

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

DELEGATED EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION REPORT

Report to: Executive Member for Highways, Environmental & Traded Services
Date: 16 August 2023
Report for: Decision
Report of: Corporate Director, Place

Report Title

Changes to Christmas Green Bin Collections

Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to implement changes to the frequency of green bin collections over the Christmas period to allow the Council to prioritise other waste collections which will minimise disruption to other priority collections during that period.

Recommendations

The Executive Member is recommended to:

- 1. Approve the recommended changes to green bin collections between Christmas and New Year.**
- 2. Approves the urgency provisions in respect of this decision as detailed in the report; and**
- 3. Approves, based on the urgency provisions that this decision shall not be subject to the call in process.**

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Helen Ashcroft

Extension: helen.ashcroft@trafford.gov.uk

Background Papers: none

Relationship to Policy Framework/Corporate Priorities	Service improvement
Relationship to GM Policy or	None arising out of this report.

Strategy Framework	
Financial	None arising out of this report.
Legal Implications:	None arising out of this report.
Equality/Diversity Implications	None arising out of this report.
Carbon Reduction	There will be a small reduction in carbon from less refuse collection vehicles operating between Christmas and New Year.
Sustainability Implications	None arising out of this report.
Resource Implications e.g., Staffing / ICT / Assets	Amey are the lead on this project, the Council's involvement is purely from a Governance perspective.
Risk Management Implications	The proposed changes are to provide more resilience to the service over the Christmas period.
Health & Wellbeing Implications	The proposed changes will allow the service to recover the work from the statutory bank holidays in a shorter period, requiring fewer weekend collections during this period and allowing sufficient rest breaks for staff during this time.
Health and Safety Implications	None arising out of this report.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Waste collection services, amongst other services, are governed by the One Trafford Partnership Contract (the "Contract" between the Council and Amey). The Contract contains a provision for a "7 Year Review" of the operation and performance of the service delivered via the Contract.
- 1.2 The "7 Year Review" has been undertaken Parties with a view to identifying "mid-term" improvements to the ways in which the services are delivered.
- 1.3 From a waste collection perspective, the 7 Year Review has focussed on:
- 1.3.1 Improving Waste Collection Service delivery so that households have confidence in the service to provide a regular collection of their waste.
 - 1.3.2 Improving customer service where there are service issues and challenges.
 - 1.3.3 Driving the environmental objectives of the Council in relation to waste minimisation and recycling.
- 1.4 During the period of the 7 Year Review there has been a substantive and sustained improvement in the performance of the Waste Collection service.
- 1.5 This report details a proposed change to the frequency of green bin collections over the Christmas period to allow the Council to prioritise other waste collections which will further improve service delivery by minimising disruption to other priority collections during that period.

2.0 Changes to green bin collections over the Christmas period

- 2.1 In order to maintain adequate service delivery standards, and fulfilment of legislative obligations in respect of waste collection, the Council and Amey must prioritise the collections of types of waste based on a number of factors including the risks to the public.
- 2.2 Green bins are used for the collection of food and garden waste. The green bin collection is not a statutory service.
- 2.3 The low proportions of green bins presented for collection over the Christmas period means that the green bin collection is a lower priority to the other bin collections over the Christmas period.
- 2.4 This type of waste collection is categorised as a ‘Low priority’ on the basis of minimal or no risk to the public and as such, there will be minimal or no disruption to the public if these services are suspended for a short period of time.
- 2.5 In the Contract it states that green bin collections should be suspended for two weeks over Christmas to allow for the collection of those bins that would have been scheduled for collection on one of the bank holidays, as well as any additional waste that has been generated over this period.
- 2.6 This element of the specification has not yet been implemented and green bin collections are currently maintained over the Christmas period.
- 2.7 Overall service delivery during the Christmas period can be affected by a number of factors including: disruptive weather; resource challenges; and increased household waste. In order to minimise the impact of these extenuating factors going forward, the Council and Amey have discussed options for Christmas collections, to improve the resilience of the service and reduce service disruption during this busy period.
- 2.8 It is proposed that from December 2023 green bin collections will be suspended for a period of one week in between Christmas and New Year.
- 2.9 The reasons for this proposal are:
 - 2.9.1 A small proportion of green bins are presented in between Christmas and New Year and the tonnages collected are low.
 - 2.9.2 Suspending the green bin collections for the equivalent of three working days allows the service to collect all of the other waste streams on the three working days between Christmas and New Year.
 - 2.9.3 Allows for less disruption to collections, it minimises the need to bring collections forward to before Christmas reducing the risk of residents forgetting that their bin day has been moved to before Christmas.
 - 2.9.4 It also allows the bin crews to have a break over the Christmas period with fewer collection days moved onto Saturdays and Sundays to “catch up” from the bank holidays.
 - 2.9.5 Most of the other GM Authorities also reduce their food and garden waste collections over the Christmas period. The lower temperatures at

