

## **Statement re: Eric Pickles £250m Weekly Waste Scheme**

Details of how to apply for the £250 million funding identified to support councils in delivering a weekly collection of household waste have not yet been made available. However, reverting to weekly collection of residual waste would not enable the council to achieve its objectives of increasing recycling and reducing waste to landfill.

There are 348 local authorities with waste collection responsibilities in England and Wales and of these 195 operate alternate weekly collections of non-recycled waste. The Local Government Group issued a briefing paper which states that funding will be given to local authorities that guarantee to retain or reinstate weekly collections of residual waste for at least five years. If Wiltshire Council continues with the current roll out of new services and adds weekly residual waste collection, the cost of the additional collection service for residual waste alone would be £3.2m each year, assuming that 50% recycling is achieved. This gives a cost of £16m over the five year period.

At present in Wiltshire the recycling rates achieved where there are fortnightly collections of residual waste are 46% in the east and 44% in the west. Recycling rates where there are weekly collections of residual waste are 37% in the south and 26% in the north. There is a risk that if Wiltshire Council reverts to weekly collection, recycling rates will fall and more waste would be sent to landfill as a consequence. If recycling levels fall to 35%, total costs of the additional residual waste collection could be in excess of £5.5m each year by 2014 due to the increase in Landfill Tax to £80 per tonne.

Further information about the additional funding is due to be released by the Department for Communities and Local Government and we will consider this when it is made available.