

REPORT TO CABINET

Open		Would any decisions proposed :			
Any especially affected Wards	Mandatory	Be entirely within Cabinet's powers to decide		YES	
		Need to be recommendations to Council		NO	
		Is it a Key Decision		YES	
Lead Member: Cllr Sandra Squire E-mail: <i>cllr.sandra.squire@west-norfolk.gov.uk</i>		Other Cabinet Members consulted: Cllr A Beales			
		Other Members consulted:			
Lead Officer: Barry Brandford E-mail: Barry.Brandford@west-norfolk.gov.uk Direct Dial:01553 782074		Other Officers consulted: Martin Chisholm, Mark Parkinson, Alexa Baker			
Financial Implications YES	Policy/ Personnel Implications /NO	Statutory Implications YES	Equality Impact Assessment NO If YES: Pre-screening/ Full Assessment	Risk Management Implications YES	Environmental Considerations YES

Date of meeting: 24th July 2025

EXTENSION OF THE PROCESSING OF CO-MINGLED DRY RECYCLABLES CONTRACT

Summary

The council is part of the Norse Environmental Waste Services Joint Venture (JV) along with all of the Waste Collection Authorities and the Waste Disposal Authority in Norfolk and the Norfolk County Council owned Norse Group. The JV provides, amongst other services, the processing of the material collected in green bins in west Norfolk. It is proposed to extend the arrangement for 3 years to 30th September 2030. This will provide certainty and clarity during the introduction of the changes to the law on collecting materials for recycling and during the potential period for local government reorganisation.

Recommendation

Cabinet Resolves:

1. The extension of the Processing of Co-mingled Dry Recyclables contract (the Contract) with NEWS Ltd through to 30th September 2030 on its current terms is agreed.
2. Extending the scope of the services provided by NEWS Ltd to under the Contract from the year 2026/7 to comply with the change in law introducing Simpler Recycling and Extended Producer Responsibility requirements is agreed conditional on such changes being approved in accordance with the Shareholder Agreement with NEWS Ltd.

Reason for Decision

To ensure a continuation of the current JV through the period of local government reorganisation to provide consistent recycling services to residents of Norfolk and west Norfolk.

Develop and implement business cases, where these evidence efficiency and effectiveness which implement changes in law on Simpler Recycling and Extended Producer Responsibility.

1 Background

The council has organised the processing of comingled collections through the Materials Recycling Facility at Costessey near Norwich since 2004. The current iteration of agreements means the council is a Shareholder in the Joint Venture Company (JV) Norse Environmental Waste Services Ltd (NEWS). This has been in place since 2013 and subject to extension. The current arrangements end at 30th September 2027. It is proposed to use the ability to extend further the provision of services to the 30th September 2030. The company is owned by local authorities and operates under its control as if it were by extension a part of the councils. This provides the ability to use NEWS for services without further procurement.

Market positions are currently uncertain due to recent changes in law on Simpler Recycling, Deposit Return Schemes and Extended Producer Responsibility. If an external procurement were undertaken it is considered that material risks and price risk would lead to a less favourable position for the council.

2 Options Considered

Not extending the contract. This was considered to be a high risk position with the council having to go to the market at a time of high uncertainty. The council would have to absorb greater risk through the price of the service. The council would have to meet the costs of the procurement and deal with the impacts of an extensive process which can last over a number of years.

Extending the contract to 2030. This provides for a continuing service with the opportunity to consider investment on a business case model, including plastic film and automation through artificial intelligence supported material sorting and picking.

Extending the contract to 2032. This provides greater time for investment but is beyond the key dates for the other sectors of the business in its SLA's with Norfolk County Council for waste related services and beyond Local Government Reorganisation.

The principle that the current arrangements for the processing of co-mingled dry recycling through the arrangements with the Joint Venture Company Norse Environmental Waste Services Ltd on existing terms to the 30th September 2030 is provides stability and consistency in the provision of services pre and post Local Government Reorganisation.

3 Policy Implications

There are no changes in policy as a result of this proposal

4 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications as a result of this proposal in the current year and any changes would need to be built into future years.

The financial implications of the changes necessary to comply with Simpler Recycling can not be assessed at this time and will be subject to budget approval in accordance with the council's processes. Any decision would be subject to Call-in arrangements and the proposed decision published.

