

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

CABINET

Date of meeting: 16th June 2009
Report of: Strategic Director - Places
Title: Free Garden Waste Collection in the area of the former Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report covers the provision of a free garden waste collection in the area of the former Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council.

2.0 Decision Required

- 2.1 That a free garden waste collection service be offered to householders in the area of the former Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council in the form of a single wheeled bin.

3.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs

- 3.1 Nil

4.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond

- 4.1 The Council's approved budget indicates a growth bid of £600,000 for the provision of this service for 2009/10. This cost breakdown of this enhanced service is:-

Pay/staffing costs - £111,000

Non pay/vehicle and operating costs - £100,000

Loss of income - £389,000 (previously a fully charged service)

- 4.2 These costs are based upon the introduction of the enhanced service from 1st April 2009, a full year cost.

- 4.3 The enhanced service is planned to commence on 3rd August 2009, so the introduction will be reflected in lower pay and non pay cost. The full cost of introducing this service will not be incurred in 2009/10. The enhanced service has a direct linkage to the alternate weekly service proposed for the former Congleton Borough Council households. The savings in vehicle and personnel costs are broadly equivalent to the cost of those aspects of the enhanced garden waste collections. The surplus vehicles and crew and their associated crews from the Congleton Borough Council area will be used to operate the

enhanced garden waste collection service to the former Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council households.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 Nil

6.0 Risk Assessment

- 6.1 The main risk is that the provision of the service extends beyond the present phase of an additional 20,000 households. Such an extension will require additional refuse collection vehicles and associated crews.
- 6.2 It is unlikely that the £658,000 of Waste Implementation Capital Grant Funding will be exhausted by any possible further development of the service provision in the proposed area.

7.0 Background and Options

7.1 The provision of a free garden waste collection in the area of the former Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council was considered, together with options, by the Waste Collection and Disposal Task Group. The work was then taken to the Advisory Panel – Places on 16th December 2009 resulting in their recommendations to Cheshire East Management Team and then the Cabinet.

7.2 The reason for the Task Group's work was that it identified a variation in the collection service offered by the constituent authorities:-

Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council charged for all of the garden waste collections.

Congleton Borough Council provided a free service.

Macclesfield Borough Council provided a free service.

7.3 The Advisory Group and Task Group considered other options and concluded with their recommendation. Work on the provision of the free service to Crewe and Nantwich has only been undertaken post 1st April 2009. Sufficient Waste Implementation Capital Grant fund was not available to cover the capital cost of the bins prior to 1st April 2009.

7.4 The Task Group also considered a project plan covering this work which indicated an eleven week timescale. The project plan did not however take account of the magnitude of the production and distribution of the bins in such a manner that timely collections could be programmed rather than bins remaining full for longer than a few weeks. The projected date for the commencement of the service is now 3rd August 2009. This will be preceded by a communication process whereby any household NOT WISHING to avail themselves of the free garden waste collection service can OPT OUT, by contacting the Council. The distribution list for the bin deliveries is thereby complicated. The distribution

must take account of the households who previously paid for the service and already have a bin, those households that have opted out, such that deliveries are only to the remaining households.

- 7.5 An initial order will be placed for 20,000 new bins, the capital cost of these will come from the Waste Implementation Capital Grant Funding but for 2009/10 in the amount of £658,000. This will adequately cover the costs of the initial supply of 20,000 bins. Any remaining fund will be available should the service need to be rolled out further than the 18,000 existing garden waste households and the 20,000 additional households.

8.0 Overview of Day One, Year One and Term One Issues

- 8.1 These are contained within the report in particular 6.1/6.2 Risk Management.

9.0 Reasons for Recommendation

- 9.1 The Advisory Panel – Places at its meeting on 16th December 2009 made the following recommendations to be submitted to the Cheshire East Management Team and then to Cheshire East Cabinet:
1. That a free of charge green waste kerbside collection service is rolled out to the residents of the former Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council area as soon as practicable following 1st April 2009.
 2. That no initial bin purchase charge should be levied to recipients of the new bins.
 3. That (subject to approval by the existing waste collection authorities) preparation should be made prior to April 2009 to procure the required equipment to roll out a free of charge green waste collection in Crewe utilising the existing 2008/09 Waste Implementation Capital Grant.
 4. That should the Waste Implementation Capital Grant funding for 2008/09 be unavailable or insufficient to support this initiative, the new Cheshire East Authority should approve additional funding (following an additional report) to procure bins.

For further information:

Portfolio Holder: Councillor D Brickhill

Officer: Phil Sherratt

Tel No: 01270 529685

Email: phil.sherratt@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Background Documents:

Documents are available for inspection at: