

## Highways, Capital Development & Waste Management

The Parish Clerk

Matford Offices  
County Hall  
Topsham Road  
Exeter  
EX2 4QW

Tel: 01392 383190  
E-mail: [annette.dentith@devon.gov.uk](mailto:annette.dentith@devon.gov.uk)  
Fax: 01392 382342  
My Ref: AD.waste management/finance/budget 2015

9 October 2014

Dear Clerk

### **Tough Choices – Proposals for budget savings for 2015/16 in Waste Management**

Proposals to save up to £265,000 next year from the County Council's waste and recycling budget have been put forward for consultation this week.

As you will be aware, the potential savings are part of a wider plan to reduce the council's budget to meet the latest Government spending targets. Over the last three years, changes have been made to the way DCC manages Devon's domestic waste resulting in £4.7 million worth of savings. However, further work is still needed.

The proposed measures are as follows:

#### **i) Proposal to discontinue payment of discretionary Recycling Credits for textiles**

As the Waste Disposal Authority for Devon, Devon County Council has traditionally paid discretionary recycling credits to groups who collect materials for recycling. This credit represents the Council's net saving of expenditure on the disposal of the waste.

Currently discretionary credits are paid to registered groups for materials such as paper, glass, textiles, card and plastic. In addition to the Recycling Credit (currently £55 per tonne), groups may also receive an income from the sale of these collected materials. Material values vary from less than £30 a tonne for glass to more than £350 a tonne for textiles.

In 2013/14, Devon County Council paid £65,500 in discretionary Recycling Credit payments for textiles to 161 registered groups (mainly charities). The potential income available to the groups from selling these could add up to more than £400,000. As the scheme continues to grow, the costs continue to rise at a time when budgets are being cut. Due to the high resale value of this material it is considered that the groups would continue to collect this material without the support of the recycling credit. It is considered, therefore, that it is no longer appropriate to be paying discretionary credits for textiles.

Continued over:/.....

It is predicted this proposal will save £65,000 per annum.

**ii) Further charges for the disposal of non household waste at Devon's Recycling Centres:** Devon County Council (DCC) has a legal obligation to provide Recycling Centres for Devon residents to dispose of/recycle mainly bulky household and garden waste (i.e **household waste** that is not normally collected as part of the local refuse/recycling collection services) free of charge.

The legal definition of **household waste** does not include materials from the repair or improvement of houses i.e. DIY home improvement types of waste. DCC has no obligation to accept such waste or to accept it free of charge and currently, charges apply for the deposition (by residents) of soil/rubble; plasterboard; asbestos and tyres at DCC Recycling Centres.

DCC is considering extending the principle of charging residents for the deposit of further DIY waste types, to include, but not limited to the following:-

- UPVC Windows (with/without glass)
- UPVC Doors (with/without glass)
- Baths or shower trays
- Shower Screens
- Insulation materials
- Roofing Felt
- PVC downpipe/guttering

The charge is likely to be in the region of £3.50 an item. It is predicted this will save £200,000.

If the proposals are agreed by Cabinet it is estimated that a total of around £265,000 in savings could be made in 2015/16. No final decision on these proposals until February 2015.

In the meantime, Impact Assessments can be found and comments on the proposals can be made from October 9<sup>th</sup> at <https://new.devon.gov.uk/wastebudget/> or in writing to Waste Management (Tough Choices), Devon County Council, County Hall, Exeter, EX2 4QD. The closing date for comments is 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

Yours faithfully



**Annette Dentith**  
Principal Waste Manager