5 Personnel Implications

There are no personnel implications as a result of this proposal

6 Environmental Considerations

There are environmental considerations as a result of this proposal in that a contract extension provides for the opportunity to implement the addition of materials for recycling such as plastic film through the business cases proposed and the contemplated changes to the acceptance of a slightly wider mix of materials.

7 Statutory Considerations

The council is under a duty to recycle a set of materials under Simpler Recycling and this proposal provides for that opportunity.

The council has a duty to comply with the Procurement Act 2023. The arrangement with NEWS Ltd is tantamount to a vertical award which is exempted under the Procurement Act.

8 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

There are no impacts from this proposal

9 Risk Management Implications

Not making this award would require the council to undertake a procurement exercise at a time of high uncertainty due to material mix in the recycling system associated with the Deposit Return Scheme and associated price uncertainty.

Material prices for sorted and sold recyclables is highly volatile due to economic uncertainty.

These could lead to the council paying higher costs for the service. Through the operation of the JV the council has more significant influence on the operation of the service which can manage risk more appropriately in conjunction with our partners.

10 Declarations of Interest / Dispensations Granted

Cllr Sandra Squire Non Pecuniary position as Director of News Ltd.

11 Background Papers

(Definition : Unpublished work relied on to a material extent in preparing the report that disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the report is based. A copy of all background papers must be supplied to Democratic Services with the report for publishing with the agenda)

Co-mingled Dry Recyclables Processing Contract 2013, as amended.

Stage 1 - Pre-Screening Equality Impact Assessment

For equalities profile information please visit [Norfolk Insight - Demographics and Statistics - Data Observatory](#)

Name of policy/service/function	Processing comingled dry recyclables				
Is this a new or existing policy/service/function? (<i>tick as appropriate</i>)	New		Existing	✓	
Brief summary/description of the main aims of the policy/service/function being screened. Please state if this policy/service is rigidly constrained by statutory obligations, and identify relevant legislation.	<p>The contract provides for the contents of the green bin to be sorted at a facility to separate materials in to products to be sold for recycling in to new products.</p> <p>The policy is significantly constrained by statutory obligations Environment Act 2021.</p>				
Who has been consulted as part of the development of the policy/service/function? – new only (<i>identify stakeholders consulted with</i>)					
Question	Answer				
<p>1. Is there any reason to believe that the policy/service/function could have a specific impact on people from one or more of the following groups, for example, because they have particular needs, experiences, issues or priorities or in terms of ability to access the service?</p> <p>Please tick the relevant box for each group.</p> <p>NB. Equality neutral means no negative impact on any group.</p> <p><i>If potential adverse impacts are identified, then a full Equality Impact Assessment (Stage 2) will be required.</i></p> <p><i>*For more information on health inequalities please visit The King's Fund</i></p>		Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
	Age			✓	
	Disability			✓	
	Sex			✓	
	Gender Re-assignment			✓	
	Marriage/civil partnership			✓	
	Pregnancy & maternity			✓	
	Race			✓	
	Religion or belief			✓	
	Sexual orientation			✓	
	Armed forces community			✓	
	Care leavers			✓	
	Health inequalities*			✓	
	Other (eg low income, caring responsibilities)			✓	
<p>Please provide a brief explanation of the answers above: The proposed changes have no impacts as the service already provided is extended with no large changes.</p>					

Question	Answer	Comments
2. Is the proposed policy/service likely to affect relations between certain equality communities or to damage relations between the equality communities and the Council, for example because it is seen as favouring a particular community or denying opportunities to another?	No	
3. Could this policy/service be perceived as impacting on communities differently?	No	
4. Are any impacts identified above minor and if so, can these be eliminated or reduced by minor actions? If yes, please agree actions with a member of the Corporate Equalities Working Group and list agreed actions in the comments section	No impacts	Actions:
		Actions agreed by EWG member:
<p>If 'yes' to questions 2 - 4 a full impact assessment will be required unless comments are provided to explain why this is not felt necessary:</p> <p>Decision agreed by EWG member:</p>		
5. Is the policy/service specifically designed to tackle evidence of disadvantage or potential discrimination?	No	Please provide brief summary:
Assessment completed by: Name	Barry Brandford	
Job title	Waste and Recycling Manager	
Date completed	13/06/2025	
Reviewed by EWG member		<div>Date</div>

✓ Please tick to confirm completed EIA Pre-screening Form has been shared with Corporate Policy (corporate.policy@west-norfolk.gov.uk)