

Report on	Update on refuse collection route optimisation project
Date of Meeting	14 th June 2022
Reporting Officer	Mark McAdoo, Assistant Director, Environmental Services
Contact Officer	David Richardson, Assistant Cleansing Operations Manager

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update members on route optimisation and changes to the refuse collection service.
2.0	Background
2.1	As members will be aware Environmental Services is involved in an ongoing programme of route optimisation and changes to refuse collection service delivery across the district.
2.2	This transformative programme primarily involves the roll-out from the north to south of the district of one-armed collection vehicles (OAVs) to empty bins on rural roads. These currently operate in the legacy Magherafelt and Cookstown areas. Following delivery of additional OAVs further expansion of this type of collection is taking place in rural areas, including their introduction in the legacy Dungannon area, over the forthcoming weeks.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The roll out of OAV collections in the Dungannon area for rural households will coincide with the introduction of a 32 tonne RCV, the first in the Mid Ulster District Council fleet. This lorry will service urban properties adjacent to the rural areas where OAVs will be introduced and due to their increased capacity compared to the standard 26 tonne RCV's will result in fewer trips to the waste transfer station and more bins collected per load.
3.2	In summary during the coming weeks we will be implementing changes to the collection of bins from around 8,000 households located mainly across the legacy Dungannon area.
3.3	The changes will be split roughly 50:50 between approximately 4,000 households in urban areas (which will be serviced by our new 32 tonne RCV for black and blue bin collection alongside a 26 tonne RCV for brown bins) and approximately 4000 houses located in rural areas (which will have all their bins collected by OAV for the first time).
3.4	The households affected are located primarily around the Clogher Valley (5,200) Pomeroy / Castlecaulfield (1,400) and Stewartstown / Clonoe (1,400) areas. Maps showing those to be collected by 32 tonne and 26 tonne OAV are included at appendix 1.
3.5	The changes to collections are scheduled to take place during week commencing 20 th June and residents will be informed directly with a letter delivered to their homes detailing

	<p>the changes to their collection arrangements. For those areas moving to OAV collections, the letter explains in text and with images how to present bins for collection by a one-armed vehicle and also includes a link to our website where they can view a video online:</p> <p>The video is available at www.midulstercouncil.org/onearmedvehicle</p>
3.5	<p>We have aimed to minimise disruption to collection sequences / days etc. where possible however many residents will have a change of day or change to the week on which their brown bin is collected. Fortunately for the greater proportion of households affected by this latest phase the roll out of new collections will actually simplify their arrangements as approximately 5,000 houses in the Clogher Valley which currently present their brown bin on a different day from their black and blue bins will move to a common collection day. In the other areas sequences for brown bins and day changes will be kept to a minimum.</p>
3.6	<p>For areas moving to OAV collections, as well as a letter delivered directly to their homes informing them of the change to the method of collection, those residents will also receive a special bin label attached to their bin stating how to correctly present it for collection. All households affected by these changes will receive a collection calendar showing the switch in their brown bin collection week. Given the biggest change is to a relatively small number of residents, broad, untargeted communication (e.g. via social media) is likely to be counter-productive and direct communication as described is the preferred option.</p>
3.7	<p>Also several areas within the towns of Dungannon and Coalisland will also move to a new collection route however there will be no day change nor change of week for these collections and these changes are simply an internal re-organisation amongst the remaining crews however residents may notice that their bins are collected earlier or later in the day than currently. Therefore communications (labels) will also be issued to these households to remind them that their bins must be presented no later than 7:30am.</p>
3.8	<p>These changes will also allow a second operative to be allocated to these routes due to the higher number of bins being collected which was a key aim of the overall project.</p>
3.9	<p>It should be noted the proposed implementation dates outlined are subject to change particularly in light of potential future industrial action involving refuse collection staff.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial: This latest phase of route optimization, which is on a similar scale to that implemented previously, will not lead to a reduction in vehicles or a resultant saving in maintenance and fuel costs. However OAV collections can be more efficient than that by standard refuse collection vehicles (if bins are presently correctly by residents as requested) and it is hoped this efficiency will enable the growing number of households in the district to be serviced without an increase in budget i.e. doing more with the same level of resource.</p>
	<p>Human: It is important to highlight that there are no staff savings associated with the OAV roll out because the single loaders previously utilized on vehicles on rural routes are being redeployed to standard refuse collection vehicles on built up/urban routes where previously only one loader was deployed but where two are now required due to the continued increase in new houses/additional developments i.e. a rebalancing of resource.</p>

	<p>Risk Management: It is vital to reinforce the primary purpose of OAVs is the health and safety of operatives who will no longer be exposed to the hazard of collecting bins on busy rural roads.</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: None</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: OAV collections are only suitable/carried out on rural roads and this requires the resident to present their bins in a particular manner as described in the communications provided.</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are asked to note the contents of this report.
6.0	Attachment(s)
6.1	Maps showing areas affected by the proposed refuse collection route optimisation
6.2	Sample letter to be issued to affected households
6.3	Sample bin label to be issued for OAV collections