

CABINET

3 December 2003

NATIONAL WASTE MINIMISATION AND RECYCLING FUND BID

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND HOUSING

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RECENT REFERENCES:

None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report informs Members of the availability of “challenge funding” to local authorities under the National Waste Minimisation and Recycling Fund. The report also requests Cabinet approval for the endorsement of a Partnership Bid through Project Integra (PI) including an individual element of up to £250,000 to support a trial for the kerbside collection of garden waste and measures to improve the quality and quantity of dry recyclables collected.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Cabinet endorses the submission of a Partnership Bid by Project Integra under the National Waste Minimisation and Recycling Fund including a bid of up to £250k for the City Council to support a trial for the kerbside collection of garden waste and measures to improve the quality and quantity of dry recyclables collected within the district.
2. That in the event of the Bid being successful a further report be brought to Cabinet on:
 - a) the detailed proposals, terms and conditions, and financial implications so these can be considered as part of the 2004/05 budget process and
 - b) the outcome of the Waste Management Policy Review undertaken by Health Performance and Improvement Committee Working Group.

CABINET3 December 2003NATIONAL WASTE MINIMISATION AND RECYCLING FUND BIDREPORT OF DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND HOUSINGDETAIL:1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Health Performance and Improvement Committee Working Group has been undertaking a review of the various options available for improving recycling performance and the outcome will be reported at the meeting to be held on 21 January 2004. Whilst the outcome of the review has yet to be considered, obtaining suitable funding is crucial to meeting the Council's long term aspiration of providing a garden waste collection service and meeting recycling targets.
- 1.2 The Government has recently released details of funding available to local authorities for sustainable waste management initiatives across England. Under the provisions of the National Waste Minimisation and Recycling Fund, £90 million is available for 2004/05 and £45 million in 2005/06.

2 Bids for Funding

- 2.1 Under the terms of the guidelines, authorities were permitted to make a single bid under one of two categories namely; General Projects or Partnership Projects. Authorities wishing to be considered under Partnership Projects needed to submit expressions of interest by 10 November 2003 and all final bids submitted by 28 November 2003. Partnership bids could attract up to £5 million funding whilst bids for General Projects are limited to a maximum of £1.5 million per authority.
- 2.2 Following discussions with PI who had been in contact with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) it was apparent that the greatest benefit to both the Council and PI was most likely to be derived by supporting a Partnership Bid. This approach was also considered to represent the greatest chance of success and following discussion with the Chief Executive, Leader and Director of Health and Housing a Partnership Bid was supported.
- 2.3 Subsequently, a PI Partnership Bid has been submitted which includes a package of measures to support collection infrastructure, communications, waste minimisation projects, community engagement and education, community action, research and development. Within the overall PI Partnership bid it was also decided to include a bid of up to £250k to support a trial for the kerbside collection of garden waste and measures to improve the quality and quantity of dry recyclables collected within the district.
- 2.4 It is hoped that successful applicants will be notified by Defra in mid December. Project Integra will then need to evaluate and prioritise the individual Waste Collection Authority bids. Allocation of funding relating to individual waste collection authorities will be known in January 2004 at the earliest. The evaluation criteria have not yet been agreed but are likely to include an assessment of whether the bids

complement the general strategic approach within the partnership (i.e. improving the capture and quality of recyclable materials using proven systems and value for money).

- 2.5 Whilst no decision has been made by Cabinet how the Council will meet its future recycling targets it was considered appropriate to submit a bid for funding at this stage to try and secure resources to meet the outcome of the review.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

3 CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

- 3.1 The Green Agenda, including the minimising of waste, is a key priority within the Council's Corporate Strategy for 2004-07. Under that priority, identified improvements include the introduction of improved waste collection and recycling services including the kerbside collection of garden waste.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 4.1 There are no financial commitments or resource implications associated with submission of the initial bid. However, in the event of the Council being successful in securing funding through the Partnership Bid it will be required to sign up to conditions concerning expenditure of the monies including, so far as possible, joint procurement. A commitment may also need to be given to sustaining any projects undertaken in the longer term.
- 4.2 The City Council is not at present in a position to give such a commitment as the long term future of the service may be dependent upon the success of any trial undertaken and consideration of the long term financial implications. Notwithstanding this, it is considered appropriate to support the submission of a bid subject to satisfactory terms and conditions being agreed with Defra and financial implications being considered as part of the 2004/05 budget process.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

National Waste Minimisation and Recycling Fund in England. Guidelines for Applicants 2004/05 and 2005/06.

APPENDICES:

None.