

TEIGNBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 6TH 2020

Report Title	Rural Skip Service
Purpose of Report	To consider the future provision of the rural skip service
Recommendation(s)	The Committee RESOLVES to: (1) Agree to the discontinue the service and make necessary arrangements with the existing contractor for early contract termination; and (2) To provide support to the Town & Parish Councils impacted to assist them with their own arrangements where requested.

Financial Implications	<p>There are significant costs incurred by the Council to deliver this non-statutory service. Discontinuing the service would generate significant savings.</p> <p>Please see Section 2.1</p> <p>Chief Finance Officer Email: Martin.Flitcroft@teignbridge.gov.uk</p>
Legal Implications	<p>As set out at Section 2.2</p> <p>Paul Woodhead Legal Services Team Leader and Deputy Monitoring Officer Paul.Woodhead@teignbridge.gov.uk</p>
Risk Assessment	<p>A specific risk assessment is not considered relevant for this decision. Please see section 2.3 for further detail.</p> <p>Chris Braines. Waste & Cleansing Manager chris.braines@teignbridge.gov.uk</p>
Environmental/ Climate Change Implications	<p>Please see Section 2.4 for further information.</p> <p>Chris Braines. Waste & Cleansing Manager chris.braines@teignbridge.gov.uk</p>
Report Author	<p>Chris Braines. Waste & Cleansing Manager 01626 215841 chris.braines@teignbridge.gov.uk</p>
Portfolio Holder	<p>Cllr Alistair Dewhirst PH for Environmental Services</p>
Appendices	<p>A1 – Rural skip locations</p>
Background Papers	<p>None</p>

1. PURPOSE

Teignbridge District Council has historically provided residents with an attended skip service for the disposal and recycling of bulky household waste. It is usually provided at each site once annually on Saturdays from Spring to Autumn. The service visits various locations, and on occasions covers two sites that are in close proximity per Saturday. Information on the site locations can be found in Appendix 1.

Since the introduction of social restrictions relating to the CV-19 pandemic the planned rural skip services from April 2020 to the end of September have been cancelled. Initially it was not possible to comply with the necessary guidelines but as restrictions have eased the decision to temporarily withdraw the service has been

upheld. In order to adhere to social distancing measures the service would require additional staff and operational equipment at increased costs.

This purpose of this report is to consider the future provision of this non statutory service.

2. REPORT DETAIL

2.1 Financial

At the time of contract award in 2017 the service cost had almost doubled to £55K per year plus annual RPI increases. The incumbent supplier at that time did not bid to continue delivering the service. The cost for 2019/20 was £57,358 plus additional disposal costs of £1,343.

The Waste & Cleansing Business Plan 2018/19 identified the cessation of the service as a possible way to generate savings and improve recycling performance. The decision was taken in 2019 to extend the service for a further 2 years in line with the contract option available. The current contract now expires in March 2022.

So far in 2020/21 no services have been provided due to the CV-19 pandemic. This has resulted in avoided costs of £27.6k at the end of July. Ongoing annual savings of approximately £60k per year could be realized by discontinuing the service completely subject to any early termination costs.

In addition DCC could take the position during the contract term that this is not a service that TDC as the Waste Collection Authority should be providing and no longer cover any of the disposal costs. This has the potential to create a further budget pressure of approximately £12,000 per year.

2.2 Legal

The current contract was awarded to Coastal Waste in 2017 for an initial period to the 31st March 2020. The contract was extended for 2 years through the option available within the contract award.

The service is non statutory, is unique to Teignbridge in Devon and does not have the support of Devon County Council (DCC) who have withdrawn funding of the disposal costs at locations considered sufficiently close to their permanent Recycling Centres (i.e. those within a 5 mile radius).

There are clauses within the contract that allow for early termination of the contract by mutual agreement. Discussions with the incumbent supplier have confirmed that there would be no issues or costs associated with an early termination of the existing contract.

2.3 Risks

The removal of the service may be met with some disappointment from Town and Parish Councils and regular users. They can be advised, however, that residents who have bulky items to dispose of can take them to their nearest recycling centre, arrange collection through the Teignbridge 'Bulky Waste Collection Service' or make private arrangements for the disposal of their items.

