

**RURAL ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2012**

**REPORT OF HEAD OF REGULATORY SERVICES**

**£240M WEEKLY COLLECTION FUND**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To advise members of the opportunities available under the recently announced Central Government '£240m Weekly Collection Fund' and request members' support to submit an Expression of Interest for a Food Collection Service bid.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 **Members support the Expression of Interest (EOI) regarding the Governments current £240m Weekly Food Waste Collection Fund attached as Appendix 1.**

2.2 **Members receive notification of the outcome of the EOI and or subsequent bid.**

**3.0 KEY ISSUES**

3.1 In December 2011 the Department of Communities & Local Government announced a £240m fund to be bid for by Local Authorities that wish to provide weekly collections for waste (including food waste) would be created.

3.2 Details of the fund including the prospectus and bidding form, funding criteria, and Expressions of Interest form were announced and published on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2012.

3.3 Those details are attached as Appendix 2 -6 of this report.

3.4 Members may wish to note the following key points about the fund:

- Option 1: Introduce, retain or reinstate a weekly residual collection (alongside fortnightly recyclables collection)
- Option 2: Improvements to existing weekly residual collections (environmental performance, affordability or sustainability)
- Option 3: Adding a weekly food/organic waste collection to a fortnightly residual collection

3.5 The first deadline is to submit an initial Expression of Interest (EOI) by 16<sup>th</sup> March 2012. A proposed EOI is attached as Appendix 1.

3.6 The key parameters of the bidding process are as follows:

- £50m is available in 2012/13, £100m in 2013/14 and £100m in 2014/15 to be spent on revenue or capital expenditure. No cap on amount you can bid for.
- Bidders are required to make a 5 year commitment to the services.
- Bidders should confirm that other affected Councils are supportive. Joint bids are welcomed.
- Successful bidders will be expected to monitor and evaluate their scheme and volunteer to make the data publicly available.

3.7 The main Evaluation Criteria are as follows:

There are three core criteria:

- Weekly collections of residual waste or, where bids propose weekly food/organic waste collections with fortnightly residual waste, there is credible support from local people.
- Deliver value for money.
- Deliver an environmental benefit over current performance.
- Bids must evidence support for additional activity, and will benefit from innovation.

3.8 For Melton Borough Council it is considered that the service proposed that would provide 'best fit' both with the existing service and the aim of the fund would be that:

- MBC provide a 'kitchen caddy' to assist the gathering up food waste inside the home.
- Week: 1 food waste then goes into the customers black bin for collection in the conventional manner.
- Week: 2 The caddy is emptied into a self locking 30 litre external/outside container (also provided by MBC) and collected on a separate, new, food waste collection round.

3.9 In other areas, food waste collections have been found to have mixed results in that, in positive terms, they highlight to householders the scale of their food waste raise the issue of overbuying. However, this can have a negative consequences in financial terms as residents awareness encourages more efficient purchasing and tonnages reduce over time, resulting in the tonnes collected becoming more expensive (per tonne). This can be a deterrent to the introduction of such schemes when funded by 'mainstream' budgets, but within the context of an additional, specific, funding source such as this opportunity, there is a prospect of delivering an enhanced service without the adverse impact on budgets.

3.10 Option 3 of the guidance is considered to be the appropriate option as it appears to be clearly aimed at those authorities looking to add an a extra collection service for food waste to its existing provision.

3.11 To ensure the bid is within the key parameters of the fund and addresses the main areas of evaluation criteria, the proposed bid would identify linkages with each to be detailed within the full funding application.

3.12 Those details would include :

- Reference to various customer concerns and complaints in regards to residual waste (such as food) being collected 'only' on a fortnightly basis.
- The bid would seek full capital and revenue costs for a five year project designed to fit with the remaining five years of the current waste management contract ,
- If deemed a success, consideration would be given to including a provision that would see residual waste such as food , collected weekly within future contracts
- The affect of an additional supplementary residual waste collection (suitable for the disposal of the most putrescent materials such as food only collecting up to 30 litres extra per fortnight) will be monitored and date from the project will be available upon request
- Leicestershire County Council have indicated they will support and endorse WCA 240 m fund bids.

- We would look to justify best value through an OJEU process to identify a best value contractor/ partner to deliver the service.
- We would look to further increase customer co-operation and participation with other recycling and recovery by the additional weekly service demonstrating our commitment to addressing their concerns resulting in them assisting us with improving environmental performance

#### 4.0 **POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no direct policy or corporate implications as a direct result of this report. However, it has the potential to stimulate a new area of recycling which will contribute to overall recycling rates.

#### 5.0 **FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The financial and resource implications of introducing a separate food waste collection round for a minimum of five years is likely to be in the region of £3.5m, this costing will be accurately constructed and form the basis of the funding bid. All costs associated with this proposal (capital and revenue) will be incorporated into the funding bid and as such it would have no impact on established budgets or services but would be 'layered' independently over and above the existing services. The input required to submit the bid can be met from existing resource provision.

5.2 The bid would seek to cover a 5 year operating period and as such it would terminate at the same point in time as the existing waste contract. This will ensure there are no residual costs falling to the Council and permit a comprehensive decision on waste services to be carried out upon termination of both the contract and the project.

#### 6.0 **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS**

6.1 There are no legal implications or powers issues as a result of this report. The scale and value of the prospective new service is such that it would need to be procured competitively and could not, for example, simply be appended to the services provided by our current service provider.

#### 7.0 **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

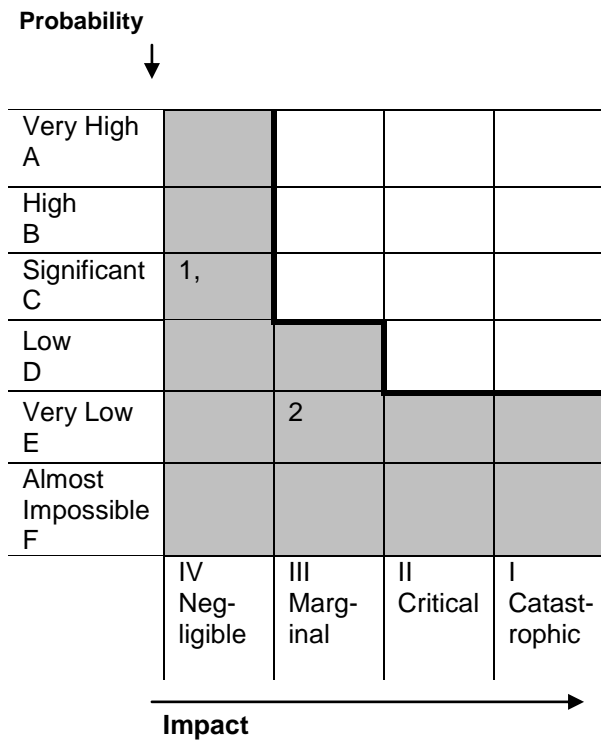
7.1 There are no community safety issues arising as a result of this report

#### 8.0 **EQUALITIES**

8.1 Any proposal would be subject to an EIA and issues arising designed into the scheme.

#### 9.0 **RISKS**

9.1



Risk No.	Description
1.	Bid is unsuccessful
2	Residents do not welcome food recycling opportunity.

10.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE**

10.1 There are no significant climate change implications relating to this report

11.0 **CONSULTATION**

11.1 Give any consultation process and outcomes that have informed the report including wards consulted

12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 Give the wards affected by the report

Contact Officer R Selvon, Waste Management and Grounds Maintenance Manager

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2012

Appendices : 1: Draft Expression of Interest Form  
2-6: Details of Scheme and Evaluation Criteria