

REPORT TO: CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 27 FEBRUARY 2025

REPORT ON: DISCONTINUATION OF THE SMALL SKIP SERVICE

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

REPORT NO: 65-2025

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for discontinuation of the discretionary small skip service and replace with alternative arrangements from the first quarter of financial year 2025/26.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to approve the withdrawal of the small skip service and to remit the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to make the necessary changes to provide alternative arrangements to existing customers and within Environment service operations.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 It is estimated that the withdrawal of the small skip service will generate an annual revenue saving of £48,000 per annum from 2025/26 onwards.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Waste Services provide a skip and container service for businesses and council service areas within Dundee. The service includes the following users: -

- Commercial contracts (regular customers)
- Commercial requests on an ad hoc basis
- Dundee City Council users (i.e. allotments and cemeteries)
- Recycling Centre requirements

Two types of vehicles operate on a day-to-day basis; large hook lift skip vehicles, primarily serving the household waste recycling centres and businesses with large volumes of waste using 20, 30 and 40 cubic yard containers, and a small chain lift skip vehicle servicing smaller 8 and 14 cubic yard containers.

- 4.2 Although the large skip vehicles would need to continue to provide a collection service for the household waste recycling centres and internal movements of waste, the small skip service (8 and 14 cubic yard capacity) has now dropped to a level which is no longer considered sustainable. It is therefore proposed to discontinue the small skip service and provide existing internal/external customers detailed within 4.1 with appropriate alternative provision, including larger skips and waste container arrangements. An analysis has been undertaken to determine the alternative service provision required at each location according to client and specific site requirements.
- 4.3 This proposal was contained within the budget consultation exercise 2025/26. A summary of the key responses is provided in Appendix 1.

5.0 REVISIONS TO SERVICE PROVISION AND ASSOCIATED SAVINGS

- 5.1 At the recycling centres and cemeteries, it is proposed to replace small skips with large skips or Eurobins. Existing commercial customers will be offered large skips or a commercial bin service. For the allotments, alternative service provision will be provided which would include composters for on-site recycling and either euro bins or wheeled bins for green waste and general waste collection. Provision of composters at allotment sites will encourage on-site composting. This will improve the range of options for waste management at allotment sites. Prior to the implementation of these changes, there will be engagement with customers of both directly managed and leased allotments sites in relation to the alternative service provision that will be put in place and the associated timescales.
- 5.2 The withdrawal of the small skip service will generate an annual revenue saving of £48,000. This will be achieved through a combination of a reduction in transport costs of £37,000 and staffing costs of £11,000.

6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report has been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment to identify impacts on Equality & Diversity, Fairness & Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk. An impact, positive or negative, on one or more of these issues was identified. The appropriate senior manager has checked and agreed with this assessment. A copy of the Integrated Impact Assessment showing the impacts and accompanying benefits of/mitigating factors for them is included as an Appendix to this report.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 The Council Leadership Team have been consulted on the preparation of this report and agree with its contents.

Tony Boyle
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

Catherine Conroy
Interim Head of Environment

6 February 2025

Budget Consultation 2025/26 - Small Skip Service

Respondents' opinions varied widely, with some supporting the change and others expressing concerns about its potential impact.

- There was general support for change with several respondents supporting the proposal, citing cost savings and the availability of private skip services as reasons to proceed with the change.
- Many respondents are worried that reducing or removing the small skip service will lead to increased fly-tipping which could negatively impact the environment and the appearance of the city.
- Others highlighted that not everyone has access to transportation, making it difficult for them to dispose of large items without the small skip service.
- Many respondents mentioned that issues with waste management in general would only be exacerbated if this service was withdrawn.
- Several were unaware of the small skip service, which was felt indicated a need for better communication and marketing of the service.
- Some respondents suggested better management of existing bins, more frequent collections, and the introduction of larger communal bins.
- Others proposed the idea of implementing a system like wider European models, where people take their rubbish to central points.
- There were also suggestions to reanalyse the areas with high usage to be more targeted and efficient.



Integrated Impact Assessment

Committee Report Number: 65-2025

Document Title: Discontinuation of the small skip service

Document Type: Service

Description:

This report is seeking approval for discontinuation of the discretionary small skip service from the first quarter of financial year 2025/26.

Intended Outcome:

Approval to withdraw the small skip service from the first quarter of financial year 2025/26. Further, to make the necessary changes to provide alternative arrangements to existing internal/external customers and within waste operations at both recycling centres. It is estimated that the withdrawal of the small skip service will generate an annual revenue saving of £48,000 per annum from 2025/26 onwards.

Period Covered: 01/04/2025 to 30/06/2025

Monitoring:

If skip provision is removed, an alternative service will be put in place. This will be monitored by environment/waste staff to ensure arrangements are adequate. The financial saving will be reviewed via the revenue monitoring process.

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Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

Impacts & Implications

Age: No Impact

Disability: No Impact

Gender Reassignment: No Impact

Marriage & Civil Partnership: No Impact

Pregnancy & Maternity: No Impact

Race / Ethnicity: No Impact

Religion or Belief: No Impact

Sex: No Impact

Sexual Orientation: No Impact

Are any Human Rights not covered by the Equalities questions above impacted by this report?

