

# North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet Date: 13 August 2012

## ITEM 5(g)

Title: Weekly Collection  
Support Scheme

<b>Portfolio(s):</b> Transport and the Environment	<b>Cabinet Member(s):</b> Councillor Ed Hodson
<b>Report from Directorate:</b> Community Services	
<b>Report Author:</b> Phil Scott, Head of Environmental Services	(Tel: 0191 643 7295 )
<b>Wards affected:</b> All Wards	

### PART 1

#### 1.1 Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to enable Cabinet to consider recommendations regarding submission of a Final Bid to the Department of Communities and Local Government with regard to the award of grants from the Weekly Collection Support Scheme.

#### 1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 1) Grant delegated authority to the Head of Environmental Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport and the Environment, and the Strategic Director of Finance and Resources to prepare and submit a final bid to the Weekly Collection Support Scheme.

#### 1.3 Forward plan:

The report is identified in the Forward Plan for the period 1 July 2012 – 31 October 2012.

#### 1.4 Council plan and policy framework

This report relates to the 2012 – 2015 Council Strategic Plan, Priority 1; Sustaining our front line Council services within the Council, but only spending what we can afford. A request for decision not being subject to call-in has been submitted because of the tight timescales involved.

#### 1.5 Information:

##### 1.5.1 Weekly Collection Support Scheme Fund

The Weekly Collection Support Scheme is a challenge fund administered by the Department of Communities and Local Government designed to support local authorities to introduce, retain or reinstate a weekly collection of residual waste and/or recycling. The aim of the scheme is to support local authorities to:

- Introduce, retain or reinstate a weekly collection of residual household waste. In addition, these collections must be supplemented by a separate recyclables collection at least once a fortnight; **or**
- Propose improvements to an existing waste service which is already centred around a weekly residual collection, for example by improving environmental performance, increasing the affordability or sustainability of that service; **or**
- Add a weekly food waste (or organic waste) service to an **existing** fortnightly collection of residual household waste, where an authority can credibly demonstrate that this represents the preference of local people.

1.5.2 The Government is particularly keen to promote new technologies, the use of incentives schemes and promote better procurement and joint working. The more comprehensive a collection service is, the more likely it is to score well against the assessment criteria.

### 1.5.3 Funding and Bid Process

The Weekly Collection Support Scheme is a three year fund from 2012/13 to 2014/15 but with a single round of bidding. The spend profile is up to £250m over three years: £50m in year one, and £100m in each of years two and three. At the outline bid stage the scheme was 100% oversubscribed by value.

1.5.4 The scheme will award funding over the three years as outlined above but only to local authorities that commit to weekly collections for a minimum of five years from 2012/13.

1.5.5 Local Authorities that successfully bid for funding will be offered a Section 31 (Local Government Act 2003) grant payment that they can use for either revenue or capital expenditure.

1.5.6 The bidding process is:

<b>Bid Stage</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Action required to meet Bid Criteria</b>
<b>Expression of Interest</b>	16 March 2012 (submitted 15/03/12)	What is to be done, how it will meet the criteria, costs, procurement, planning and benefits. Using a defined pro forma document.
<b>Outline Bid</b>	11 May 2012 (submitted 11/05/12)	Details of current and planned collection arrangements, breakdown of funding sought, results of public consultation, waste management outcomes, innovative elements, timeline and risk register. Approved by Section 151 officer. Using a defined pro forma document.
<b>Feedback</b>	22 June – 1 August 2012	Additional information and queries responded to with support from DCLG in the form of detailed telephone feedback from Local Partnerships.
<b>Final Bid</b>	17 August 2012	As per the Outline Bid but strengthened following the response to the feedback from the Weekly Collection Support scheme policy team and sign off by Section 151 officer. Approved through Council political process. Using a defined pro forma document.
<b>Final Decision by DCLG</b>	October 2012	

### 1.5.7 North Tyneside Council's bid to the Weekly Collection Support Scheme

The final bid to be submitted to the Weekly Collection Support Scheme is for up to £3.4 million of additional funding.

