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Sent: 20 October 2015 17:20
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Subject: CXO meeting 7th October 2015 – Green Waste Credits

Dear All,

CXO meeting 7th October 2015 – Green Waste Credits

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the other Chief Executives for the positive engagement we had in regard to our waste management budgetary pressures and in particular the payment of credits for green waste composting. We had a very open and positive discussion about the need to think about the whole waste system across Staffordshire if we are to find savings for the public purse. To clarify our mutual understanding of the current situation, I would like to confirm the following points.

The County has an existing MTFs pressure of saving £1.5m from 16/17 onwards. The only current viable proposal would be to change the recycling credit to the WCAs for green waste to a cost of treatment only payment. The County Council has powers of direction which would allow us to enforce this change on the WCAs. However, we fully understand and sympathise with the financial and political pressures this would impose on the majority of the WCAs in Staffordshire and would wish to achieve these saving by other means if at all possible.

It was therefore agreed at the meeting that the county will not seek to impose this saving if the districts and boroughs agree to freeze the 3% inflation rise in the credit for green waste until 18/19. As I understand it, there is a Joint Waste Management Board meeting on 28th October where I hope we can brief our relevant Portfolio Holders to agree this proposition.

We also agreed that the Staffordshire Waste Partnership will also commit to working closely together in order to help SCC meet the £1.5m pressure we now have in our waste budgets through a holistic and pan county approach across collection, recycling, reuse and disposal functions within the county. I understand that this work is already underway and a timetable for presenting initial findings and suggestions has been put to the Partnership. It will not surprise you to read that the county will not be able to sustain this financial pressure indefinitely; if the partnership is unable to find the savings across the system by 2019 then it is highly likely that SCC will have to revisit options for making the saving, which would not exclude revisiting Green Waste Recycling Credits. However, I am confident based on the almost 6 months I have spent in Staffordshire that we have the capability, innovation and drive between us to make this happen.

I look forward to seeing all of you on 5 November in Lichfield.

Kind Regards,

John

Staffordshire County Council

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