No

Fairness & Poverty

Geographic Impacts & Implications

Strathmartine:	No Impact
Lochee:	No Impact
Coldside:	No Impact
Maryfield:	No Impact
North East:	No Impact
East End:	No Impact
The Ferry:	No Impact
West End:	No Impact

Household Group Impacts and Implications

Looked After Children & Care Leavers: No Impact

Carers: No Impact

Lone Parent Families: No Impact

Household Group Impacts and Implications

Single Female Households with Children: No Impact

Greater number of children and/or young children: No Impact

Pensioners - single / couple: No Impact

Unskilled workers or unemployed: No Impact

Serious & enduring mental health problems: No Impact

Homeless: No Impact

Drug and/or alcohol problems: No Impact

Offenders & Ex-offenders: No Impact

Socio Economic Disadvantage Impacts & Implications

Employment Status: No Impact

Education & Skills: No Impact

Income: No Impact

Caring Responsibilities (including Childcare): No Impact

Affordability and accessibility of services: No Impact

Fuel Poverty: No Impact

Cost of Living / Poverty Premium: No Impact

Connectivity / Internet Access: No Impact

Income / Benefit Advice / Income Maximisation No Impact

Employment Opportunities: No Impact

Education: No Impact

Health: No Impact

Life Expectancy: No Impact

Mental Health: No Impact

Overweight / Obesity: No Impact

Child Health: No Impact

Neighbourhood Satisfaction: Negative

A number of respondents within the budget consultation 2025/26 are worried that reducing or removing the small skip service will lead to increased flytipping which could negatively impact the environment and the appearance of the city. On occasion there has been fly tipping of material at the small skip sites within allotments. The mitigation for this impact would be that alternative service provision will be provided, which would include composters and euro bins or wheeled bins for green waste and general waste collection. This will be monitored by environment/waste staff to ensure arrangements are adequate. Any fly tipping that is found will be uplifted as per current arrangements. Communication with allotment holders will be undertaken to ensure all steps are taken to minimise the likelihood of this occurring.

Transport: No Impact

Environment

Climate Change Impacts

Mitigating Greenhouse Gases: Positive

There will be a reduction in skip collection vehicle journeys across the city. Alternative service provision that is being provided will be built into the existing routing framework.

Adapting to the effects of climate change: No Impact

Resource Use Impacts

Energy efficiency & consumption: No Impact

Prevention, reduction, re-use, recovery or recycling of waste: Positive

Provision of composters at allotment sites will encourage on-site composting. This will improve the range of options for waste management at allotment sites. On occasion there has been fly tipping of material at the small skip sites within allotments. The mitigation for this impact would be that alternative service provision will be provided, which would include composters and euro bins or wheeled bins for green waste and general waste collection. This will be monitored by environment/waste staff to ensure arrangements are adequate. Any fly tipping that is found will be uplifted as per current arrangements. Communication with allotment holders will be undertaken to ensure all steps are taken to minimise the likelihood of this occurring.

Sustainable Procurement: No Impact

Transport Impacts

Accessible transport provision: No Impact

Sustainable modes of transport: No Impact

Natural Environment Impacts

Air, land & water quality: No Impact

Biodiversity: No Impact

Open & green spaces: No Impact

Built Environment Impacts

Built Heritage: No Impact

Housing: No Impact

Is the proposal subject to a Strategic

Environmental Assessment (SEA)?

No further action is required as it does not qualify as a Plan, Programme or Strategy as defined by the Environment Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Corporate Risk

Corporate Risk Impacts

Political Reputational Risk: No Impact

Economic/Financial Sustainability / Security & Equipment: Positive

As part of the budget consultation 2025/26 there was general support for change with several respondents supporting the proposal, citing cost savings and the availability of private skip services as reasons to proceed with the change.

Social Impact / Safety of Staff & Clients: No Impact

Technological / Business or Service Interruption: No Impact

Environmental: Positive

Provision of composters at allotment sites will encourage on-site composting. This will improve the range of options for waste management at allotment sites. On occasion there has been fly tipping of material at the small skip sites within allotments. The mitigation for this impact would be that alternative service provision will be provided, which would include composters and euro bins or wheeled bins for green waste and general waste collection. This will be monitored by environment/waste staff to ensure arrangements are adequate. Any fly tipping that is found will be uplifted as per current arrangements. Communication with allotment holders will be undertaken to ensure all steps are taken to minimise the likelihood of this occurring.

Legal / Statutory Obligations: No Impact

Organisational / Staffing & Competence: No Impact

Corporate Risk Implications & Mitigation:

The risk implications associated with the subject matter of this report are "business as normal" risks and any increase to the level of risk to the Council is minimal. This is due either to the risk being inherently low or as a result of the risk being transferred in full or in part to another party on a fair and equitable basis. The subject matter is routine and has happened many times before without significant impact.