



Report of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure Management

External Funding Panel – 4 September 2019

Welsh Government Absorbent Hygiene Products Waste Programme - Offer of Capital Support

Purpose:	To provide details of the Welsh Government Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHP) Waste Programme -To support the implementation of AHP (nappies/incontinence products) collection service across Wales
Policy Framework:	Swansea Waste Management Strategy. Welsh Government's Towards Zero Waste
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) Approval is given to accept any grant offer following the submission of a funding bid to the Welsh Government Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHP) Waste Programme, to support the implementation of AHP (nappies/incontinence products) collection service across the Authority.
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide the External Funding Panel with the background regarding a Welsh Government (WG) grant opportunity that will be used to support the Council introducing an AHP (nappies/incontinence products) collection service across the Authority.

- 1.2 The Authority has statutory recycling targets to meet. The targets have risen to 64% for 2019/20 and are set to rise to 70% by 2024/25. Failure to hit these targets could result in significant fines being imposed by WG.
- 1.3 It is estimated that at present up to 9% of the residual (black bag) waste in Swansea is made up of AHP and similar products. Introducing such a scheme county wide would enable a significant proportion of this material to be collected, diverted from landfill and be sent for processing/recycling and thus helping the Council meet its recycling targets

2. National AHP waste programme and offer of capital support

- 2.1 The Welsh Government is developing a joint programme with local authorities to improve the recycling of Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHP). As part of this programme, the offer of additional capital funding support is being made available to all Welsh local authorities for the implementation and expansion of separate household collections of AHP waste.
- 2.2 This funding is aimed at offsetting the capital cost of introducing such schemes.
- 2.3 The next stage of the WG programme will be for the provision of regional, cost effective AHP recycling facilities.

3. Equality and Engagement Implications

- 3.1 The Council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Wales) and must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
 - Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Our Equality Impact Assessment process ensures that we have paid due regard to the above.

- 3.2 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening tool confirms that a full EIA is not required at this stage. We will revisit the assessment if the funding bid is successful.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 This funding bid is for the provision of Capital funding to enable the Authority to provide the necessary vehicles/containers and infrastructure changes to enable it to expand and promote the collection of AHP County wide by April 2021.

The total sum of Capital funding bid for under this application amounts to £603,410.

This sum can be broken down as follows:-

- Vehicle costs £400,000
- Container costs £151,410
- Depot infrastructure changes £ 52,000

WG are requiring that the funding be fully spent/committed in the 2019/20 financial year. Whilst all funds will be committed by end March 2020, it is likely that spend will continue through 2020 as vehicles and containers are delivered, but would all be spent by the scheme commencement date of 1 April 2021.

The revenue implications of introducing a county wide collection of AHP are dependent on the tonnage of AHP the introduction would generate, and the collection method used. However taking up the scheme will enable the Authority to review its collection operation and will result in lower overall collection costs and help boost recycling performance. Whilst the exact revenue implications are unknown at this point it is likely to lead to a reduction in the overall collection/disposal costs.

	2019/20 £	2020/21 £	Yr 3 £	Yr 4 £	Yr 5 £	Total £	Ongoing £
Total project cost:							
Capital	603,410 committed	Remainder reserved	Nil	Nil	Nil	603,410	Nil
Revenue	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Grant applied for:							
Capital	603,410	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	603,410	Nil
Revenue	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Deficit	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Authority have statutory recycling targets to meet. The targets have risen to 64% for 2019/20 and are set to rise to 70% by 2024/25. Failure to hit these targets could result in significant fines being imposed by WG.
- 5.2 The Council will need to ensure that it complies with any terms and conditions attached to this Welsh Government grant funding.
- 5.3 Separate legal advice will be required regarding procurement. Contracts over OJEU thresholds will need to comply with European Procurement Directives.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix A	EIA Screening Form
Appendix B	Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHP) Waste Collection Service Plan