this time of year make longer periods between collections more palatable.

- 2.10 A worked example of how the suspension would work for 2023 is that:
- 2.10.1 the last collections before Christmas would take place on Friday 23rd December.
 - 2.10.2 The service would be suspended on Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th December.
 - 2.10.3 All five days of refuse and recycling collections would be collected On Wednesday 27th, Thursday 28th and Friday 29th December.
 - 2.10.4 The full service would then resume on Tuesday 2nd January with collections moving back one day and the crews working one day's overtime on Saturday 6th January to collect the bins that would usually be emptied on Friday 5th January.
- 2.11 If the proposed is approved, the Council will communicate the changes to residents alongside the delivery of annual bin collection calendars to all households in October and November. Ordinarily, this communication includes any changes to bin collections over the Christmas period. The Council will also support communication of the changes using wider communications over the Christmas and New Year period to remind households of all changes to collections and sign point them to where they can find the information for their address.

3.0 Consultation

- 3.1 Various consultation and engagement with stakeholders and members have been undertaken during the 7-year review process.
- 3.2 The outcomes of the review have also been reviewed at Scrutiny Committee on the 12th July 2023, this included the changes proposed to green bin collections over the Christmas period.
- 3.3 Whilst there are no public consultation requirements in respect of this proposal, the Council and Amey have considered the risk of disruption to the public when determining the prioritisation of the type of waste collections in order to mitigate the impact of external factors on overall service delivery.

4.0 Other Options

- 4.1 Do nothing – this would not provide the additional resilience for the service over the Christmas period and would not allow the service to minimise disruption to collections.

5.0 Urgency

- 5.1 The report is submitted to the Executive Member for Environmental Services on an urgent basis.
- 5.2 A decision will be urgent if any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests.

- 5.3 This report should be considered as 'urgent business' and the decision exempted from the 'call-in' process for the following reason(s):-
- 5.3.1 The report was originally part of a larger report intended to go to July Executive Committee but that report has been delayed due to ongoing commercial negotiations.
 - 5.3.2 The decision needs to be made before 25th August in time for the new bin collection calendars to be printed.
 - 5.3.3 Giving 5 days' notice and waiting for call-in to expire, would mean that this date would be missed.
- 5.4 The report and urgency of the key decision have been communicated to the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee.
- 5.5 It is proposed therefore, that the decision contained in this report is therefore deemed to be urgent and cannot be reasonably deferred. It is also proposed that the decision, based on urgency provisions, is not subject to call-in.

6.0 Reasons for Recommendation

- 6.1 Approval is sought to temporarily suspend the collection of green bins for a period of one week over the Christmas period to allow the Council to prioritise other waste collections and minimise disruption to other priority collections during that period.

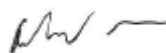
Key Decision NO

If Key Decision, has 28-day notice been given? N/A

Finance Officer Clearance PC

Legal Officer Clearance DS

[CORPORATE] DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE *(electronic)*



To confirm that the Financial and Legal Implications have been considered and the Executive Member has cleared the report.