1.5.8 The bid is for a four pronged approach to sustaining a weekly refuse collection service and improving recycling in the borough, and based upon receiving the full amount of funding. The four strands support a range of mutually supportive weekly collection and recycling activities in our borough:

- **Retaining weekly collections – ‘bridging the gap’**  
Maintaining a weekly waste collection service over the next 5 years will cost North Tyneside Council a considerable additional sum compared with fortnightly collections. Our bid will support the Council in bridging this gap and allow the Council to commit to maintaining a weekly collection of residual waste and food waste for the next five years. North Tyneside is a population growth point and the bid will ensure that the discretionary garden waste collection service can be offered to these new properties.
- **Harmonising weekly collections across the Borough**  
All householders in North Tyneside have their “main” wheelie bins emptied weekly. There are however two types of bins in use, 90,000 “standard” and 5,000 “diamond”. This means we must run two types of lorries. This makes us less flexible and more expensive. Our stock of replacement “diamond” bins has run out and getting replacements is expensive. Replacing the “diamond” bins will mean all households have the same bin type and can be served by any of our lorries. These collections can then be optimised as the other weekly collections already have been.
- **Delivering an incentives and awareness campaign**  
We have a successful record of waste and recycling campaigns. A recent campaign led to a 7% increase in the weight of plastic bottles recycled. Our bid will enable us to deliver a “Watch your Waste” campaign and provide rewards for positive action throughout each of the three years of funding. Delivered in conjunction with the other strands of this bid, in particular the increase in ‘recycling on the go’ (see detail below) will result in less waste overall being generated in North Tyneside with a larger proportion of that waste being recycled. This “Watch your Waste” campaign will be part of a wide ranging and holistic carbon reduction campaign that will influence a spectrum of behaviours.
- **Increasing the number of ‘recycling on the go’ bins across the Borough and buying a specialist vehicle**  
We currently have 219 ‘recycling on the go’ bins across the borough and 1,300 standard litter bins. Our residents tell us they would like to see more recycling bins, this bid will allow us to buy 675 more. At present the litter bins and recycling bins must be emptied separately. This bid will allow us to buy a vehicle which will be able to empty all street bin types at the same time, making the collections more efficient and environmentally sustainable.

1.5.9 We will only know how much, if any, grant will be awarded when the final decision on successful bids and the amount of each grant allocation is made by the Secretary of State in October 2012. If successful a further report will be brought to Cabinet for the acceptance and allocation of funds.

## **1.6 Decision options:**

The following options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

### **1.6.1 Option 1 (recommended)**

Grant delegated authority to the Head of Environmental Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport and the Environment and the Strategic Director of Finance and Resources to submit a final bid to the Weekly Collection Support Scheme.

### **1.6.2 Option 2**

Do not grant approval to proceed in submitting a final bid.

## **1.7 Reasons for recommended option:**

Option 1 is the recommended option as the approval of Cabinet is a requirement of the bidding process to submit a final bid to the Weekly Collection Support Scheme.

1.7.1 If approval is not given the Council will not be able to access any of the grant funding available under the scheme.

## **1.8 Appendices:**

North Tyneside's Final Bid for funding to the Weekly Collection Support Scheme

## **1.9 Contact officers:**

Phil Scott, Head of Environmental Services. Tel: (0191) 643 7295

Catherine Lyons, Senior Manager, Waste and Environmental Sustainability. Tel: (0191) 643 7780

Alison Campbell, Finance Business Manager. Tel: (0191) 643 7038

James Roff, Partnerships Manager. Tel: (0191) 643 5857

## **1.10 Background information:**

- Weekly Collection Support Scheme Bid documents issues by the Department for Communities and Local Government
- Outline Bid to the Weekly Collection Support Scheme
- Expression of Interest to the Weekly Collection Support Scheme

## **PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING**

### **2.1 Finance and other resources**

2.1.1 The final bid to be submitted to the Weekly Collection Support Scheme is for up to £3.4 million of additional funding.

2.1.2 Support from the bid will relieve existing budgetary pressures in year one (2012/13) and going forwards. The council is seeking grant funding to support the additional costs it faces from retaining a weekly refuse collection service, from increasing opportunities to recycle and from North Tyneside being a growth point with respect to the number of households.

2.1.3 The project has been profiled to deliver the majority of the project expenditure in years two and three. This provides sustainable service improvement through improved recycling on the go, collection infrastructure improvements and community development work.

