

Executive Report

Delegated Decisions - 19 March 2024

COMMISSIONING FOR A NET ZERO FUTURE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE SERVICES TO 2030

Name of Cabinet Member	Councillor Jennifer Wilson-Marklew Cabinet member for Public Realm
Report sponsor	Stuart Proffitt Director of Environment and Property Nicholas Hannon Assistant Director - Environment, Waste and Commissioning
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Exempt / confidential / not for publication	No
Council Plan / delivery plan reference	P) The world's leading sustainable city: 68 Plant hundreds of new urban trees selected specifically to suit urban areas to replace trees lost to disease or removed due to being unsuitable. 69 Increase biodiversity within our green spaces by continuing measures such as less frequent grass cutting and increasing wildflowers where appropriate. R) Mitigate the impact of climate change: 77 Invest over half a million pounds in tackling the impact of flooding
Wards affected	All wards

Executive Summary

Commissioning for a net zero future sets out commitments for the City Council's Environment and Waste services, supporting and delivering the Sustainability Strategy. It sets the direction of how our infrastructure, vehicles and land assets are managed, and services are delivered to 2030.

Environment and Waste services have a key part to play setting out its commissioning programme to 2030 in the drive to reduce or avoid carbon, under three themes of:

- Waste and Resources: embedding the reuse of materials, using our waste to providing electricity and waste minimisation.

- Environment: biodiversity enhancements and improvements, biosecurity of our trees and plants and a sustainable urban drainage.
- Energy and Emissions: decarbonisation of our fleet, utilising energy from our waste plant to support the authority's infrastructure, reviewing renewable opportunities.

1. Proposed Decisions




- 1.1 That the Strategy for Commissioning for a Net Zero Future for Environment and Waste Services Commissioning, attached at **Annex A**, be approved.

2. Reasons for the Decision

- 2.1 The Commissioning for a Net Zero Future Programme forms part of the delivery of the City Council's Sustainability Strategy long-term vision to create a world-leading sustainable city, which embraces innovation recognising a vital role in tackling the global challenges of climate change. It sets out the delivery mechanism for environment and waste services.
- 2.2 It supports the Council Plan's outcomes to do essentials well, a cleaner safer MK and as we steer into the future the world's leading sustainable city and mitigating the impact of climate change. In particular, planting hundreds of new urban trees selected specifically to suit urban areas to replace trees lost to disease or removed due to being unsuitable (P68); increasing biodiversity within our green spaces by continuing measures such as less frequent grass cutting and increasing wildflowers where appropriate (P69); and investing over half a million pounds in tackling the impact of flooding (R77).

3. Background to the Decision

- 3.1 The Environmental Services Commissioning 2023 Programme reviewed and aligned the approach to front line services. Part of this was a major procurement exercise undertaken to integrate waste collection, street cleansing, landscape maintenance and play area inspections and maintenance services. The procurement process supported getting the best service outcomes for the residents of Milton Keynes. The new contract provides a one city approach through integration of the services, a new wheelie bin waste collection service, co-location of depots and the energy generation and recovery from MK Waste Recovery Park (MKWRP) which is beginning to support electrifying the council owned fleet (see **Annex B** Commissioning 2023 Delivery).
- 3.2 The Commissioning for a Net Zero Future Programme for Environment and Waste builds on the Commissioning 2023 vision providing a platform for the next stage of delivery to actively move our services further forward for the city. This meets the sustainability priorities of green energy, circular economy and low emissions.
- 3.3 The three themes in the new commissioning plan for environment and waste are Waste and Resources; Environment; and Energy and Emissions.

 <p>Waste & Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Embedding the Circular Economy system to enable the reuse of materials or products for use within our services. - Recycling Transforming our waste to a new fuel for heating, electricity and investing in the infrastructure to undertake this process. - and pursuing Reuse and Waste Minimisation initiatives while working to reducing single use materials and landfill
 <p>Environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biodiversity enhancements and improvements as a core outcome for the environment by expanding biomass and diversity. - Carbon Capture pursuit through biomass increases such as tree planting and improvements to stock. - Biosecurity risk management of pests and enhancing populations and stock in aquatic and ecological habitats. - Sustainable Urban Drainage to support flood resilience
 <p>Energy and Emissions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decarbonisation of our use of fossil fuels for electricity and heat provision and investing in renewable energy production methods - Transitioning from hydrocarbon-based fuels and vehicles to alternative fuel and electrical infrastructure powered by renewables. - Transferring energy and heat to the utilities sectors for most appropriate usage based on demand across Milton Keynes

3.4 The principal outcomes set out key projects to take us into 2030. It will mean adoption of policies and strategies to deliver; new service contracts, new infrastructure, review of waste collection systems, an education and engagement plan, private wire proposals and further decarbonisation of our services, heat network construction and use of innovative technologies, creation of a Sustainable Urban Drainage Adoption Body and delivering our Biodiversity Action Plan.

