

Report to	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting	24 th October 2024
Lead Member	Cllr Barry Mellor, Lead Member for Environment and Transport
Head of Service	Head of Highways & Environmental Services
Report author	Corporate Director: Environment and Economy
Title	Additional resources required for the new weekly trollibocs recycling service and associated waste collection functions

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. This report is about the implementation of the new weekly trollibocs recycling service and associated waste collection functions and what adjustments are required to ensure sufficient resources are allocated so that the new system can operate on a sustainable footing

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. To enable the Committee to scrutinise the proposal (appended to this report) that was presented to Cabinet on 1st October 2024.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1. That the Committee consider the report and associated appendices and what, if any, recommendations that it would like to make to Cabinet.
- 3.2. That the Committee confirms that it has taken account of the Wellbeing Impact Assessment (appended to this report) as part of its consideration.

4. Report details

- 4.1. The attached report and appendices were presented to Cabinet on 1st October 2024. At that meeting, it was resolved that Cabinet:
- a) approve an additional £1.299m in capital expenditure for the purpose of procuring additional recycling vehicles funded by prudential borrowing;
 - b) approve an additional £1.067m of revenue costs in order to ensure the service change can deliver as planned on a sustainable footing. This includes the revenue costs for the prudential borrowing for the vehicles referred to in paragraph 3.1 of the report;
 - c) agrees that the decision be implemented immediately without call-in, in accordance with section 7.25 of the Council's Constitution, and
 - d) confirms that it has read, understood and taken account of the Wellbeing Impact Assessment (Appendix A to the report) as part of its consideration.
- 4.2. Scrutiny Chairs & Vice-Chairs agreed for the item to be placed on the agenda for Communities Scrutiny Committee on 24th October 2024 to enable the Committee to scrutinise the proposal.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Plan 2022 to 2027: The Denbighshire We Want?

- 5.1. The new household waste collection model has a positive impact on two of our Corporate Plan themes. It is a specific project within the "Greener Denbighshire" theme because it will help us to increase the quantity and quality of recycling collected from households and increase opportunities for closed loop recycling. Through adoption of low carbon technologies at the new Waste Transfer Station and inclusion of infrastructure for ULEV fleet, the aim is to minimise the impact of the service in support of the wider corporate goals on net zero by 2030.
- 5.2. The project also supports the "Prosperous Denbighshire" theme in the Corporate Plan, which aims to support economic recovery, capitalising on opportunities to enable residents to access decent employment and income. The project has led to the creation of additional jobs within the waste service. In addition, the building of the new depot enabled the creation and protection of many local private sector jobs. We

worked with 4 important local businesses at Colomendy Business Park, Denbigh as part of the development of the new Depot. This allowed them to unlock and develop new employment land to enable those 4 businesses to remain in Denbigh and expand their operations.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

6.1. The cost of the additional rounds is detailed throughout the Cabinet report.

7. What are the main conclusions from the Well-being Impact Assessment?

7.1. The WBIA has been reviewed and updated, and is attached at **Appendix A to the Cabinet report**. This hasn't fundamentally changed because we're not changing the principles of the proposed model, we're just making changes to ensure that the model works. The overall outcome of the Well-being Impact Assessment is positive.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

8.1. There have been numerous Member Briefings via Teams since the roll out.

8.2. Council Workshop held on Thursday 26 September

8.3. A report will be presented to Communities Scrutiny on 24 October

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1. In undertaking strategic change projects such as this we are forecasting future associated costs based on assumptions and the best information available at that time. The assumptions and information are only confirmed once the project moves into implementation and delivery phase and will impact on those estimated costs. Clearly the rollout of the new model has not been implemented in the way anyone would have wanted. Given the number of residents that have been affected the council has had to act in deploying additional resources from June to September. It is important that we learn from this experience.

- 9.2. The report sets out the additional resources necessary to revise the recycling routes and ensure the service can operate in a more sustainable way.
- 9.3. The in-year costs associated with the report (2024/25) can be funded from the one-off receipt from the North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Partnership. The additional resources required from 2025/26 onwards will now need to be built into the Medium-Term Financial Plan which will be updated and reported to Cabinet at its October monthly meeting.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

- 10.1. There are risks around any service change of this scale, as we have seen since 3rd June, 2024. The main risk is that introducing a set of re-balanced and re-designed collection routes initially results in missed collections as the service get used to the changes. However, this is being mitigated by the amount of work that has taken place to ensure that the new routes are based on more realistic assumptions than the previous service design, learning from the experience of the new system being operational since 3rd June.

11. Power to make the decision

- 11.1. Part II Environmental Protection Act 1990
- 11.2. s111 Local Government Act 1972
- 11.3. s120 Local Government Act 1972
- 11.4. Section 7.25 of the Council Constitution.