

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 2nd FEBRUARY 2005

LOCAL AUTHORITY INTERNAL WASTE AUDITS

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Members of additional funding to be made available to support local authority internal waste audits and waste prevention action plans.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Minister for Environment and Rural Development has announced £2 million to support local authority internal waste audits and waste prevention action plans. Up to £62,500 per local authority is to be allocated on receipt of bids outlining how the resources are to be used.
- 2.2 Bids submitted must deal with all aspects of the Council's work indicate when the waste audits will be completed and a waste prevention action plan drawn up; and indicate when the Executive would be advised of the outcomes following implementation of the approved waste prevention plan.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 While the Council had a good record of promoting and encouraging individual departments to reduce and recycle their waste, there has never been sufficient resources available to carry out the detailed analysis/audit work required to quantify the benefits of further investment in waste minimisation/recycling facilities.
- 3.2 The provision of this additional funding would allow this necessary work to be carried out at a time when the Council is promoting waste minimisation/recycling throughout the community via the three bin household waste recycling system.
- 3.3 It has to be said, however, that the ongoing roll-out of the three bin system is stretching existing resources to the limit and the compilation of any bid for the additional funds will place yet additional burdens on an already heavy workload of the staff concerned.
- 3.4 The employment of additional staff would be essential to undertake an internal waste audit, and to devise and implement an appropriate waste

prevention action plan. This cost may be met by a successful bid for funding. A detailed report on the staffing implications will be submitted to the Corporate Governance Committee.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The resources required to compile the bid will require to be met from those existing at present.
- 4.2 Additional staff to undertake an internal waste audit, and to devise and implement an appropriate waste prevention action plan may be met through a successful funding bid.

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Nil.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 At a time when the Council is exhorting the community to review its waste minimisation/recycling behaviour, it is appropriate that the Council should be seen to be also maximising its recycling capabilities.
- 6.2 Undertaking an internal waste audit, and the creation and implementation of an appropriate waste prevention action plan is consistent with Aim 3 of the Improving the Environment Action Plan within the Community Plan.

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The Scottish Executive has intimated that the Council could be allocated up to £62,500 to undertake an internal audit of waste arising from all Council departments and thereafter prepare a waste prevention action plan by submitting a suitable bid in accordance with specified criteria.
- 7.2 If the bid is approved, the Council will be expected to report on the outcome of any waste prevention plan implemented
- 7.3 While overall there is merit in the Council making a bid for the additional funding, it has to be recognised that the officers who will compile the bid already have a significant workload due to the ongoing roll-out of the three bin system.
- 7.4 Additional staff will be required to be employed to undertake an internal waste audit, and to devise and implement an appropriate waste prevention action plan.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Committee is invited to:-

- (i) note that the Cleansing Service will compile a bid for additional resources to undertake an internal waste audit and waste prevention plan;
- (ii) refer this matter to the Corporate Governance Committee in respect of their interests in staffing matters; and
- (iii) otherwise note this report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JFC/JS

13th January 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Letter to the Chief Executive of 3 November 2004 from the Scottish Executive

Any person wishing to inspect the above background paper should telephone 01563 576023 and speak to William Stafford.

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