**2. SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS**

- 2.1 In summary the grant awarded for future years provides the following capital funding:
- £963,300 to support the council's commitment to roll-out the garden waste service to all households;
  - £525,500 to enhance the current dry recyclables service by offering wheeled bins in lieu of the existing green boxes to up to 15,000 households; and
  - £60,000 to trial the use of underground neighbourhood recycling bins
- 2.2 The first year revenue cost of the enhanced dry recyclables collections and the underground bins is also supported with grant amounting to £102k.
- 2.3 The benefits of the garden waste service have been well demonstrated by the on-going trial that recently received national recognitions. It was included as a case study in a report on best value published by the ODPM and was specifically mentioned in the Rt. Hon. Nick Raynsford's associated media releases. The award of the whole capital cost of the garden waste bins reflects the importance placed on this scheme by the government.
- 2.4 Households committed to recycling easily fill their 55 litre green box in a two week period. Many such households, particularly in the garden waste trial area, have requested a wheeled bin for their dry recyclables. Such households will view the offer of a wheeled bin as a major service improvement. The grant will allow the service to be made available to up to 15,000 households during 2004/05 on an 'opt-in' basis. Arrangements for this will be tested in the garden waste trial area with the grant secured for 2003/04 which provides for some 9,000 wheeled bins.
- 2.5 Providing underground recycling banks is an effective way of countering concerns over noise and visual amenity. The grant will

allow a small number of sites to be developed, either replacing existing mini recycling centres that have been controversial or to create new sites in more densely populated areas to enhance access for users.

### 3. DISPOSAL OF DRY RECYCLABLES

- 3.1 Reference was made in the report to Cabinet in November 2003 of the increase in cost for the disposal of dry recyclables at Peterborough MRF. At the end of November the facility at Peterborough was closed to the local authorities, excepting Peterborough City Council, that had been using it.
- 3.2 The council has been successful in securing a new arrangement with a MRF operated by Northampton Borough Council that came into operation on 1 December 2003. In negotiating this arrangement the council has also benefited from a reduction in the £37 per tonne gate fee last reported to cabinet. The twelve-month contract with Northampton MRF is based on a £29 per tonne gate fee.
- 3.3 Although the revised gate fee now has been incorporated within the MTP the operational efficiency of taking waste to Bucked, for onward transfer to Northampton, compared with Peterborough has not been quantified.

### 4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The impact of the successful bids on the MTP is shown in the tables below.

<b>Net Capital</b>	<b>03/04</b>	<b>04/05</b>	<b>05/06</b>	<b>06/07</b>	<b>07/08</b>	<b>08/09</b>
Garden Waste		-963				
Dry Recyclables						
U'ground Banks						
<b>Total</b>		<b>-963</b>				

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>03/04</b>	<b>04/05</b>	<b>05/06</b>	<b>06/07</b>	<b>07/08</b>	<b>08/09</b>
Garden Waste		-48	-48	-48	-48	-48
Dry Recyclables			92	92	92	92
U'ground Banks			6	6	6	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>

- 3.2 The provision of wheeled bins for the collection of dry recyclables will encourage householders to participate in the Council's recycling collection services. It will be possible, therefore to scale down promotional activity planned for future years and £16k annually will be released from the recycling policy budget from 2005/06. This will reduce the annual revenue cost to £34k.

### 4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The council has secured nearly £1.8 millions of challenge fund grant that meets a significant part of its cost in extending the garden waste service to all homes. It also provides an opportunity to further

develop recycling services in ways that will be supported by the public.

- 4.2 These significant service improvements will result in an ongoing revenue expenditure of only £34k annually after other budget reductions are accounted for.
- 4.3 To start to realise the service improvements in 2004/05 the council must commit itself to expenditure on the garden waste service already identified in the MTP. This will allow the purchase of vehicles and wheeled bins to be initiated.
- 4.4 The Cabinet are recommended to:-
- (a) note the £1.8 million of grant funding that has been secured;
  - (b) note the introduction of wheeled bins for dry recyclables in the garden waste trial area funded wholly from the grant received in 2003/04;
  - (c) note and approve the changes to the MTP at 3.1 and 3.2 above which are consequent upon proceeding with the grant supported services;
  - (d) approve the release of funds from April 2004 in respect of the Garden Waste – District Wide scheme (MTP Ref 04/522); and
  - (e) note the reduced gate fee associated with the disposal of dry recyclables.

## **Background Papers**

DEFRA Recycling Challenge Fund award notification

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