

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 17th SEPTEMBER 2003

INTRODUCTION OF THREE BIN AND KERBSIDE BOX COLLECTION SYSTEMS

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the success of the bid of East Ayrshire Council to the Scottish Executive for funding from the Strategic Waste Fund (SWF) to introduce extensive recycling initiatives in accordance with the requirements of the National Waste Strategy for Scotland as expressed in the Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway Area Waste Plan.
- 1.2 To confirm the grant of £14.890 million to East Ayrshire comprising our portion of the £70.1m granted to the four authorities in the Waste Plan area and as announced by Alan Wilson MSP on 4th August. At the time of writing this report East Ayrshire Council is still awaiting official written confirmation from the Scottish Executive.
- 1.3 To demonstrate to the Committee that East Ayrshire Council has successfully engaged with our Waste Plan Area partners North Ayrshire Council, South Ayrshire Council and Dumfries and Galloway Council in joint working.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The National Waste Plan establishes the direction of the Scottish Executive's policies for sustainable Waste Management to 2020. It is built around a major commitment to funding by the Executive to transform Scotland's record on waste reduction, recycling, composting and recovery.
- 2.2 This report relates to a first application by East Ayrshire to the S.W.F. This award specifically addresses the challenge as set out by the First Minister to recycle or compost 25% of the waste East Ayrshire Council collects by 2006.
- 2.3 Further applications for SWF grant aid will be made in due course to achieve the progressively higher diversion/recycling targets required up to 2020. In this connection a further report or reports will be presented to this Committee addressing the complex issues and considerations which will define East Ayrshire's strategy for the implementation of the Area Waste Plan in its wider context. This Implementation Strategy is required by the Scottish Executive to support future bids to the SWF.
- 2.4 The current successful application specifically relates to the introduction of a three bin collection system and a kerbside box collection system by the initial target date of 2006. The funding has been granted as projected on a sustainable basis until 2020.

3. MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The introduction of the three bin and kerbside collection systems conforms with the first undertaking of the Executive Summary of the National Waste Plan:-
“Implementing this National Plan will provide widespread segregated kerbside waste collections across Scotland (to over 90% of households by 2020.)”
- 3.2 The three bin system employs our existing Refuse Collection vehicles and crews on existing routes. Paper will be collected once every four weeks (blue bin), compostable waste once every four weeks (brown bin) and residual waste fortnightly (green/grey existing bin).
- 3.3 The kerbside collect system requires up to ten new highly specialised kerbside collection vehicles at a cost of £90,000 approximately each and up to 22 new jobs. Householders will be issued with a 55 litre box in which to place glass and cans for fortnightly presentation and uplift.
- 3.4 The introduction of the above systems represents a fundamental change in our current collection policy which although very efficient is no longer tenable against the mandatory requirement to divert waste from landfill.
- 3.5 The grant includes funding for an extensive education and pre publicity campaign prior to the introduction of the new systems. The new systems will be introduced in phases over a period of approximately two years with the first phase commencing at the beginning of April 2004. Pre publicity will be effected on receipt of written confirmation of the award.
- 3.6 The grant also includes a sum of £500,000 to upgrade our existing Material Recovery Facility to increase its capability in the throughput of paper as collected in the new system. There may be scope for additional job provision in the MRF.
- 3.7 The separation of green waste enables East Ayrshire Council to pursue composting initiatives with suitable partners.
- 3.8 The scale of change resulting from the three bin and kerbside collect systems is massive with the promise of yet further change through to 2020. In this connection it is suggested that the formation of a member/officer working group be set up to consider, monitor and work through this initial change and subsequent change as the further challenges of the Area Waste Plan arise.
- 3.9 Consultation will also take place with the Trade Unions on the detailed implementation.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The maintenance of current practice is not an option in view of the new obligations which are placed on the Council.
- 4.2 The additional cost of introducing the new recycling measures is what is being funded from the S.W.F. Base budget projections for disposal and associated landfill tax

(which is on a yearly accelerator) has been taken into account in the bid submission and is effectively repositioned to support the recycling initiative up to 2020.

- 4.3 In accepting the bid the Scottish Executive will be advised by East Ayrshire Council that a number of assumptions e.g. the value/tonne of glass may vary downwards necessitating a need for the Scottish Executive to revisit the original submission and if necessary make up for any shortfall.

5. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 East Ayrshire Council is required to comply with the European Landfill Directive as expressed through the National Waste Plan and the Area Waste Plan. The proposed increase in recycling and waste diversion is in accordance with the Council's Environmental Strategy.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- i. Note the award of grant funding for the introduction of a three bin collection system and kerbside box collection system for refuse/recyclate;
 - ii. Approve the introduction of the above schemes and associated practices in a phased programme as from the beginning of April 2004 over a period of approximately two years as outlined in 3 of this report;
 - iii. Consider the establishment of a member/officer group to assist in managing this initial change and the further changes which will be required in successfully implementing the Area Waste Plan, and if agreed, remit to Council to agree.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

WS/JS

29th August 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Implementation Officer – john.crawford@east-ayrshire.gov.uk