The annual frequency of the service means its removal is unlikely to lead to an increase in fly tipping in any given area. There is also potential for our officers to provide the Town and Parish Council's with advice and assistance with their own arrangements to deliver the service should they wish to continue to provide it themselves.

2.4 Environmental/Climate Change Impact

Historically the service has had a negative impact on our waste performance by increasing costs and total waste arising and returning lower than average recycling rates. The recycling performance has improved through the new contract but still has detrimental effect on our costs and total waste arising performance figures.

In 2019/20 the service generated 145 tonnes of waste of which 90 tonnes were recycled giving a recycling rate of 62%. The main recycling centres operated by DCC which deal with the equivalent waste streams typically return recycling rates above 90% due to their ability to segregate additional types of waste material.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

There is currently no clear timeline for the lifting of social distancing measures and as a result there would be a significant additional budget pressure to resume and continue the service. The Town and Parish councils impacted would be offered support by the Teignbridge waste team to set up their own arrangements directly with waste service providers.

Residents that have bulky items to dispose of can be advised to take them to their nearest recycling centre or arrange a collection through the Teignbridge 'Bulky Waste Collection Service' online at www.teignbridge.gov.uk/recycling-and-waste/special-collections/bulky-waste-collections which costs £22 to book plus a cost per item. Alternatively residents could use a private company and be reminded about their 'duty of care' ensuring that they use a 'registered waste carrier' which can be checked here www.gov.uk/guidance/access-the-public-register-for-environmental-information and that fly tipping is an offence carrying a fixed penalty charge of £400 and the potential for prosecution.

4. CONCLUSION

As this is a non-statutory service that increases costs and is detrimental to our waste performance it is recommended that the provision of the Rural Skip Service is discontinued and early termination of the contract is progressed.

At a time of extreme financial pressure it seems counter-intuitive for TDC to provide a non-statutory service that is already provided statutorily by the Waste Disposal Authority (DCC) through their network of Recycling Centres and by TDC through our bulky waste collection service.

Appendix 1 – Rural Skip site locations

PARISH (TOWN / VILLAGE)	SITE NAME / LOCATION
Ashburton	Kingsbridge Lane Car Park
Bishopsteignton	Parish Council Recreation Ground Car Park
Bovey Tracey	Station Road Car Park
Bridford	Lay-by at the Top of Pound Lane
Broadhempston	Church Hill Cottages Car Park (Near The Square)
Buckfastleigh	Victoria Woodholme Car Park
Christow	Recreation Field Car Park
Chudleigh	Market Way Car Park
Chudleigh Knighton	Play Park Car Park
Combeinteignhead	Village Hall Car Park
Dawlish	Barton Hill Car Park
Dawlish	Sandy Lane Car Park
Dawlish Warren	Dawlish Warren Outer Car Park
Denbury	New Village Hall Car Park
Doddiscombsleigh	Victor Brook's Yard, Middle Hills
Dunchideock	Farm Entrance, opposite Riverside Cottage (formerly The Court)
Dunsford	Butts Landing
Exminster	Victory Hall Car Park
Hennock & Teign Village	Roadside along Hazel Crest Terrace, Hennock
Ide	Old Ide Lane
Ideford	The Pound Area
Ilsington	Village Hall Car Park
Ipplepen	Layby on Biltor Road (outside Primary School)
Kennford	The Old Weighbridge (top of town)
Kenton	The Triangle Car Park
Liverton	Blackpool Primary School Car Park
Longdown	Bus Stop Opposite the Lamb Inn
Lustleigh	The Orchard, alongside Post Office
Manaton	Manaton Car Park (opposite Cricket Field)
Moretonhampstead	Betton Way Car Park
Shaldon	War Memorial
Starcross	Sports field Car Park
Tedburn St Mary	Village Hall Car Park
Trusham	The Square
Whitestone	Hill Lane Junction (near Crossway)

Widecombe	Main Car Park (coach park)
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Committee
Date of meeting