

Delegated authority officer decision notice

Decision made by	Suzanne Malcolm, Deputy Chief Executive - Place
Lead officer contact details	William Maxwell
Decision (Keep this succinct)	To take forward the purchase of nine new waste vehicles which will be bought by South Oxfordshire District Council for use in both districts as part of the shared waste service (with Vale of White Horse District Council) currently operated by the councils' contractor. The purchase and operating costs of these vehicles will be met by the councils on a shared basis confirmed as agreed between the councils as set out in the attached Appendix 1.
Key decision? (see notes below)	No
If key decision, has call-in been waived by the Scrutiny Committee chair(s)?	N/A
Confidential decision, and if so under which exempt category? (Must be agreed by the Monitoring Officer in advance)	No
Delegated authority reference from the constitution	The Cabinet decision taken on 9 March 2023 resolved to: (a) authorise the procurement of replacement waste vehicles, constituting up to ten of the waste collection vehicle fleet collectively across the South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council joint contract, and (b) authorise the Deputy Chief Executive - Place and the Head of Finance, in consultation with the Leader and the relevant cabinet members, to procure the most appropriate vehicles which represent best value to the councils, recognising the council's corporate objectives and climate targets.
Risks	Not ordering the vehicles in time to supply to the service providers before June 2024, thereby incurring additional risks to service continuity and additional costs through the lease of waste vehicles.
Reasons for decision	The waste vehicle fleet was provided to last for the second term of the contract with Biffa, 2017 to 2024. As the vehicle fleet enters its seventh year of operation there are increasing breakdowns and maintenance costs. Some of the fleet are, or are soon to be, uneconomical to continue repairing. In anticipation of this the councils set aside budgetary provision this year, and for the next two years, to undertake essential vehicle replacements.

	<p>Having assessed the condition of the fleet earlier this year, nine of the most vulnerable vehicles were identified. These are: Six x 26 Tonne Refuse Collection Vehicles. Two x 18 Tonne Narrow Access Collection Vehicles. One x 10 Tonne Food waste Collection Vehicle.</p> <p>The cost, using the vehicle framework the councils are signed up with, will be in the region of £1,810,000 and therefore fall within the councils' £1,900,000 budget provision (£950,000 per council).</p> <p>A full briefing note on how the vehicles were chosen is attached as Appendix 1.</p>
<p>Alternative options rejected</p>	<p>To continue with the existing fleet until 2026. This would see the likelihood of increased service failures and increased costs to bring in vehicles on a lease basis.</p> <p>The remainder of the fleet of vehicles used in the shared service will, over time, need to be replaced and how the councils purchase these vehicles and share the costs of procurement and operation will to be separately agreed by both councils through a waste vehicle procurement strategy.</p>
<p>Climate and ecological implications</p>	<p>No change to the use of diesel fuel will still see some limited reduction in scope one emissions as newer vehicles have more energy efficient Euro 6 engines and are therefore less polluting. However, one of the vehicles, the lightest one – the 10 tonne Food Waste Collection Vehicle, has been successfully trialled and, infrastructure pending, will be the councils' first wholly electric powered waste collection truck within this first round of vehicle replacement purchases. It will have a small impact on emissions and act as a showcase for the viability of fleet electrification. Hydrogen and HVO fuelling options were considered and will be further explored in the forthcoming waste vehicle strategy. However, neither were satisfactory at this stage for reasons of cost, availability and environmental impact at this time.</p>
<p>Legal implications</p>	<p>Framework drawdown contracts will be entered into by South Oxfordshire District Council to formalise the purchase of the 9 vehicles. The sharing arrangements between the councils in respect of purchase, running /maintenance costs and use of further vehicles to be purchased over time as replacement for existing fleet vehicles will be the subject of a future decision.</p>
<p>Financial implications</p>	<p>1. For the council to agree that South Oxfordshire District Council directly purchases nine new waste vehicles, consisting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six refuse collection vehicles (RCVs), • Two narrow access RCVs and • One electrically powered food waste collection vehicle. <p>All for use in the shared service.</p> <p>The council agrees to pay its share of the purchase cost of the vehicles calculated according to the number of households in each district and their ongoing maintenance.</p>

	<p>2. For vehicles to be purchased through the existing procurement framework at a cost of approximately £1.810 million.</p> <p>3. For this purchase to be undertaken using the earmarked capital within the capital budget of each council.</p> <p>It should be noted that, despite having higher up-front purchase costs, largely because of lower fuel costs, the electric vehicle should work out as better value for money over its operational lifetime, compared with a diesel equivalent.</p>			
Other implications				
Background papers considered	Report into how the decision to purchase the vehicles identified is attached as a Briefing Note.			
Declarations/ conflict of interest?	None			
Consultees (Not all consultees need to be consulted on every occasion and will relate to the nature of the decision made and the requirements of the Scheme of Delegation)		Name	Outcome	Date
	Legal legal@southandvale.gov.uk	Pat Connell Patrick Arran	Two suggestions made Agreed	22/09/23 19/10/23
	Finance Finance@southandvale.gov.uk	Emma Creed Simon Hewings	No issues raised	13/09/23
	HR hrradminandpayroll@southandvale.gov.uk	From the mailbox	No issues raised	07/09/23
	Climate and biodiversity climateaction@southandvale.gov.uk	Heather Saunders	No issues raised	11/09/23
	Equality and diversity equalities@southandvale.gov.uk			
	Risk and insurance risk@southandvale.gov.uk	Yvonne Cutler Greaves	The new vehicles will be owned by the council and will therefore need to be covered on our motor policy. Please ensure all details are sent to insurance in good time to enable insurance to be put in place.	07/09/23
	Strategic property Property@southandvale.gov.uk	Chris Mobbs	No comments	07/09/23
	Communications	Lucy Billen	While the reasons are	08/09/23

	communications@southandvale.gov.uk		<p>clear in this report for the choice in purchasing of new diesel vehicles – we will have to expect and manage some criticism from the public for these choices. This is especially in light of the councils’ strong stances on tackling climate change and in particular the recent council campaigns to encouraging residents to consider using EVs by installing EV chargers in their car parks etc. Careful consideration will have to be given when communicating this news.</p>	
<p>Decision maker’s signature To confirm the decision as set out in this notice.</p>	<p>Signature: Suzanne Malcolm Date: 20/10/23</p>			
	<p>Leader – South Oxfordshire District Council</p>	<p>Cllr David Rouane</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>20/10/23</p>
	<p>Cabinet member for the Environment - South</p>	<p>Cllr Sue Cooper</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>20/10/23</p>
	<p>Cabinet member for Finance and Property Assets– South</p>	<p>Cllr Pieter-Paul Barker</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>20/10/23</p>