3.5 A dedicated programme is in place to review our services focusing on ways to provide best solutions for our residents, along with the principles of reducing carbon, and providing greater alignment and integration to reduce cost and carbon. The programme includes:

- infrastructure delivery with facilities to support recycling and reuse through dealing with bulky waste and street sweepings;
- work to bring improvements to buildings to provide an integrated service delivery into the future;
- best deployment of energy from our waste including potential sleeving operations and expanded use of our private wire to further fuel our service vehicles; and
- City wide landscape transformation, looking at the right plant / trees in the right location and delivery of our Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

3.6 Environment and Waste continue to lead the programme working in partnership with our service providers' knowledge and expertise in the market. The department will continue to involve our communities through Ward Councillors and Town and Parish Council engagement and include a series of ongoing service improvement plans for our key service contracts.

3.7 The delivery of the programme falls within the Commissioning team within Environment and Waste who will lead on the delivery of the programme.

4. Implications of the Decision

Financial	Y	Human rights, equalities, diversity	Y
Legal	Y	Policies or Council Plan	Y
Communication	Y	Procurement	Y
Energy Efficiency	Y	Subsidy	N
Workforce	Y	Other	

(a) Financial Implications

Environment and Waste have an approved capital programme of key projects through the Waste Capital Programme. New business cases through 'start documents' will be submitted to the relevant Council Programme Boards and Corporate Portfolio Board. The overarching programme management of these key projects will be from within the existing Environment and Waste teams.

(b) Legal Implications

The Council has general powers of competence under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 to do anything which an individual can do subject to any limitations. The recommendations proposed with the report, if approved, will facilitate the Council's vision to create a world-leading sustainable city.

The services incorporated within waste are primarily statutory services with the provision being a duty upon the council. The duties are principally derived from Parts II and IV Environmental Protection Act 1990.

The Council has a duty to maintain land it owns and keep the public safe on public open space. The council has a duty to maintain public open spaces and burial grounds under the Open Spaces Act 1906.

The Council must comply with health and safety requirements with regards to inspection and maintenance of play areas.

(c) Other Implications

(i) Communication

A communications plan will be developed as part of the programme. This is key to a successful delivery.

(iii) Energy Efficiency

This is a key part of the programme and is reflected as one of the key themes of the Net Zero Future for Environment and Waste Services Commissioning document.

(iii) Human Rights, Equalities and Diversity

These will be considered through the preparing of strategies, consultation exercises and the delivery of infrastructure. Environment and equality Impact assessments will be completed.

5. Alternatives Considered

5.1 Do Nothing

This is not recommended. The environment and waste services strategies and policies are required to deliver and secure innovation, our infrastructure, and action plans to commit to reduce carbon in our services to our residents, making MK a great place to live and work.

5.2 Pause until Contracts Terminate and require Re-procurement

The Authority could delay until current service contracts expire and deliver new ways of working through new contracts. However, some contracts do not expire until after 2030, which will mean that our targets will not be met, whereas others expire in 2028 leaving insufficient time and planning to ensure meeting the 2030 decarbonisation target.

5.3 Adopt Alternative

An alternative delivery model could be proposed such as a public, private partnership (PPP), Joint Venture (JV) or Land Assets Based Delivery Vehicle (LABV). The Council has an established approach to the ownership and own its environment and waste infrastructure and assets and have invested to support our direction and to enable us to respond to change. Examples include our environment and waste fleet, MK Waste Recovery Park, the Waste Transfer Station, the Environmental Services Depot and the Fleet Depot which the authority has financed. It is not deemed that an alternative asset backed vehicle would be applicable to the Council. We can now work with our partner to consider the next stage of decarbonisation.

5.4 Adopt Net Zero Future for Environment and Waste Services (recommended)

This is the recommended option to enable the commitment to reducing carbon and meet our 2030 target. This will set the vision for the services for the city and outline our expectations to the sector, providing leadership and custodianship for the environment and sustainability while enhancing, managing, and improving our infrastructure and service offer to residents, visitors and businesses in the city.

6. Timetable for Implementation

- 6.1 The detailed timetable for implementation is included in the Commissioning for a Net Zero Future: Environment and Waste services (see **Annex A**).

List of Annexes

- Annex A Commissioning for a Net Zero Future: Environment and Waste Services Programme 2024 – 2030
- Annex B Commissioning 2023 Delivery

List of Background Papers - None