



NORWICH City Council

Committee Name: Cabinet

Committee Date: 14/09/2022

Report Title: Green waste disposal contract

Portfolio: Councillor Oliver, Cabinet member for environmental services

Report from: Executive director of development and city services

Wards: All Wards

OPEN PUBLIC ITEM

KEY DECISION

Purpose

To consider approval for a new contract for the disposal of green waste collected from those households who sign up for a garden waste bin, and a nominal amount of green waste created by NCSL (Norwich City Services Limited) grounds maintenance activities.

Recommendation:

To award the contract for disposal of green waste to TMA Bark Ltd.

Policy Framework

The council has five corporate priorities, which are:

- People live independently and well in a diverse and safe city.
- Norwich is a sustainable and healthy city.
- Norwich has the infrastructure and housing it needs to be a successful city.
- The city has an inclusive economy in which residents have equal opportunity to flourish.
- Norwich City Council is in good shape to serve the city.

This report assists with delivery of the sustainable and healthy city priority

This report helps to meet the environment and procurement adopted policy of the council

View the Corporate Plan 2022-26 [Corporate plan 2022-26](#)

View the COVID-19 Recovery Plan [COVID-19 Recovery Plan](#)

Report Details

Norwich City Council Waste Strategy and national initiatives

1. Norwich City Council is committed to reducing its impact on the environment, and has committed to an ambitious programme of carbon reduction through:
 - (a) Norwich's 2040 vision which sets out Norwich being a 'liveable' city: The city takes pride in being a place with a great local environment that people value. We are committed to shifting to clean energy by 2040 (carbon-neutral by 2050). We will support and promote sustainable living – where today's citizens meet the needs of the present without compromising future generations.
 - (b) The declaration of a climate emergency in 2018.
 - (c) The adoption of the Environmental Strategy in 2020, which set targets for carbon emissions, (zero operational emissions, Carbon Neutral City by 2050), and improving participation in recycling services, particularly the weekly food waste collection service.

Processing of garden (brown bin) material

2. Norwich City Council provides a wide range of recycling services as part of its overall approach to minimising the city's impact on the environment. By offering a garden waste collection service, the city has managed to increase its recycling rate to 39.3%, and we continue to review services to ensure that the council and our residents minimise their waste and increase the amount of material recycled
3. The council currently provides a green waste collection to approximately 13,300 (correct as of 05/08/2022) properties across the city as a paid for subscription service. The collection service is provided through the recently renegotiated contract with Biffa.
4. The contract for processing of collected material is currently with NEWS and was jointly procured by the city council and Broadland District Council in September 2017. The contract expires on Tuesday 20 September 2022.
5. The new contract has been jointly procured with Broadland District Council, South Norfolk Council and Breckland Council. This joint approach was used to achieve economies of scale and provide a more favorable processing cost per tonne for each council. Each council's requirements were set out as separate lots as part of the procurement process. The open procurement exercise was run from May t June this year. Our partner Councils have already approved the award of this contract.
6. A failure to procure a new green waste processing contract could result in significant disruption to the collection service. In addition, any resulting ad

hoc contractual arrangements would result in the councils paying significantly higher contract costs.

7. It is proposed that the new contract will initially be awarded for a three year period from 21 September 2022 to 21 September 2025. All lots also have the option to extend for a further period (or succession of annual periods) of up to a further three years.

Consultation

8. Not applicable

Implications

Financial and resources

9. Any decision to reduce or increase resources or alternatively increase income must be made within the context of the council's stated priorities, as set out in its Corporate Plan 2022-2026 and budget.
10. It was intended that jointly procuring this contract with Broadland District Council, South Norfolk Council and Breckland Council would result in a more favorable processing cost per tonne as through economies of scale. Each council as part of the procurement process was set out as 'separate lots'.
11. The successful bidder is TMA Bark of Weston Longville, Norfolk. The price quoted was within the estimated prices for open windrow composting as quoted via [Windrow, IVC and AD prices 2022 - letsrecycle.com](https://www.letsrecycle.com).
12. The council is currently delivering its green waste to this site through the existing contract, and there will be no increase in collection costs as a result of the change in contractor.
13. Further financial details are set out in the exempt appendix A attached.

Legal

14. The contract has been procured through an open procedure in terms of the Public Contracts Regulations. There are no anticipated legal implications.

Statutory considerations

Consideration	Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:
Equality and Diversity	None
Health, Social and Economic Impact	None
Crime and Disorder	None
Children and Adults Safeguarding	None

Consideration	Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:
Environmental Impact	<p>The green waste disposal service will allow the current 13,300 subscribers (and any additional subscribers throughout the life of the new contract) to the brown garden waste bin service will be able to continue to dispose of their garden waste in an environmentally friendly manner.</p> <p>The contractor bidding for the green waste disposal service has been requested to provide an environmental improvement plan on how they as a company are looking to reduce their impact on the environment and specifically reduce their carbon footprint.</p> <p>Recycling Performance</p> <p>a. The garden waste collection makes a contribution of 5.9% to the overall recycling rate of 39.6%</p>

Risk management

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
<p>Financial</p> <p>Price per tonne is at the high end of the estimated price per tonne (as per Windrow, IVC and AD prices 2022 - letsrecycle.com) for open windrow composting.</p>	<p>Additional budget pressures arising over the life of the medium-term financial strategy.</p>	<p>Establish sufficient budget through robust modelling of both income (garden waste permits) and expenditure (cost of collection service provided by Biffa and cost of disposal through the new contract).</p> <p>Any increase in disposal costs will need to be addressed through either increases in the cost of the service to its users, or reduced costs elsewhere within the service</p>
<p>Legal</p>	<p>None - no risk of challenge by competitors. Open procurement exercise with only one bidder for Norwich City Council 'lot'</p> <p>The Environment Act 2021 contains a number of proposals for significant changes to councilwaste collections from 2024 onwards. These include</p>	<p>None</p>

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The introduction of an Extended Producer Responsibility scheme for producers of packaging material. This will establish a mechanism that will require producers to pay for efficient and effective collection systems for the packaging that they produce • The introduction of a Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers, that is aimed at improving the quality and quantity of recyclable containers collected through scheme, whilst reducing litter • The introduction of consistent waste collection schemes across all councils in the UK. Whilst the impact on the city council will be low in terms of new collection services (we already provide a class leading range of services), there are parts of this proposal that could have significant financial implications for the council. New legislation could require all councils to provide fortnightly garden waste collections free of charge. This has not yet been confirmed by the UK Government, and they have committed to meeting the cost of any new burdens. However, the situation is still unclear, and the council is engaging with the government through the Norfolk Waste Partnership to provide further clarity 	

Other options considered

15. Not procuring the green waste processing contract. However, this would result in the council being unable to provide the garden waste collection service, with significant environmental, reputational and financial implications for the council, and was discounted.

Reasons for the decision/recommendation

16. The procurement exercise resulted in one bidder for the disposal of green waste from Norwich City Council garden waste (brown bin subscribers) and a nominal amount of green waste created by NCSL grounds maintenance activities. The price quoted is within the recommended range as per [Windrow, IVC and AD prices 2022 - letsrecycle.com](https://www.letsrecycle.com). The bidder is within the set distance required from the boundary of Norwich City Council as set out in the invitation to tender document. The bidder has the relevant planning permission, EA (Environment Agency) licenses and is set up with Norfolk County Council for the purposes of recycling credits. It is recommended that this contract is approved for the initial period stated above in para 7.

Background papers: None

Appendices: Exempt Appendix A

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