

# Cabinet



Date of meeting:	13 October 2020
Title of Report:	<b>Garden Waste Service Improvements</b>
Lead Member:	Councillor Sue Dann (Cabinet Member for Environment and Streetscene)
Lead Strategic Director:	Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place)
Author:	Andy Sharp (Head of Business Improvement)
Contact Email:	Andy.sharp@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	GW2020
Key Decision:	Yes
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

## Purpose of Report

The report accompanies the business case and briefing report which sets out a proposal to transition from a bagged kerbside collection service to a wheelie bin kerbside collection service for the City ready for the 2021 season which begins 5 April 2021.

This will require the investment in circa 45,000 bins and the replacement of up to five Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCVs) as part of the Council's ongoing fleet replacement programme.

The use of wheelie bins are considered to be the industry standard receptacle to reduce the risk arising from the nature of the manual handling operation, as per the Health and Safety Executive's guidance, the Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 and guidance from the Waste Industry Safety and Health (WISH) Forum.

## Recommendations and Reasons

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- Approves the Business Case
- Allocates £1.874m for the project into the Capital Programme funded by:
  - £1.014m Corporate Borrowing
  - £0.860m Service Borrowing
- Authorises the procurement process
- Delegates the award of the contract to Strategic Director for Place.

The primary reason for the change in how garden waste is contained and collected along with the associated investment required is to help ensure the safest collection method for our staff and to reduce the manual handling hazard as far as possible, with the accompanying risk of muscular skeletal injury. The changes proposed, including the use of new vehicles, new registration-based routes and in-cab technology, will help improve the efficiency and reliability of the service. This will ensure routes are re-balanced to reduce missed collections and crews are able to record and report any issues with collection in real time from blocked access to contamination.

### **Alternative options considered and rejected**

Alternative options included:

- Carrying on with the existing bag collection service. This was discounted as it does not address the health, safety and wellbeing challenges arising from the current operation.
- Ceasing the operation entirely. This option was discounted in recognition of the contribution to the city's recycling performance and the value a proportion of residents place on the service. This is evidenced by a recent registration requirement which resulted in almost a third of city households confirming that they wished to receive the service.
- Implementing a registration charge for service users to offset the capital costs associated with introducing wheelie bins. Whilst the option was proposed by Officers, the Administration did not wish to implement a charge, as other Local Authorities have.

### **Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan**

The proposal is specifically linked to the Corporate Plan objectives to ensure Plymouth is both clean and tidy, and also a green sustainable city that cares about the environment.

### **Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:**

The project value is £1.899m which is made up of £0.847m for the purchase and initial roll out of wheelie bins, £0.860m for the purchase of five x RCVs, and the remaining £0.192m is a combination of contingency, project management costs, the expansion and further integration of the Street Services Information Management System and promotional costs.

The majority of these amounts will be capitalised, only with the exception of marketing and promotion costs which will be wholly revenue. As explained within the briefing report and business case the service will consider options which may reduce the need to replace all or some of the Garden Waste RCVs which will reduce the actual capital spend accordingly.

The impact on the Medium Term Financial Plan will be:

- The proposal is to migrate to bins, and associated project costs, which will incur £114k capital borrowing repayment costs for 10 years from 2021/22. This will be funded by Corporate monies.
- The purchase up to 5 vehicles at a further cost of £119k capital borrowing repayment for 8 years from 2022/23. This will be funded by Service borrowing.

### **Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:**

The migration to the latest Euro vehicle emissions standard will contribute to lower air born particulates and carbon emissions.

The adoption of wheelie bins has a number of benefits with a ten plus year life expectancy. This is anticipated to be preferable to bags which have a high churn rate over the period and due to the material and use cannot be recycled. Broken wheelie bins are recycled and are made from a high proportion of recycled materials. The wheelie bins are made from up 90% recycled materials and the colour and supplier chosen will ensure the highest proportion.

**Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:**

\* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.

The use of wheelie bins is considered industry good practice in terms of receptacle design, aligning with the Health and Safety Executive's guidance and the Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992. By changing the nature of the manual handling task ie. Wheelie bins means push and pull manual handling with mechanical lifting rather than bags meaning a wholly manually lift.

**Appendices**

\*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Garden Waste Containers Briefing Report							
B	Equalities Impact Assessment							
C	Business case (part 1)							
D	Business case (part 2)			x				

**Background papers:**

\*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

**Sign off:**

Fin	pl.20.21.9	Leg	lt/35383/240920	Mon Off	lt/35383/240920	HR	30.09.2020	Assets	n/a	Strat Proc	PW/PS/558/ED/0920
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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Philip Robinson

Please confirm the Strategic Director has agreed the report? Yes

Date agreed: 05/10/2020

Cabinet Member approval: *Approved by email*

Date approved: 05/10/2020