

## **West Wiltshire District Council**

### **Cabinet**

**5 May 2004**

#### **Recycling – extension of kerbside collection of recyclables**

**1. Purpose**

To obtain agreement for extending kerbside collections of dry recyclables to Bradford on Avon, Warminster and Westbury.

**2. Background**

Collections of dry recyclables from households in Melksham, Melksham Without and Trowbridge started in the autumn of 2003. The introduction of this service resulted from a successful funding bid to DEFRA in 2003/04 - in subsequent years, the funding is the responsibility of the District Council.

A further bid submitted to DEFRA to extend these kerbside collections to Bradford on Avon, Westbury and Warminster in 2004/05 was not successful. However, the County Council has made finance available for providing vehicles and collection boxes, and to cover the first year's operating costs, so this service can start in July 2004. The result would be that 78% of households in West Wiltshire would receive a kerbside collection.

**3. Key issues**

The Council is required to achieve a statutory recycling target of 21% by 2005/06. This will not be achieved without significant investment in additional recycling facilities and the support of the public. It is recognised that this will require an extension of current arrangements and providing information and advice to ensure that services are well used.

The target of 21% by 2005/06 will not be reached unless the Council provides a kerbside collection service for dry recyclables to the majority of households in the District. The bid submitted to DEFRA to extend such collections to Bradford on Avon, Warminster and Westbury estimated that this would produce an additional 2,418 tonnes of recyclable, equivalent to 3.1%. The introduction of compost collections in Melksham and Trowbridge is estimated to increase the Council's recycling rate by 6% in a full year. The overall rate achieved for 2003/04 was approximately 9%.

Members of the public have a key role in achieving recycling/composting targets, and the need to provide continuous information and advice is essential. An improvement in participation rates and yields per household is anticipated in Melksham and Trowbridge following the introduction of compost collections.

The County Council is working in partnership with West Wiltshire in support of the achieving recycling targets. The award of the contract for waste disposal in West Wiltshire to Hills Waste in 2001 enabled an agreement to be signed between the two authorities for providing additional recycling facilities. Under the agreement Hills Waste is required to construct and manage two household recycling centres, one in Melksham and the second in Trowbridge, and to take over responsibility for the kerbside collection of newspapers and magazines. In recognition of the contribution towards meeting the Council's recycling target, it was agreed that West Wiltshire would contribute £85,000 each year for the first five years towards the additional costs incurred by the County Council. This agreement will end on 31 July 2006, when the money can be used to part fund the extension of the dry recyclables collections.

***Financial implications:***

A bid for extending the scheme was made to DEFRA as part of the 2004/-5 service and financial planning process. Unfortunately, this was unsuccessful and the Council now needs to look at other funding options, particularly if it is to stand a chance of achieving the statutory target of 21% in 2005/06.

Wiltshire County Council have indicated they are willing to meet set up costs if the scheme can be started in 2004/05 and a further contract savings, relating to the original recycling and collection scheme will be available from 1 August 2006.

The financial implications are given in the table below. This shows a need for additional funding of £185k in 2005/06, which would restrict the amount available for service growth in 2005/06 and following years.

At this stage the exact annual revenue cost is not known.

Year	£k	Description
2004/05	Nil	Set up costs in year 1 paid by Wiltshire County Council
2005/06	185	Full year based on DEFRA bid
2006/07	128	Reduced by part year contract contribution
2007/08	100	Reduced by full year contract contribution

The County Council's contribution in the first year are £176,500 capital and approximately £138,000 revenue expenditure.

***Legal issues:***

West Wiltshire District Council has a statutory duty to achieve recycling targets.

***Human rights:***

There are no significant human rights implications.

**4. Options**

Council could delay the introduction of an extended kerbside collection service but this would deny the opportunity to access funding offered by the County Council.

**5. Key decisions**

Statement of reason for key decision	To achieve District Council recycling targets
Options considered and rejected	Delay in implementation
Date of implementation (not less than five days after date of decision)	June 2004

**6. List of background papers**

An agreement dated 16 June 2003 between Wiltshire County Council and West Wiltshire District Council.

**7. Recommendation (s)**

To extend the kerbside collection of dry recyclables to Bradford on Avon, Warminster and Westbury.



Plain English guidance given

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