



ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

Adur Cabinet Member for the
Environment & Leisure
Worthing Cabinet Member for the
Environment

Date 9 June 2023

Decision to be taken on or after 19
June 2023

Key Decision [Yes]

Ward(s) Affected: All

JAW/003/23-24 Procurement of two Refuse Collection Vehicles

Report by the Director for Digital, Sustainability & Resources

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of the Adur Cabinet Member for the Environment & Leisure and the Worthing Cabinet Member for the Environment to proceed with the purchase of two second hand Refuse Collection diesel Vehicles (Commercial waste). These vehicles are included in the 2023/24 Capital Investment Programme.
- 1.2. Replacement of the vehicles has been delayed in previous years to ease the pressure on the capital program.
- 1.3. The council is committed to decarbonising its fleet by 2030. A strategy to set out the roadmap to a decarbonised fleet is being produced. Second hand vehicles are being proposed, as opposed to new vehicles as they are lower cost, and will be replaced sooner than the normal 7-8 year cycle for new RCVs.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Adur Cabinet Member for the Environment & Leisure and the Worthing Cabinet Member for the Environment:-

2.1.1 Note the progress being made to decarbonise our fleet in order to meet our 2030 carbon reduction targets.

2.1.2 Authorise the Director for Sustainability to purchase two second hand Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCVs) within the budget and parameters set out in this report.

3. Context

- 3.1 The council operates a fleet of vehicles essential to the delivery of its services. This includes 27 HGV Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCVs) for the collection of domestic and commercial waste and recycling. The vehicles are purchased through the capital programme, and typically replaced on a 7-10 year cycle. They are maintained by our in-house fleet workshop. Decisions to replace a vehicle are based on condition and reliability, hence the variation in replacement time-frames.
- 3.2 The bulk of our large fleet is due for replacement in 2026/27. However two of the Council's RCVs predominantly used for the collection of commercial waste are now end of life and require urgent replacement (the vehicles were first registered in 2012/13 and have covered 150k and 70k miles respectively). The vehicles are becoming unreliable and the maintenance liability is increasing. They had been scheduled for replacement in 2022/23 but this was delayed to help manage pressures on the capital programme.
- 3.3 The Council's fleet is responsible for approximately 40% of scope 1 carbon emissions and moving away from fossil fuels is a priority to meet the commitments made by both councils to be carbon neutral by 2030. We have started to replace our smaller fleet with electric vehicles. We currently operate five car derived EV vans and have four further 3.5t vehicles on order.
- 3.4 We are in the process of producing a strategy that will set out the roadmap to net zero for all our fleet, including our RCV fleet. We have commissioned Ricardo to work with us to produce a green fleet strategy, setting out a

roadmap to fully decarbonise our small and large fleet. The strategy will evaluate both electric and hydrogen technologies, informing current and projected life cycle costs and infrastructure requirements. Work is also underway with suppliers to simulate the use of electric RCVs on our collection rounds (taking into account length of round and geography) to provide further confidence ahead of any significant investment decisions. We are also in contact with the Energy Saving Trust with a view to securing support from them to do further modelling work to inform decarbonisation decisions.

- 3.5 Whilst the development of the strategy is underway we are proposing to procure two second hand diesel vehicles. Hydrogen technology and infrastructure is not advanced enough to be viable for our service. Electric RCVs are now available commercially and the service has tested one recently. However, electric RCVs are still very costly (£380k) plus initial set up cost of charging points estimated at 250k compared to £240k for a new diesel vehicle or approximately £150k for a reliable second hand vehicle. Costs of new electric vehicles are expected to come down in the coming 3-4 years together with advances in technology improving reliability and resilience.
- 3.6 Given the financial position of the councils, and given the work underway to inform our strategy, it is proposed to purchase two second hand diesel RCVs. The vehicles will probably need to be replaced in 2027/28. Purchasing new diesel vehicles, which we would need to run for 7+ years to be cost effective will jeopardise our ambitions to decarbonise our fleet by 2030.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The Councils have a capital budget of £858,610 (Adur District Council £326,640 and Worthing Borough Council £531,970) for the purchase of new vehicles for the refuse and street sweeping services.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 Under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to do anything to facilitate or which is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of their functions.
- 5.2 s1 Local Government (Contracts) Act 1997 confers power on the local authority to enter into a contract for the provision of making available of

assets or services for the purposes of, or in connection with, the discharge of the function by the local authority

- 5.3 Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 1999 (LGA 1999) contains a general duty on a best value authority to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- 5.4 The Council is also to have regard to the procedures set out in its Contract Standing Orders found at Part 4 of the Council's Constitution on the Council's website.

Officer Contact Details:-

Jan Jonker

Assistant Director Operations & Sustainability

07881255291

jan.jonker@adur-worthing.gov.uk

Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. Economic

The vehicles are essential to the delivery of our frontline service for domestic and commercial customers. Effective refuse and recycling services are critical to the local economy

2. Social

2.1 Social Value

Matter considered and not applicable

2.2 Equality Issues

Matter considered and not applicable

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

Matter considered and not applicable

2.4 Human Rights Issues

Matter considered and not applicable

3. Environmental

The environmental considerations are set out in the body of the report. Second hand vehicles are being purchased to bridge the gap to transition to a zero carbon fleet/

4. Governance

Matter considered and not applicable