

## **Materials Reclamation Facility (MRF)**

The following delegated decision was taken by the Director for Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Place.

*To allocate £10,600 of capital funding as an urgent measure for replacement of the air compressor at the Council's Materials Reclamation Facility (MRF).*

This equipment is critical to the economic operation of the MRF. It provides a regulated supply of dried compressed air to equipment that sorts mixed recycling into separate streams of steel, aluminium, paper, card and 5 separate streams of plastic for sale to reprocessors at the best price.

The existing compressor is part of the original equipment installed at the MRF in 2001 and although well-maintained, has exceeded its designed life span. In response to recent breakdowns, advice from our engineer has been sought and two quotes for effective repairs actually exceed the purchase cost of new equipment.

Without a functioning air compressor the MRF is unable to operate effectively and sort materials to a standard required to maintain current net income levels, which are already forecast to be £50,000 lower than the budget for 2017/18.

Repeated breakdowns are affecting the service by requiring frequent input of manager time, and MRF Operatives being asked to work harder to make up for downtime on the optical sorter, increasing the risk of manual handling strain.

A Delegated Powers form has been raised to request £10,600 for the supply and installation of a new air compressor.

The following Councillors and Officers were consulted:-

The Chief Executive & Growth Director, Director of Place, Chair of Place Scrutiny Committee, the Chief Finance Officer and the Portfolio Holder for Place.