

# Purchase of Plant and Equipment for Climate Energy and Green Spaces

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Report of: Head of Bereavement Services and Workshop

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

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

## Brief summary

This report is to request the establishment of a 3-year capital programme and injection and authority to spend approval for the first year in the sum of £1055k to replace a range of machinery, plant and equipment within the Climate Energy and Green Spaces service. This will replace existing items that have reached the end of economical and safe operating life. If the service is unable to procure this equipment there would be a detrimental impact on the quality of the service provided, the service's ability to deliver against income targets, and an increased cost of maintaining existing equipment to a useable standard.

The expenditure on replacement plant, machinery and equipment to deliver Green Spaces operations will be funded through prudential borrowing with the repayment and interest met from within existing revenue budgets.

## Recommendations

- a) The Director of Communities, Housing and Environment is recommended to approve the use of prudential borrowing to fund equipment purchases as set out in the report and approve expenditure of £1055k in 2024/25
- b) The Chief Officer Financial Services is requested to establish a capital scheme for the purchase of plant and equipment and to inject £1055k in 2024/25

## What is this report about?

- 1 This report is to request the establishment of a 3-year capital programme and injection and authority to spend approval for the first year in the sum of £1055k in order to replace a range of machinery plant and equipment within the Climate Energy and Green Spaces service.
- 2 The machinery typically consists of mowing machinery, trailers, mechanical excavators, tractors and tractor mounted implements, along with a range of other arboricultural, horticultural and agricultural equipment.

## What impact will this proposal have?

- 3 The machinery is required to replace existing items that have reached the end of economical and safe operating life. If the service is unable to procure this equipment there would be a detrimental impact on the quality of the service provided, the service's ability to deliver against income targets, and an increased cost of maintaining existing equipment to a useable standard.
- 4 Purchasing the latest machines on a cyclical basis ensures that the council has up to date machinery available which are the most fuel efficient to run and keep emissions as low as possible.
- 5 Wherever reasonably practicable the service will procure a higher proportion of electrically powered machines where they fulfil service need and are fit for purpose. Technological advances in the reduction of emissions from fossil fuel powered engines within the plant and equipment in scope of these proposals is not as advanced as for road vehicles. However, emissions reduction technology is now being seen in the sector and reducing the impacts from operation will play a significant contributory consideration when choosing items to procure.
- 6 Hand-arm vibration syndrome (HAVS) is a disorder resulting from prolonged exposure to vibration, specifically to the hands and forearms, while using vibrating tools. The council must take reasonable steps to limit workplace exposure to provide a safe working environment. Where vibrations levels are reduced below '*action levels*' the need to limit usage of equipment (trigger time) and conduct health surveillance of the workforce are reduced or removed. Modern fossil fuelled, and in particular electrically powered equipment tends to expose operatives to significantly lower levels of vibration and will therefore increase productivity.
- 7 Engagement is underway and ongoing with operational managers to develop a comprehensive replacement list following the winter maintenance regime 2023/24 and to meet the needs of changing priorities of the service. There is an urgent need to procure mowing machinery reflecting that no replacement programme was conducted in 2023 due to staff turnover and there can be a significant lead time required from the placement of orders.

## How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 8 The proposed purchases will enable the council's plant and equipment provision to support the target to reduce energy usage and carbon emissions, will support the World Health Organisations targets on air quality, as well as the council's Clean Air Strategy.

## What consultation and engagement has taken place?



REVENUE EFFECTS	2024/25	2025/26
	£000's	£000'S
EMPLOYEES		
PREMISES COSTS		
PRUDENTIAL BORROWING REPAYMENT	247.0	362.0
EXTERNAL INCOME GENERATED		

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

- 13 Continuing to use old, worn machinery which may become unsafe to use would present an unacceptable safety risk to employees. In addition older, worn equipment has a tendency to exhibit higher vibration levels exposing staff to harm that can have long term negative health implications.
- 14 If the service is unable to procure replacement equipment there would be a detrimental impact on the quality of the service provided, the service's ability to deliver against income targets, and increased cost of maintaining existing equipment to a useable standard.

### What are the legal implications?

- 15 All purchases will be made through established framework contracts or through individual tender or quotation exercises ensuring all legislative requirements surrounding Public Procurements are adhered to.

### Options, timescales and measuring success

#### What other options were considered?

- 16 Deferring purchase of replacement equipment until future years was considered however this would increase safety and health risks for operators, would not provide the benefits to emissions reduction gained by newer technologies and would be likely to increase consequential costs through increased repairs and servicing charges.

#### How will success be measured?

- 17 Equipment will be procured and placed into operation in a timely manner reflecting seasonal pressures and demands.

#### What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

- 18 The Head of Bereavement Services and Workshop will be responsible for delivery commencing June 2024 with purchases of equipment occurring throughout the year.

### Appendices

- None

### Background papers

- None