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| Report on | Magherafelt Refuse Collection Route Optimisation Project |
| Reporting Officer | Mark McAdoo, Head of Environmental Services |
| Contact Officer | Mark McAdoo; Head of Environmental Services |

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| Is this report restricted for confidential business? | Yes | |
| If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon | No | x |

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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report |
| 1.1 | To inform members on forthcoming changes to refuse collection in the Magherafelt area. |
| 2.0 | Background |
| 2.1 | As part of the Council's ongoing commitment to review service delivery methods, improve performance and deliver efficiencies the department has been engaged in a very detailed route optimisation project for all refuse collection routes in the Magherafelt legacy area. |
| 2.2 | The routes in the legacy Cookstown area were "optimised" pre local government reform in 2014 and it is planned that the routes in the Dungannon area will be reviewed after the new Waste Transfer Station become operational and Tullyvar Landfill Site closes in 2018. |
| 2.3 | Over the past year a number of changes and improvements have been to refuse collection in the Magherafelt area (using existing resources) in order to align and harmonise service delivery across the Mid Ulster district. These included the roll out of brown bin collections for hard to access properties and the introduction of a new fortnightly mixed dry recyclables kerbside collection service to commercial properties. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 | <p>The domestic refuse collection routes in the Magherafelt area were last formally reviewed about ten years ago. A review of these routes was required for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A change of tipping destination (from Ballymacombs landfill, Bellaghy to the waste transfer station at Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt) • A health and safety requirement identified from route risk assessment analysis to utilise One Arm Vehicles (OAVs) on rural roads more effectively. • To ensure a more balanced and equitable workload for each individual squad. • To reduce sporadic collection patterns throughout the legacy Magherafelt area. • To enable harmonisation of black and blue bin collections across the district. |
| 3.2 | <p>Working with our route optimisation consultants, Integrated Skills (ISL) Ltd, re-routing parameters were set up and new routes modelled to address and mitigate against the issues highlighted above. Officers have consulted with refuse squads and supervisors and have proposed new routes split into vehicle types (as illustrated in the appendix):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LV = Large Vehicle – standard 3 axle 26 tonne bin lorry • OAV = One Arm Vehicle – 26 tonne lorry • SV – Mac Pac 7.5 tonne and SV 2 axle 18 tonne bin lorry |

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| 3.3 | In line with route risk assessments the aim is to have, as far as possible, all urban areas serviced with LV's and to unify collection days. For example, Maghera is currently serviced on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; however the new proposal is have two vehicles doing half the town each on a Thursday to collect black and blue on alternate weeks, with the brown bins also being done on a Thursday by another vehicle. |
| 3.4 | Ideally all non-urban routes will be serviced by the OAV's. These vehicles have a lifting arm at the side of the vehicle that the driver operates from the cab so there is no loader at the rear of the vehicle on faster roads. This type of operation improves both safety and it is estimated to be 20% quicker in rural areas than a standard refuse collection lorry. |
| 3.5 | Supervisors are currently proof checking the proposed routes and making any final refinements necessary. The roll out of the proposed new routes is scheduled for week commencing 29 th January 2018 (a black bin week). It is anticipated that around 75% of the black bins will be emptied on the same day as currently serviced, albeit the actual collection service times may change (all householders are instructed to have their bins out by 7:30am in any event). However with the move away from the current 6 day black bin and 4 day blue collection cycle in Magherafelt it is inevitable that collection day for blue bins will change for the majority of the households and so it will be necessary to notify all 16,500 households properties in the area of the new collection arrangements. |
| 3.6 | Marketing and Communications will be assisting with public awareness around this key project. This will involve the delivery of an initial general circular to all households (by a third party) followed by in-house delivery of a more specific notification to households detailing the changes to their collection day prior to implementation of the new routes. |
| 4.0 | Other Considerations |
| 4.1 | <p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Financial: Within budgetary provision (the cost of route optimisation software and consultancy support for 2017/18 is £15,000).</p> <p>Human: A significant amount of officer/supervisor time is involved in this project.</p> |
| 4.2 | <p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>N/A</p> |
| 4.3 | <p><u>Risk Management Implications</u></p> <p>Health and safety route risk assessments will be reviewed following implementation to ensure the changes mitigate against risks associated with household bin collections.</p> |
| 5.0 | Recommendation(s) |
| 5.1 | Members are asked to note the content of this report. |
| 6.0 | Documents Attached & References |
| 6.1 | Maps showing proposed new refuse collection routes in the Magherafelt area. |