2.1.4 Savings arising from activity delivered through the bid, e.g. increases in recycling and efficiencies in collection services will be reinvested in the service and will ensure a weekly collection service will be sustainable for five years, as required by the bid.

2.1.5 Payments from the Scheme will be in the form of a Section 31 (Local Government Act 2003) grant payment which is not ring-fenced. This kind of grant payment allows local authorities greater flexibility in how they go about providing services to their residents. DCLG will not claw back funding awarded under this Scheme in-year. However, in order to minimise risk, funding will only be paid one year at a time.

## **2.2 Legal**

Payments in respect of the Weekly Collection Support Scheme will be in the form of a Section 31 Local Government Act 2003 grant payment as outlined above. Any breach of grant conditions could potentially result in claw back or grant or withholding of future years' grant. Legal advice will be provided as appropriate as any projects are they are developed or progressed.

## **2.3 Consultation/community engagement**

### **2.3.1 Internal Consultation**

Briefings have been provided to the Mayor, Lead Cabinet Member and other members of Cabinet on the bid process and the possible range of actions that could meet the bid criteria. The Final Bid has been shaped by this consultation.,

### **2.3.2 External Consultation**

External consultation on the proposals has been carried out including through the following events:

Council House tenants event	13/03/12
North Shields Area Forum	22/03/12
Presentation at Tynemouth Village	27/03/12
Questionnaire re proposals in the bid – website from	02/04/12 – 3/05/12
North Shields Housing Forum	04/04/12
Residents panel discussion	12/04/12

Initial feedback indicates that residents are keen to take up additional routes and capacity for recycling. The feedback was less supportive about rewarding those who are already recycling as they thought it was something that responsible householders should already be doing. Research and our own experience has shown that incentive and reward schemes can nonetheless be very effective in capturing more recyclable material

## **2.4 Human rights**

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report.

## **2.5 Equalities and diversity**

There are no equality and diversity implications directly arising from this report.

## 2.6 Risk management

There are no risk management implications directly arising from this report.

## 2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications directly arising from this report.

## 2.8 Environment and sustainability

2.8.1 A successful bid delivering improvements over the five years of the projects will prevent the generation of **81,600 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e**. CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) is the standard measure used by government (as defined by the Department of Energy and Climate Change) to measure the carbon impact of a service or action.

2.8.2 Weekly refuse collection will ensure a sustained focus on recycling is maintained. Contamination of kerbside recycling bins will remain at the current very low level of 1%, maximising the recycling of collected material. With fortnightly collection, contamination rates, i.e. the amount of non-recyclable material put into a recycling bin, are regularly between 12-15%, equivalent to reducing our recycling by 4,000 tonnes over 5 years.

2.8.3 If the bid is successful we will have the resources to ensure all properties are provided with the appropriate bins and caddies, with the aim of achieving 50% recycling and enable us to complete a route and round optimisation project with projected savings on fuel and CO<sub>2</sub>.

2.8.4 The bid will enable us to expand the garden waste collection service to a further 6,000 households in five years, increasing the amount of garden waste composted by 1,123 tonnes, diverting even more waste from landfill over 5 years.

2.8.5 We will be able to buy and site 675 more 'recycling on the go' bins and a specialist vehicle which will be able to empty all street bin types at the same time, which will increase the amount of recycling collected by 4,000 tonnes over the five years.

2.8.6 Delivering an awareness and rewards campaign in conjunction with the other strands above will result in less waste overall being generated in North Tyneside. The aim is to absorb the increase in waste arising from an additional 5,000 properties, equivalent to a reduction of 4,805 tonnes of waste annually, and continue the downward trend in household waste of 1% per annum, reducing waste arising by a further 2,675 tonnes. The campaign will also ensure more of the waste that does arise is recycled, up to 50% by the end of year 5. This "Watch your Waste" campaign will be part of a wide ranging and holistic "Watch Your Step" carbon reduction campaign that will influence a spectrum of behaviours.

### **PART 3 - SIGN OFF**

- Chief Executive  X
- Strategic Director(s)  X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)  X
- Chief Finance Officer  X
- Monitoring Officer  X
- Strategic Manager for Policy and Partnerships  X