



To: Executive Councillor for Environmental and Waste Services  
Report by: Jas Lally, Head of Refuse and Environment  
Relevant scrutiny committee: Environment Scrutiny Committee  
Wards affected: All Wards

**PROJECT FOR THE ROUTE OPTIMISATION OF REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICES.  
Not a Key Decision**

**1. Executive summary**

1.1 A decision is required to undertake the procurement of route optimisation software in conjunction with the other districts from the RECAP (Recycling for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough) Partnership.

1.2 Routing of collection rounds has not been undertaken since the introduction of alternate weekly collections and the use of software for this purpose is now considered best practice. It is anticipated that fuel and carbon savings can be achieved by undertaking this project.

1.3 A significant proportion of the funding required has been provided to the partnership by Improvement East.

**2. Recommendations**

The Executive Councillor is recommended:

- a) The Executive Councillor is asked to recommend this capital scheme (which is not included in the Council's Capital Plan) for approval by Council, subject to resources being available to fund the capital and revenue costs associated with the Scheme.
- b) To agree to the procurement of route optimisation software in partnership with other RECAP partners.
- c) To agree to partial funding from the efficiency fund. The Cambridge City Council contribution to the capital cost of the project is £15,000, and it is proposed that this funded from the Efficiency Fund. The revenue costs of the project are £3,600, these are to be funded from

the Efficiency Fund in 2011/12 and from the base budget in following years.

### **3. Background**

3.1 This project includes the development of a compatible in-house route optimisation capability for the RECAP partnership and undertaking route optimisation in waste services within the two partner areas of Cambridge City and Huntingdonshire. It will also include developing and agreeing a strategic approach to partnership route optimisation in support of advanced partnership working.

3.2 Both Cambridge City Council and Huntingdonshire District Council have immediate route optimisation needs for refuse collection and kerbside recycling services (commercial waste services to be included within Cambridge City) to achieve the most efficient and effective operational approach to waste management, with a view to reviewing other cyclic services such as Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing in the future. In addition, South Cambridgeshire intends to undertake a route optimisation work following introduction of a new recycling collection service in October 2010.

3.3 Potential savings resulting from route optimisation work in Cambridge City have been estimated at £150k per annum, with additional anticipated one-off revenue savings of £375k from the 2017/18 budget (or in 2016/17 budget if anticipated boundary changes have occurred) due to the delay, by one year, in the need for additional refuse and recycling vehicles to cover growth estimations outlined in the MTS.

3.4 Any reduction in vehicles and fuel usage will also equate to a reduction in CO2 emissions, contributing to climate change targets.

3.5 A formal review of boundaries between Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Council is underway, due to the amount of growth on the fringes of administrative boundaries over the last 20 years. The capability to map rounds across the boundaries will support this work in relation to waste management and other cyclic services in establishing where efficiencies in service provision can be gained in the decisions regarding which operational base will carry out services in boundary areas.

3.6 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will see some of the greatest amount of growth in the UK, with current population estimates, showing an increase of around 6% on 2010 figures by 2015. The ability to effectively review and develop rounds across the partnership on an ongoing basis will enable partners' respond to the growth agenda.

## **4. Implications**

4.1 The undertaking of this procurement has no additional staffing, or equal opportunities implications.

4.2 The decision to implement the optimisation findings will be made in consultation with the Executive Councillor where any further implications, which may impact on staffing levels, will be highlighted.

4.3 The project aims to identify efficiencies in collection services. It is likely that the most efficiency can be gained by changing collection days for residents in some areas, which may cause confusion and disruption.

4.4 The extent of changes to collection days can be altered based on a balance of change verse savings and environmental benefit.

4.5 Communication with residents will be carefully prepared to reduce the risk of disruption and ensure a smooth transition through any change.

## **5. Background papers**

These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

RECAP Partnership Project Initiation Document for Route Optimisation.

## **6. Appendices**

6.1 RECAP Partnership Project Initiation Document for Route Optimisation.

6.2 Project Appraisal for the procurement of Route Optimisation software.

## **7. Inspection of papers**

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

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