

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 13 NOVEMBER 2002

STRATEGIC WASTE FUND GUIDANCE

Report by the Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of final guidance from the Scottish Executive for local authorities on the operation of the Strategic Waste Fund.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Strategic Waste Fund was established in 2000 by the Scottish Executive for implementing the National Waste Strategy: Scotland. Following the 2002 spending review there is now over £230 million allocated over the next 3 years (2003-04 to 2005-06) to the fund to assist local authorities in implementation of the Area Waste Plans.
- 2.2 On 14th November 2001 the Committee noted a report on the progress of the new Waste Disposal Contract in which reference was made to the draft Guidance which was subject to consultation. This consultation has now been concluded and a final version of the Guidance issued.
- 2.3 The Guidance is designed to assist local authorities requiring financial support from the Strategic Waste Fund which was established for the implementation of the National Waste Strategy.
- 2.4 Eleven Area Waste Plans are currently being finalised to set out the long-term approach for moving towards sustainable waste management in Scotland. The purpose of each Plan is to identify the best practicable environmental option (BPEO) for dealing with waste in that Area and the strategic options agreed for the management of municipal solid waste, will form the basis for applications to the Strategic Waste Fund.
- 2.5 The purpose of the fund is to decrease the amount of waste sent to landfill by means of waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting or recovery of energy in line with the finalised version of the Area Waste Plan.
- 2.6 Any grant awarded must be for the construction and or purchase of facilities, plant, equipment and services which comply with the BPEO established by the relevant Area Waste Plan.

- 2.7 Waste Planning Areas which can demonstrate significant potential waste diversion in line with the BPEO will receive priority funding.
- 2.8 The Strategic Waste Fund will initially be distributed by the Waste Strategy Team within the Scottish Executive.
- 2.9 As the funding is for the implementation of the Area Waste Plan, the Scottish Executive preference is that the Plan should be completed and agreed before an application is made. There is however scope for applications being considered when the Area Waste Plan is still at the draft stage.
- 2.10 The Executive sees the starting point as the completion of the Area Waste Plan (which defines the BPEO) with each local authority then having to decide how the Plan will be implemented in their area. This is to be done in collaboration with the Waste Strategy Area Group. For Strategic Waste Fund support, Councils will require to submit detailed Implementation Plans which will provide a business case for funding, and include reference to partnership working with others in the WSAG and other local organisations where appropriate.
- 2.11 The Implementation Plan should strategically set out the Council's vision for waste reduction; education/awareness activities; recycling/composting rate; identification of potential markets for the recycled, recovered and composted materials; policies and partnerships with not-for-profit sector/community groups; policies on supporting markets for recycled materials etc.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Following completion of the recent tendering exercise for the new Waste Disposal Contract, Council officers are at present evaluating bids submitted.
- 3.2 Once the bids have been evaluated in terms of technical feasibility/practicality; planning implications; financial, legal and policy implications; the Council will be invited to select a preferred bidder. The preferred bidder's proposals will then be submitted to the Chair of the Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway Waste Strategy Area Group for confirmation that the proposals are in line with the BPEO. On receipt of such confirmation, the preferred bidder will then be invited to collaborate with council staff in the preparation of an Implementation Plan for submission to the Scottish Executive.

Following rigorous examination/assessment by the Scottish Executive (in consultation with the Council) agreement in principle should be obtained from (initially) the Scottish Executive and (subsequently) ministerial approval obtained. At that point the Scottish Executive will make the Council a formal offer of grant.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Allocations from the Strategic Waste Fund can be made as either capital grants, revenue grants, PPP support or a combination of these grants.
- 4.2 Revenue grants or PPP support awarded will normally be included in the sum allocated to the local authority as it's entitled to Aggregate External Finance after an initial 3 year period.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The EU Directive and Landfill.
- 5.2 The Financial Assistance for Environmental Purposes (Scotland) Order 2000.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Committee has noted previous reports which intimated the Council's intention to comply with the development of the National Waste Strategy and the associated procedures.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The Scottish Executive have now issued the final Guidance for local authorities wishing financial support from the Strategic Waste Fund.
- 7.2 The Committee has been advised previously that the tender documents for the new Waste Disposal Contract require the successful bidder to comply with the Ayrshire Dumfries and Galloway Waste Plan.
- 7.3 Arrangements have been made for the Council to comply with the Strategic Waste Fund Guidance in order to secure funds for the new Waste Disposal Contract to commence in May 2003.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Committee is invited to note the report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

23RD October 2002

WS/JFC/KH

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Letter from Richard Arnott, Head of Waste Strategy Team, Scottish Executive Environment Group, dated 15th October 2002 (with enclosures)

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01563 576111 and ask for John Crawford

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AGENDA