

Replacement Wheeled Bins and Glass Recycling Banks

Date: 5th August 2021

Report of: Chief Officer Waste Management

Report to: Chief Officer Financial Services & Director of Communities, Housing & Environment

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- Waste Management has a statutory requirement to replace domestic waste and recycling wheeled bins when they become damaged, lost or reach the end of their working life, and to provide new bins when new services are implemented. Due to the number of wheeled bins in use across the city the cost of this replacement service has been capitalised for a number of years.
- Waste Management provides a network of 700+ glass recycling banks across Leeds. When these banks become damaged or reach the end of their working life they need to be replaced in order to comply with safety requirements (LOLER).
- The previous bin replacement capital programme (Scheme 12594) totalling £5.67m is now fully spent. A new replacement wheeled bin capital programme is now required. This is recommended for the next 10 years at a cost of £4.8M
- A replacement glass recycling bank capital programme is also required. This is recommended for the next 10 years at a cost of £200K. There was no previous capital scheme covering these costs.
- Dealing with the City's waste is a key Council priority. These programmes of spend will help ensure that the assets (i.e. the bins and glass banks) remain fit for purpose.

Recommendations

- a) The Director of Communities and Environment is recommended to note the content of this report and is requested to approve the authority to spend against a new wheeled bin capital programme and glass recycling banks capital programme for the next 10 years.

- b) The Chief Officer financial services is recommended to approve the injection of £2.9m into the capital program funded by prudential borrowing to give an overall programme of £5m across the 10 year period 2021/22 to 2031/32. Repayments to be met by the Waste Management Service revenue budget.
- c) That Director of Communities and Environment is requested to :-
- Authorise spend of £4.8m for the provision of new and replacement wheeled bins for the next 10 years 2021/22 to 2031/32.
 - Authorise spend of £200k for the provision of replacement glass recycling banks for the next 10 years 2021/22 to 2031/32.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 Seek injection approval of funding and authorise spend for the provision of new and replacement wheeled bins for the next 10 years 2020/21 to 2029/30.
- 2 Seek injection approval of funding and authorise spend for the provision of replacement glass recycling banks for the next 10 years 2020/21 to 2029/30.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards Affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

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Wheeled Bins

- 3.1** In November 2006 Executive Board agreed an injection of £5.0m into the Capital programme for a wheeled bin replacement programme (Scheme 12594). A further £666k was approved as part of the capital programme review in February 2008 bringing the scheme total to £5.67m. The scheme was funded by prudential borrowing. Of the £5.67m, a sum of £300k was set aside for the replacement of Street Litter bins, leaving £5.37m for the replacement of household wheeled bins.
- 3.2** The capital programme, approved in February 2014, made initial provision for a new domestic bin replacement programme from 2015/16 to 2017/18 of £2.025m.
- 3.3** By the end of 2019 all monies injected into this scheme were fully spent. A new capital scheme is now required for new and replacement wheeled bins.

Glass Recycling Banks

- 3.4** In Leeds, household glass is currently recycled via a network of 350 sites utilising around 750 individual glass banks. Most of these sites have been in place for over 20 years and make a valuable contribution to the Cities recycling rate. During 2019/20 a total of 10,000 tonnes of glass was collected for recycling through this channel.
- 3.5** Historically there has been no specific resource for the replacement of damaged or end of life glass banks. Most banks were bought in small quantities over the last 20 years when

required. There is now insufficient stock to replace any damaged banks or banks that are coming to the end of their life.

- 3.6 Properly managing and maintaining glass bank stocks is imperative to ensure ongoing provision of glass recycling facilities which are safe to use and contribute to the councils recycling figures.
- 3.7 Over the last two years 2018/19 and 2019/20 a total of £32K has been spent on purchasing 43 new banks.

