

DCLG Weekly Collection Support Scheme Fund.

Background

The Weekly Collection Support Scheme is a challenge fund which made up to £250million available to support local authorities in delivering weekly collections of household waste and recycling. The fund is open to bids from English local authorities that wish to introduce, reinstate or retain weekly collections of household waste. The funding will be allocated from the Department for Communities and Local Government, £100million in years 1 & 2 and £50 million in year 3.

Bids were scored against the following criteria - Cost-Effectiveness, Collection Pattern, Environmental Benefits and Innovation.

Southend Borough Council's bid

SBC's bid was aimed at securing funding to retain weekly residual collections and enhance the current weekly food waste collection service. Southend Borough Council has carried out extensive consultation with residents on participation and barriers to using the weekly food waste service. Key findings have shown that residents feel that they are more likely to use the scheme if compostable liners were made available free of charge and also there is a perception that the scheme is not customer friendly. Hence the focus of our bid was to improve participation in the food waste collection service by; delivering a targeted re-launch of the service via a communication program to raise awareness of the scheme. In addition the provision of an incentive scheme (to reward community based projects) and by providing new receptacles to residents who have not previously participated in the service and the provision of free compostable liners to all residents.

The bid amount was for a total of £1.635 million over a 3 year period.

On 22 November 2012 Southend Borough Council was formally notified, by the Department for Communities and Local Government, that its bid had been successful and that the full bid amount £1.635 million would be awarded.

Operational Implementation

During March/April 2013 a new set of food waste receptacles and a full year's supply of food caddy liners will be circulated to all households that can access the service in the Borough.

It is envisaged that there will be sufficient funds within bid allocation to provide free food liners to residents for the next 5 years.

Residents will be advised that they will be required to use the service provided as it is not acceptable to continue to landfill food waste material (the resident information leaflet is attached).

Anticipated increase in tonnages of food waste diverted from landfill

It is anticipated that approximately 3,000 tonnes of additional household food waste will be removed from the black bag waste stream. This will mean that a total of approximately 4,500 tonnes of food waste will be collected and diverted from landfill.

As a result of the success of the improved food waste collection service it is anticipated that there will be around a £100,000 saving to the Council's waste disposal budget. We are also expecting other recycling streams to improve due to this initiative drive.