

Decision Session - Executive Member for the Environment

5 September 2016

Report of the Assistant Director (Communities, Culture and Public Realm)

## **York Community Recycling Fund**

### **Summary**

1. This report sets out a proposal to establish a York Community Recycling Fund.

### **Recommendations**

2. The Executive Member is asked to approve:
  - The fund criteria set out in paragraphs 8 to 15.
  - The application process set out in paragraphs 17 to 18.

Reason: To improve waste prevention and recycling in York.

### **Background**

3. In June this year the Council's Executive approved a sum of £30k for the purpose of creating a fund to improve waste prevention and recycling as part of making York the "Greenest City in the North".
4. City of York Council currently recycles around 43% of the city's household waste. Waste is collected for recycling through the city's kerbside recycling service, green waste collection service, Household Waste Recycling Centres and bring banks. Third Party organisations also contribute towards this figure through their waste related projects.
5. In previous years the Council's Waste Service has promoted sustainable waste management, mainly through generic messages, using local media, road shows, leaflets, door knocking, the internet and social media. New campaign strategies are therefore being developed that target material types and consider demographic

factors with the aim of sending out the right messages to the right people.

6. In addition there is potential for community schemes to make a real impact on the city's recycling and waste prevention performance. Examples of the kind of community projects that take place across the country include:
  - Working with community groups to develop sewing skills and to encourage reuse and repair of clothes and textiles, helping to divert textiles from landfill.
  - Working with homeless people to get them involved in recycling and reusing unwanted goods which are then sold to the public.
  - Cooking clubs that provide classes and hands-on cooking experience on healthy eating and reducing food waste.
  - Awareness raising sessions with local BME communities showing participants how to make the most of unused food, textiles and furniture.
  - Improving composting and rainwater collection at allotment sites.
  - Young break dancers staging performances and role play workshops to get recycling messages across to school students.
7. York's communities will have ideas that are appropriate to York's particular needs. Examples of areas that can be problematic in York and that might particularly benefit from a scheme include:
  - Waste produced by students: A sustainable student initiative that could be carried from one year to the next could be useful.
  - Management of communal bins: A local group taking 'ownership' of a communal bin area could be helpful.

## **Proposals**

### **Criteria:**

8. The purpose of this fund will be to support projects that make a real contribution to sustainable waste prevention, repair and reuse, and recycling. The following criteria are proposed:

### *WHO CAN APPLY?*

9. Applicants for a grant from the York Recycling Fund must be a:
  - Registered Charity
  - Not-for-profit organisation (including social enterprises)

- Community, Neighbourhood or Voluntary group
  - Faith group delivering community work
  - School, College or University
  - Parish Council
10. The applicant's project may include a partnership with a private sector organisation.

*WHAT KIND OF PROJECTS WILL WE SUPPORT?*

11. The aim of the York Recycling Fund will be to support community projects which:
- Reduce waste from households:
    - Grey bin – helping to reduce waste going into the grey bin
    - Green bin – helping to reduce waste going into the green bin and creating solutions for those who don't receive a green bin service e.g. through home composting
    - Recycling – helping to increase the amount of waste recycled
  - Promote waste prevention:
    - Encouraging reuse, repair and recycling of goods
    - Reducing food waste (in line with the Love Food Hate Waste campaign)
  - Reduce carbon emissions
12. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that their idea is practical and will work. Priority will be given to ideas that:
- Give good value for money - diverting a significant amount of waste from landfill
  - Engage residents
  - Create jobs or volunteering opportunities
  - Generate social benefits
  - Have the potential to become models of good practice
  - Are sustainable
  - Help to change people's behaviour

## *WHAT WE WON'T PAY FOR*

13. We will not pay for:
  - An organisation's day-to-day running or on-going staffing costs
  - Activities that start or happen before we confirm funding
  - Anything where responsibility for dealing with waste materials already rests with the Council
  - Activities dealing with Commercial and Industrial waste and any other waste which is not Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste
  - Projects that mainly financially benefit an individual
  - The VAT element of project costs that can be recovered
14. With regard to any waste disposal costs that projects might incur we will discuss with successful applicants how we might be able to help, for example through free access to the Household Waste Recycling Centre. We will also discuss with projects whether they might be eligible for 3<sup>rd</sup> party recycling credits.

## *MAXIMUM GRANT SIZE*

15. There is no maximum grant size but applicants should be aware that we wish to fund a number of projects with the £30k fund.
16. Applicants may seek additional funding from other sources for their projects, such as from ward budgets, but this is not a requirement.

## **The Application Process:**

17. Applicants will be asked to complete a simple application form providing information about:
  - **Project Description:** A brief description of the project and how it will work. This will include the estimated amount of waste expected to be prevented, reused / repaired or recycled during the project, i.e. the items that are prevented from becoming waste in the first place or are diverted from landfill by reuse or recycling.
  - **Carbon benefit:** How the project will reduce carbon dioxide emissions and the estimated amount of reduction.
  - **Direct Engagement:** The number of people that your project is committed to engaging through direct involvement in the project

and who directly benefit from the project. How will it engage with people who might face barriers to getting involved?

- **Wider engagement:** An estimate of the number of other people your project will influence, for example through social media campaigns, project publications and other community contacts and events.
- **Social benefit:** The social benefits the project may generate through sustainable waste management e.g. through enhancing local neighbourhoods and the local environment, providing support to vulnerable members of the community, encouraging community participation, supporting community cohesion, etc.

18. The closing date for applications will be 31 December 2016.
19. Applications will be judged by a panel including the Executive Member, a member of the Waste Strategy Team and an appropriate community representative.

#### **Advertising the Fund:**

20. The fund will be advertised through all the Council's established media routes including press features, as well as through ward teams and committees.

#### **Options and Analysis**

21. The main options open to the Executive Member are to:
  - Agree or do not agree to establish the fund
  - Accept or amend the criteria and application process

#### **Council Plan**

22. The proposals in this report are in line with the Council Plan priority to Place a Focus on Frontline Services and a city where Environmental Sustainability Underpins Everything We Do.

#### **Implications**

23. **Financial:** The £30k York Community Recycling Fund was approved by the Executive on 30 June from the 2015/16 underspend. Funds will be awarded in line with the existing Council policy on grants and loans. Full records will be kept of grants given and outcomes achieved.

24. **Equalities:** The Equality Impact Assessment shows that the fund will have mostly positive impacts as it will enable all types of people to access funding for projects around sustainability and rubbish. Projects that target particular audiences will be considered and if successful will enable target groups to deal with their rubbish more sustainably. Successful applicants will be required to undertake an Equalities Impact Assessment of their particular projects.
25. The report has no additional implications relating to: Human Resources, Legal, Crime and Disorder, Information Technology, Property.

**Risk Management**

26. In compliance with the Council’s risk management strategy the main risks that have been identified associated with the proposals contained in this report are those which could lead to the inability to meet business objectives and to deliver services, leading to damage to the Council’s reputation and failure to meet stakeholders’ expectations. The level of risk is assessed as “Very Low”. This means that periodic monitoring is required of the operation of the proposed fund.

**Contact Details**

<b>Author:</b>	<b>Chief Officer responsible for report:</b>		
Charlie Croft Assistant Director (Communities, Culture & Public Realm)	Charlie Croft Assistant Director (Communities, Culture & Public Realm)		
	<b>Report Approved</b>	✓	1.8.16.
<b>Wards Affected:</b> All	<b>All</b>	✓	
<b>Specialist Implications:</b> Jayne Close Principal Accountant			
<b>For further information please contact the author of the report.</b>			

**Annexes:** None