

### 59/07 (3) - Environment and Department of Community Services Business

**Support Business Units:** The Cabinet Member (Environment) was invited to present the budget. He outlined the approach taken to the budget, the key issues and the key variations, the proposed efficiency savings and the main risks to the budget and advised that there were two potential growth items which were £107,000 towards the recycling expansion programme and £90,000 (one off) for project planning costs relating to the implementation of wheelie bins. Major variances included increases in fuel costs, extension of the kerbside recycling scheme and fleet management costs. There was increased income from sales of recyclables and recyclable credits and there were also reductions in handling fees for recyclables. Cash efficiency savings included £14,150 for the reduced cost of gate fees for recycling materials, £1,530 for the reduced cost of managing abandoned vehicles and £13,320 for increased income from the sale of recyclable materials. Fees and charges were to be increased by 4% or more (rounded to the nearest 50p) and trade waste charges had been increased by 10% to cover increased disposal costs and landfill tax.

In relation to the DCS Business Support business unit there were no major variances to the budget and no growth items. Cash efficiency savings of £4,000 had been identified.

Questions were then invited. In response to a question over the growth bid for the expansion of the recycling scheme, the Cabinet Member advised that this was to expand the scheme to those currently not covered in the district and it was noted that some caravan parks would also be covered. He also confirmed that there would be weekly collections of food waste. In relation to the recycling of card, the Acting Head of Environment advised of the Yellow Woods Challenge, a successful scheme run with local schools, to recycle yellow pages. She added that the issue of recycling plastics was currently being discussed through the Waste Partnership and, in particular, the issue of encouraging local supermarkets to reduce the amount of plastic waste they produced through their products and reference was also made to the Courtauld Agreement scheme which aimed to reduce packaging waste growth and identify ways to reduce food waste produced. The £90,000 for the planning costs for the implementation of wheelie bins was also discussed.

The issue of energy consumption through the installation of heat pumps at Council buildings was discussed and it was noted that nine heat pumps had been installed to Council properties and 34 were to be installed in the forthcoming financial year and the Council would be ready to bid for any available future funding.

Members agreed the budget.

(Seven Members voted for the motion and there were three abstentions)

(6.32 pm - 7.00 pm)