

## EXTENSION OF WHEELED BIN REFUSE COLLECTIONS

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Cllr George Clements & Cllr Geoff Blackwell  
**LEAD OFFICER:** Keith Parker  
**REPORT AUTHOR:** Janice Carrol

**Summary:** This report details a funding opportunity and asks members to approve a proposal to further extend wheeled bin refuse collections.

**Recommendation:** That members agree to accept £84k capital funding from the Cumbria Waste Partnership and support the extension of wheeled bin refuse collections.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Wheeled bin refuse collections were introduced in Copeland in 2003 initially to around 20,000 homes. The service was extended to a further 2500 homes in 2006, so that currently around 70% of homes in Copeland are on wheeled bin refuse collections with household and garden waste being collected on alternate weeks.
- 2.1 This service generates approximately 5000 tonnes of green waste for composting each year and has given the Council upper quartile performance for BVPI82b, the percentage of waste composted. In 2007/8 17% of all household waste collected in Copeland was sent for composting.
- 2.2 The alternate week collection service has also been the most significant factor in the Council's achievements in waste minimisation. In the 5 years since the introduction of wheeled bin collections in 2003, the amount of waste being collected for landfill disposal has reduced by over 30% from almost 30,000 tonnes a year to just over 20,000 tonnes. This in itself is a significant achievement.

### 2. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

- 2.1 There is now an opportunity through the Council's involvement in the Cumbria Waste Partnership, to optimise the wheeled bin refuse collection service and further improve the Council's performance on waste minimisation and recycling.

- 2.2 If Executive choose to support this proposal, £84k capital funding has been earmarked by the Waste Partnership for Copeland in the 2008/9 budget. The funding has been approved by the Partnership to provide wheeled bins for remaining suitable properties in Copeland.
- 2.3 The proposal would see the introduction of wheeled bin refuse collections to a further 4000 to 4500 properties in the Borough. For some of these properties this would mean the introduction of garden waste collections and a two bin collection service, whilst for properties without gardens it would be a single bin collection to compliment the existing kerbside collection of recyclable materials. All of these properties are currently receiving an unrestricted black sack refuse collection service.
- 2.4 This proposal would therefore result in a further increase in the amount of green waste collected for recycling as well as a reduction in overall waste arisings by restricting what residual waste is collected to the capacity of the bin.

### **3. POTENTIAL PERFORMANCE**

- 3.1 It is anticipated that an additional 650 tonnes of green waste can be collected for composting adding a further 2% to the Council's recycling rate.
- 3.2 In terms of waste minimisation, it is more difficult to quantify the potential impact on performance indicators that restricting the amount of waste collected to the capacity of a wheeled bin achieves. However given that Copeland has already seen a 10,000 tonne reduction in the amount of waste being collected for landfill disposal. A further 1750 to 2000 tonnes a year reduction can be expected from this proposal.

### **4. OPTIONS**

- 4.1 The Council has 2 main options in respect of this proposal and the advantages and disadvantages of both are outlined below.
- 4.2 Option 1 – Accept the funding from the Waste Partnership and extend wheeled bin refuse collections.
- 4.3 The main advantage of selecting this option is the improvement in the Council's performance as measured by a number of the new National Indicators. In particular this option would lead to an increase in recycling as measured by the new National Indicator NI 192. Also, due to the waste minimisation aspects of this proposal, a reduction in the amount of waste sent to landfill as measured by NI 191 (Residual Household Waste Per

Household) would be achieved and an improvement in NI193 (percentage of Municipal waste landfilled). This option would also allow inconsistencies in the service provided to residents across Copeland to be ironed out. The collection of bio-degradable waste also supports Cumbria's endeavours to meet the Landfill Allowance Targets.

- 4.4 The main disadvantage could be the public's negative perception of alternate week refuse collections. This however can be mitigated by allowing an appropriate lead-in time to ensure sufficient public information and guidance is provided for residents affected by the change.
- 4.5 Option 2 – Not accept the funding and continue service as it is currently provided.
- 4.6 The main advantage to not accepting the funding is avoiding the potential negative impact of customer perception caused by changing service arrangements.
- 4.7 The disadvantage is that insufficient progress will be made in the Council's recycling performance. Although the Council's overall recycling rate has steadily improved year on year, without the introduction of new initiatives the momentum of progress and improvement will be lost and performance will be static.
- 4.8 It is recommended that Executive choose to accept the funding from the Cumbria Waste Partnership and extend wheeled bin refuse collections as far as the funding allows.

## **5. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOURCES OF FINANCE)**

- 5.1 As has been stated above, £84k capital is available from the Cumbria Waste Partnership to purchase wheeled bins. As the council's fleet of refuse vehicles are all equipped with bin lifting equipment this is the only capital needed to deliver the proposal. Delivery of the project will be achieved through the existing waste management team. The project will however require some support from the Communications team and Copeland Direct.

## **6. IMPACT ON CORPORATE PLAN**

- 6.1 This report directly supports Corporate Plan priority 3.3.4, making CBC waste management practices more sustainable by increasing recycling rates and working with residents to reduce per capita waste production.

**List of Appendices : None**

**List of Background Documents:**

**List of Consultees:** Deputy Leader, Portfolio Holder, Corporate Team

**CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES**

Please confirm against the issue if the key issues below have been addressed. This can be by either a short narrative or quoting the paragraph number in the report in which it has been covered.

Impact on Crime and Disorder	Reduces black bags on streets, improves street cleanliness.
Impact on Sustainability	Has a positive impact on sustainability
Impact on Rural Proofing	The service will be provided to rural areas.
Health and Safety Implications	Reduces manual handling, contact with hazardous materials and risk of injury from sharp objects.
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	Specific individual requirements e.g assisted collections are dealt with as they arise and on a case by case basis.
Children and Young Persons Implications	None
Human Rights Act Implications	None
Monitoring Officer comments	No legal implications on assumption that arrangements for new bins are to be the same as for existing wheeled bin service.
S. 151 Officer comments	Confirmed that operating costs can be contained within existing revenue budgets

Is this a Key Decision?      Yes