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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Kerbside recycling will not be funded**

Plans to fund the Government's kerbside collection trial for an additional six months have been dropped by Onchan Commissioners because of the high costs involved compared with minimal returns.

The Authority has stated that, whilst they support recycling, the benefits obtained from kerbside collection do not justify the expense.

In September 2008, the former Department of Local Government and Environment implemented a three-year trial (Phase 1) for kerbside collection of recyclables within the Douglas, Onchan and Braddan areas.

Phase 1 was described as a pilot "*to establish the feasibility of offering a kerbside recycling service on the Island*". Tynwald agreed to dedicate £750,000 to the capital cost of setting up the trial and DoLGE agreed to provide £350,000 per year for three years to cover the operational costs.

It was stated that "*future funding for the scheme is, as of yet, undecided*", but Phase 2, the extension of the scheme to Peel and Ramsey, was scheduled for 2011 and Phase 3, the whole Island, for 2013.

The initial three-year trial is due to end in September 2011. The Department of Infrastructure's funding will then cease. The three local authorities have been considering funding an extension to the trial period (to March 2012) so that further studies can be undertaken but, after examining the data, Onchan Commissioners have concluded that the scheme does not offer value for money.

Chairman of the Commissioners, Mr Brian Stowell, said:

"The net cost of kerbside collection, after income has been included, is around £350,000 per year. Our rate-payers in Onchan would therefore be asked to fund the scheme to the tune of £100,000 per year for no discernable financial or environmental benefit.

Unfortunately, at any conceivable level of disposal costs, the potential cost saving from recycling is not large enough to justify the effort.

According to the Government, the Island is still due to suffer some financial pain. The screw continues to be tightened. Austerity measures are being introduced, costs are rising, there is a pay freeze, and redundancies are possible. This is not the time to implement a 'nice-to-have' proposal that forces substantial extra costs upon our rate-payers.

Additional studies are unlikely to reduce these costs in any significant manner, so the Board quite rightly decided that an extension to the Government's contract would not serve any purpose.

Members would wish to encourage the Department of Infrastructure to review their Waste Strategy and identify a more cost effective and environmentally advantageous system for recycling that can be utilised by all residents of the Island. The Commissioners believe that focussing efforts on the existing public bring-bank schemes and the Civic Amenity sites could provide a suitable alternative."

END

## NOTES

During the year Nov 2007 to Oct 2008, before the kerbside recycling trial began, the existing 'bring bank' amenity sites received 1634.62 tonnes of paper and 1388.14 tonnes of glass.

After kerbside began, Nov 2008 to Oct 2009, the combined total from the bring banks and the kerbside collection was 1965.84 tonnes of paper and 1751.18 tonnes of glass.

The Government's own projections for 2011 indicate a total kerbside collection of 1561 tonnes at a net revenue cost of £334,617. This equates to £214 per tonne.

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