

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 12th NOVEMBER 2003

STRATEGIC WASTE FUND – PROGRESS

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of action taken to progress a number of matters resulting from the recent successful bid to the Strategic Waste Fund for the implementation of the three bin system.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 17th September 2003, the Community Services Committee noted a report from the Director confirming an award of £14.89 million from the Strategic Waste Fund to introduce source separated kerbside waste recycling for all households within East Ayrshire.
- 2.2 The award approved by the Scottish Executive provides for expenditure within the current financial year. To ensure that joint working could be demonstrated and best value achieved through bulk purchase, the Waste Management Officers of the four Councils within the Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway Waste Strategy Area Group agreed to share the procurement responsibilities, to allow implementation of the project as approved.
- 2.3 It was agreed that East Ayrshire Council would lead the procurement exercise (on behalf of all four Councils) for the supply of recycling bins and boxes. It was also agreed that South Ayrshire Council would lead the procurement exercise (on behalf of the four Councils) for the supply of the specialist “kerbsider” collection vehicles.
- 2.4 Waste Management Officers of the four Councils participated in the exercise to compile tender documentation; inspect and approve examples of containers and vehicles on offer; and conclude the procurement procedure.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The recent statement by the First Minister that Scotland is to achieve 25% recycling by 2006 means that every Council in Scotland is looking to maximise the recycling of household waste.

- 3.2 There are only a limited number of suppliers of the specialist recycling bins, boxes and vehicles and this in turn limits the available production capacity.
- 3.3 As the Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway Waste Strategy Area is among the first to make successful application to the Strategic Waste Fund, the Officers have seized the opportunity to conclude the procurement exercise so that the vehicles and equipment can be phased in accordance with the proposals approved, some of which requires these to be available for use before the end of the current financial year. This in turn will allow the Council to fully expend the monies available from the Scottish Executive as approved.
- 3.4 At the same time, the Job Description for an additional member of staff required to “market” the new three bin system has been completed and authority to make an appointment was approved by the Corporate Governance Committee on 23rd September 2003. This post will be of a temporary nature for a period of two years.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The expenditure incurred as a result of the appointment of a temporary member of staff and the procurement of recycling bins, boxes and vehicles will be phased in accordance with the bid approved by the Scottish Executive in their letters of 25th September and 10th October 2003.

Detailed aspects of the approved bid have been the subject of ongoing discussion between Scottish Executive Officials and officers from the Community Services and Finance Department.

- 4.2 While the expenditure associated with implementing the project has to be approved by the Scottish Executive, the Council’s financial regulations and EU Procurement Regulations still have to be observed. Recognising that the Executive have approved expenditure for the current year, orders have been placed for 1 “kerbsider” vehicle in the current financial year with a further 2 vehicles in the following financial year. A provisional order has been made for an additional vehicle in the following financial year depending on operational circumstances. Subject to the final specification of the vehicle, the unit price will be between £95,000 and £100,000. In total East Ayrshire will require at least seven vehicles.

At the same time, orders have been placed for additional wheeled bins and boxes and again these will be purchased on a phased basis in accordance with procurement procedures.

The number of each type of bin will be variable depending on the number and nature of properties involved in the scheme.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Nil.

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Following the Ministerial announcement of approval of a bid to the Strategic Waste Fund for the introduction of the three bin system of source –separated household waste recycling, Waste Management Officers of the four Councils within the Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway Waste Strategy Area have concluded the exercises for the procurement of the necessary recycling bins, boxes and vehicles required for the project.

7.2 Given the fact that the equipment and vehicles are not readily available, award letters have been issued and orders have been placed on the basis of the equipment and vehicles being delivered to allow expenditure of the funds approved by the Scottish Executive for the current financial year.

7.3 Corporate Governance Committee has also approved the temporary appointment of an additional member of staff who will be charged with the implementation of the three bin system.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Committee is invited to note the content of this report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

22nd October 2003

WS/JFC/CAM

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

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