



To: Executive Councillor for Environmental and Waste Services – Councillor Jean Swanson
Report by: Jen Robertson – Waste Strategy Manager
Relevant scrutiny committee: Environment Scrutiny Committee 26th June 2012
Wards affected: All Wards

**Bid for funding to the Department for Communities and Local Government under the Weekly Collections Support Fund
Key Decision**

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 In October 2011 members considered a report entitled ‘Beyond 45% recycling’, which included options for increasing recycling. The Executive Councillor approved the commissioning of a waste analysis and door-knocking exercise which is in the process of being conducted. The report and outcome from this work will be brought to committee for consideration in October with an action plan of ways of increasing recycling in the city in order to meet targets of recycling 50-55% by 2015/16. This report recommended waiting for the results of the waste analysis before making decisions on food waste collections.
- 1.2 However, in February 2012 the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) announced a fund of £250 million to support local authorities to:
 - 1.2.1 Introduce, retain or reinstate a weekly collection of residual household waste
 - 1.2.2 Propose improvements to an existing waste service centred around a weekly residual collection
 - 1.2.3 Add a weekly food waste (or organic waste) service to an existing fortnightly collection of residual waste
- 1.3 At Committee in October the Exec Councillor ruled out applying under criteria 1.2.1 and 1.2.1.
- 1.4 Cambridge City Council has submitted an outline bid for a weekly food waste collection from flats under the third criterion, but seeks approval to continue with the submission. Although we probably will not have the results of the waste analysis work until after the final bid submission date, it was felt that this was an opportunity and because of the lack of coverage/use of the green waste service at flats and

therefore participation is low, we are confident that food waste capture in flats is very low.

- 1.5 The deadline for final bids to be submitted is 17th August, with decisions being made by DCLG in October. However, it is important to note that the fund has been over subscribed by almost double with bids being submitted to the value of £450 million.
- 1.6 If successful the funding would be for three years, however the authority has to commit to funding the scheme for years 4 and 5.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended:

- 2.1 To approve the continuation of the submission of the bid for funding for a weekly food waste collection for flats.
- 2.2 To include in the forthcoming budget cycle a capital bid funded by the external grant, plus revenue implications for five years funded for the first three years by the external grant.
- 2.3 To include in the forthcoming budget cycle a revenue bid for the continuation of the scheme beyond the initial five year.

3. Background

- 3.1 DCLG have also set three core criteria which each bid had to satisfy. These are:
 - 3.1.1 Deliver a weekly collection of residual waste or the addition of a weekly food waste collection to support a fortnightly residual collection.
 - 3.1.2 Deliver value for money and
 - 3.1.3 Deliver an environmental benefit over current performance.
- 3.2 As the current mixed food and garden waste collection provided to houses is fortnightly, we have tended to shy away from including flats as best practice indicates that food only services are more suited to weekly collections. The council recognises the potential for increased capture of food waste through a weekly collection system for flats. Research carried out by WRAP¹ shows that the combination of fortnightly residual waste and weekly food waste collections maximises the diversion of food waste.
- 3.3 However, this funding provides an opportunity to improve services to residents in flats and capture more food waste, thereby diverting more

¹ Performance analysis of mixed food and garden waste collection schemes WRAP Feb 2010
Report Page No: 2

waste from the residual bins.

- 3.4 The bid includes capital funding for a vehicle suitable for collecting food waste only, kitchen caddies, housing units for bins and the bins themselves. The revenue funding is to run the vehicle and promote the scheme. There is also a small allocation for cleaning the food waste bins.
- 3.5 We have approximately 18,000 residents living in 10,000 flats across the city. This equates to 350 blocks of flats plus approximately 450 flats above shops. The proposal is for these blocks and individual flats to be provided with a slightly different weekly service. The blocks may have on average 30 flats per block and would therefore require a 240 or 360 litre wheeled bin which would be provided along with a housing unit to enclose the bin and reduce odour.
- 3.6 The individual flats within the blocks would be provided with a kitchen caddy and one roll of liners free of charge to get people started. Flats above shops would be provided with 23 litre caddy bins to be put out at the kerbside for collection. These residents would also be offered a kitchen caddy and liners. Evidence suggests that these caddies are a real support to residents in managing their food waste and encouraging them to separate out food waste from residual waste in the kitchen.
- 3.7 Like the fortnightly mixed food and garden waste collection, the material would be taken to an In-Vessel Composting facility, where it would be included as part of the contract the County Council has with AmeyCespa.
- 3.8 Providing this service to 10,000 households on a weekly basis would require one extra collection vehicle. We have been advised that the suitable type of vehicle for food waste only collections is a Terburg top-loader with 25m³ capacity and an 18 tonne chassis. In order to monitor tonnage produced from specific flats we have included costs for in cab technology and on-board weighing facilities.
- 3.9 Targeted promotional work would be carried out as only a proportion of residents would be included in the new service. However, we would also be keen to support this through the use of the resident magazine, the website and our Facebook page. Printed literature would be delivered direct to households with the caddies. In order to carry out targeted promotions and support the operational roll out we would want to employ a temporary member of staff for 18 months to work specifically on this new service to flats to make sure the maximum potential can be gained from the service. We would also use our

volunteer Recycling Champions to provide face to face follow-up to specific flats if tonnage figures suggested low participation rate.

3.10 WRAP research suggests that between 0.4 – 0.6 kg/hh/week can be obtained from weekly food waste collections at flats. We believe that with high quality frequent communications with residents in flats plus targeted follow-up, we can obtain the top of this range. Based on this we are predicting an extra 312 tonnes of material diverted to the composting process each year (0.6kg of food waste x 10,000 flats x 52 weeks).

4. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

The table below shows the funding requirements for each year of the five years that the bid required figures for. A successful bid will receive funding for the first three years. The council will be required to fund years 4 and 5. The totals for years 4 and 5 include £6,000 for communications work.

	Capital	Revenue	Total
Year 1	266,105	152,982	419,087
Year 2		153,932	153,932
Year 3		125,932	125,932
Year 4		125,932	125,932
Year 5		125,932	125,932
Total	266,105	684,711	950,816

(b) Staffing Implications (if not covered in Consultations Section)

A driver/loader and loader would need to be employed to carry out the collections of food waste and flats.

(c) Equal Opportunities Implications

An Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out. This will take place if the recommendations are approved and the bid is successful.

(d) Environmental Implications

The bid submission includes required details about carbon savings. These were based on diverting food waste from landfill and an expected increase in dry recycling as a result of the publicity and promotion of the new service to flats. Over the 5 years that the bid covers, the approximate total diverted material is calculated at 2,604 tonnes. This equates to 1,692,027 kg CO₂ e emissions.

The bid only required information about tonnages diverted and therefore no calculation for the CO₂ emissions for the vehicle was included.

(e) Consultation

Cambridge City Council carried out a consultation with residents in October 2011 in which 50% of people using communal refuse bins said their bins were full. This suggests that these resident would be able to recycle more of their waste. Also 17% of residents said a weekly food waste collection would encourage them recycle more.

Further consultation would be carried out with residents in individual blocks of flats to establish the detail for example where bins could be sited and how best to provide information about the service.

(f) Community Safety

There are no community safety issues associated with the bid or associated work.

5. Background papers

These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:
Environment Scrutiny Committee report 'Beyond 45% Recycling' – 4/10/11

6. Appendices

None

7. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

Author's Name: Jen Robertson – Waste Strategy Manager
Author's Phone Number: 01223 458225
Author's Email: jen.Robertson@cambridge.gov.uk