

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF A KEY DECISION CABINET MEMBER CONTRACTS AND ASSETS

ITEM:	WASTE COLLECTION REVIEW
Date of Decision:	20 March 2014
Exempt:	No
Confidential	No
<p>This is a key decision because</p> <p>It is likely to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function concerned. A threshold of £500,000 is regarded as significant.</p> <p>And/or</p> <p>It is likely to be significant in terms of its effect on-</p> <p>Two or more Wards or electoral divisions;</p> <p>One Ward (unless the number of those affected is very small or it is impractical to treat this as a key decision).</p>	
<p>A notice was served in accordance with Part 3, Section 9 (Publicity in connection with key decisions) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.</p>	
Urgency/Special Urgency: (As defined in Constitution)	No
Purpose:	To seek authorisation to agree a seven year contract extension for FCC Environment Ltd to continue waste collection services on behalf of the Council, subject to achieving significant savings by moving to alternate weekly collections of recycling and refuse.
Decision:	<p>THAT:</p> <p>(a) The Director for Economy, Communities and Corporate be authorised to come to agreement with waste collection contractors, FCC Environment Ltd (FCC), for an extension of seven years to the existing arrangements to achieve significant savings by moving to alternate weekly collections of recycling and refuse; and</p> <p>(b) The Chief Finance Officer is authorised to arrange for the purchase of refuse bins for residents utilising prudential borrowing as detailed in this report.</p>
Reasons for the Decision:	<p>1. The council's budget position requires a review of all expenditure to better reflect available funding. Under the terms of the current waste collection contract, which commenced on 1 November 2009, an extension of seven years is possible. Negotiations have taken place with</p>

	<p>FCC to investigate potential savings to the Council if the service was modified and extended. Alternate weekly collections (AWC) are carried out by 216 councils out of a total of 324 in England and in all but one of the Districts in Worcestershire. The yearly savings currently proposed by FCC are sufficient to meet the requirements identified in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy. FCC have given two savings scenarios. One where they purchase refuse bins on our behalf and another higher saving if the Council were to arrange purchase of bins using prudential borrowing.</p> <p>2. It is recommended that the Council prudentially borrow the finance to purchase the bins rather than FCC doing the same as this will provide additional savings.</p>
Options Considered:	<p>1. By maintaining the existing service of collecting black sack refuse every week and recycling fortnightly current costs would increase in line with the Consumer Price Index every year and no significant saving would be made.</p> <p>2. Change collection frequencies to more than alternate weekly eg collect refuse and recycling every four weeks. Whilst this may reduce costs further it is questionable if this is acceptable on public health grounds or would pass a challenge on the basis of this service being reasonable. Councils currently considering refuse collections every four weeks have weekly food waste collections, garden waste collections and recycling collections. The overall costs of such a service would be much higher than our current recycling and refuse collection services.</p>
Conflict of Interest ■ (See below):	
Date the key decision is due to take effect:	26 March 2014

<p>COUNCILLOR H BRAMERDate: 20 March 2014 Cabinet Member Contracts and Assets</p>
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■ a record of any conflict of interest declared by any executive member who is consulted by the member which relates to the decision;

And

■ in respect of any declared conflict of interest, a note of dispensation granted by the relevant local authority's head of paid service.