Main issues

Wheeled Bins

- 3.8 In Leeds there are approximately 360k households. The vast majority of these households have a black and green bin. A further 210k households also have a brown bin. It should be noted that this programme, at £4.8M over 10 years, will not provide every household in Leeds with a new bin over this period. But is designed to cover typical loss/replacement.
- 3.9 Replacement of all domestic wheeled bins over 10 years would cost in excess of £17M based on replacement of residual, recycling and garden waste bins in service.
- 3.10 This budget of £4.8M over 10 years would provide an annual replacement equivalent to 3% of the bins in service per year.
- 3.11 There is likely to be a continuing rise in the number of households in the City. Over the past 9 years the City has seen an increase from approximately 337k households in 2011 to around 360k in 2020.
- 3.12 Between 2021 and 2028 the Council is expected to build approximately 22,700 new houses in the city. The cost of supplying wheeled bins to these properties (based on current service levels will be) is approximately £1M.
- 3.13 In January 2014 the Executive Board formally adopted the operational kerbside collection policies. These set out terms to charge developers, landlords and managing agents for bins required at their properties.
- 3.14 Further to this, in February 2017 the Full Council approved applying a charge for replacement residual and garden waste bins to all residents. However, where bins are damaged or go missing during the collection process bins are replaced free of charge. All green bins, and initial brown bins, are also free of charge.

3.15 The table below shows income and expenditure on bins during 2019/20.

Expenditure		2019/20
	General replacement bins	£458, 785
Total		£458,785
Income		2019/20

	General bin sales	£90,808
	New build	£59,044
Total		£149, 852

The above figures highlight a shortfall of income by £308,933.00. However, the level of income cannot be guaranteed and is used to support the revenue budget for that financial year.

3.16 The table below shows a breakdown of figures for replacement bins from the previous year 2019/20.

	Stolen / Missing	Damaged	Additional	Contaminated	Other
Black Paid	2641	920	556	11	13
Black Free	609	691	107	2	75
Green	3663	1543	488	32	69
Brown Paid	1809	299		27	1
Brown Free	1245	280		3	
Food	125	45			

Glass Recycling Banks

3.17 In Leeds there are approximately 750 individual glass banks across 350 locations. A large number of these banks are over 10 years old and are increasingly more prone to irreparable damage. It should be noted that this programme, even at £200K will not replace every glass bank in the city, but will provide sufficient stock to replace aging and damaged banks.

3.18 A scheme of that magnitude would cost in excess of £560K based on replacement of all recycling glass banks in service.

3.19 As the number of new residential developments increases across the city there may also be the requirement to provide new glass recycling locations within these areas.

3.20 Should Leeds adopt kerbside glass recycling in the future, it is not envisaged that any scaling down of glass bring sites would take place. Industry best practice is to provide glass banks alongside side kerbside recycling to maximise recycling channels.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

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4.1 The Executive Member for Environment has been briefed on these proposals.

4.2 A screening document has been prepared and an independent impact assessment is not required for the approvals requested. The screening document has been sent to the Equality Team to be approved and published.

What are the resource implications?

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What are the legal implications?

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6.1 This report is subject to call in. A forward plan notification has been completed.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

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Wheeled Bins

7.1 There remains a risk that the amounts budgeted for are insufficient, although the amounts sought have been based on spend in recent years and include a provision for price rises and housing growth.

7.2 Bin charging was implemented in May 2017. Policies around this were implemented to ensure bin replacement costs are offset where possible. The level of income cannot be guaranteed as the sale of bins depends on a number of variables beyond the council's control. These include the number of new developments and the number of lost or stolen bins, and the cost of purchase to the Council.

Glass Recycling Banks

7.3 There remains a risk that the amounts budgeted for are insufficient, although the amounts sought have been based on spend in recent years and include a provision for price rises and housing growth.

7.4 Recycling banks are repaired where possible in order to reduce the number of new banks to be bought.

7.5 Should the introduction of a kerbside glass collection service occur within the next 10 years there may be a slight reduction in the demand for new or replacement glass banks, however Leeds would not seek to remove the glass bank service.

Conclusions

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8.2 The bin replacement scheme (12594) is now fully spent.

8.3 A new capital scheme for provision of new and replacement wheeled bins for the next 10 years is now required at a cost of £4.8M.

8.4 A new capital scheme for provision of replacement glass recycling banks for the next 10 years is required at a cost of £200K.

Recommendations

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9.1 The Director of Communities and Environment is recommended to note the content of this report and is requested to approve the authority to spend against a new wheeled bin capital programme and glass recycling banks capital programme for the next 10 years.

9.2 The Chief Officer financial services is recommended to approve the injection of £2.9m into the capital program funded by prudential borrowing to give an overall programme of £5m across the 10 year period 2021/22 to 2031/32. Repayments to be met by the Waste Management Service revenue budget.

9.3 That Director of Communities and Environment is requested to :-

- Authorise spend of £4.8m for the provision of new and replacement wheeled bins for the next 10 years 2021/22 to 2031/32.
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