

Divisions Affected – Benson & Crowmarsh; Charlbury & Wychwood; Eynsham

DELEGATED DECISIONS BY CABINET MEMBER FOR PLACE, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION

11 DECEMBER 2025

Approval to Progress New Leachate Treatment Contract

Report by Director of Environment and Highways

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member is **RECOMMENDED** to:

- a) **Approve procurement (up to 3 contracts) for the collection, transport and treatment of leachate generated from the following landfill sites:**
 - i. **Dean Pit**
 - ii. **Dix Pit**
 - iii. **Oakley Wood**
- b) **Delegate the contract award and any negotiations with our contractors, Fomento de Construcciones y Contrates (known as FCC Environment UK Limited, in connection with the contract for Dix Pit), to the Director of Environment & Highways.**

Executive Summary

- 2. The Council has legal, financial and environmental responsibility for a number of closed and one active (due to close 2026) landfill sites within the County. Three of these sites produce leachate for which the Council has responsibility to safely and legally manage. This is a niche and specialist area of waste management with high overall costs.
- 3. This Key Decision which is required due to the level of potential expenditure being > £1 million over the duration of the contract(s) length, seeks approval to tender and award a number of contracts to meet the Council's responsibility.
- 4. The contracts are to be awarded for a period of 3 years with the flexibility to extend one or all of those contracts for a period of up to a further 3 years in aggregate. Therefore, a potential maximum 6 year period.
- 5. The contracts are designed to allow for the results of Local Government Reorganisation, their risks and practicalities which may arise.

Background

6. The Council holds a legal, financial and environmental responsibility for a number of closed landfill sites and one currently active landfill across the County.
7. Three of these sites actively produce leachate, an aqueous material generated from the breakdown of the waste within the landfill sites along with water egress primarily through rainfall. This is considered likely to be a hazardous material and needs specialist collection and treatment. For details on quantities and cost please refer to Financial Implications below.
8. The landfills Environmental Permit reflects legislation which sets out legal responsibilities for the handling, storage and treatment of this leachate. This places a requirement on the Council which will last for a number of decades
9. Two of these sites Dean Pit and Oakley Wood closed in the early 1990's. Dix Pit which is presently active, is run by FCC Environment and is at present expected to close from autumn 2026.
10. Although FCC Environment operate the Dix Pit site, the Council have legal and financial responsibilities for this site, which stem from the contract awarded in 1985 for landfill services. These responsibilities include responsibilities for capture, safe storage and treatment of the leachate produced on that site.

Context

11. At present the service for all 3 sites are managed on our behalf by FCC Environments national contract for the collection and treatment of leachate. However, this now needs to end as the Dix Pit landfill reaches the end of its operational life.
12. These new contracts will give the County greater control and management of this service. They will also ensure the Council remains legally compliant in its duties in managing closed landfill and the leachate they produce. However, it should be noted that the award for the Dix Pit contract may require further negotiation with FCC Environment who also retain responsibilities for the site.
13. The Council has clear legal, financial and environmental responsibilities for the handling and treatment of leachate generated from landfill sites for which it holds such responsibility. This tender, contract and service provision will permit the Council to manage and meet all these responsibilities for the duration of the contracts awarded.
14. Due to the complex nature of the 1985 contract held with FCC Environment, further negotiations will be necessary before award of the service for Dix Pit, which will take place at the appropriate time, to attain the most pragmatic and best solution for the Council. For the avoidance of doubt that may mean not

awarding the contract for Dix Pit at this juncture. In which case the service will continue to be provided by FCC Environment in totality, and the Council will continue to pay FCC for that service.

Corporate Policies and Priorities

22. The contract and service provision for the safe and legal handling and treatment of leachate from the sites for which the Council holds responsibility contributes to corporate policies and priorities as follows:
- (a) Put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work – By ensuring no leaks or environmental damage or degradation occurs as a consequence of leachate production from the landfills. The treatment at authorised facilities equally helps ensure no onward environmental/climate impacts are caused by the leachate.
 - (b) Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents – the provision of safe, legal and environmentally sustainable ways of disposing of leachate helps protect residents' health and wellbeing by preventing any leaks or damage into the natural environment.
 - (c) Preserve and improve access to nature and green spaces – the provision of safe, legal and environmentally sustainable ways of leachate protects nature and the green spaces now and in the future by preventing leaks and environmental damage in the areas in and around the landfills managed by the Council.

Financial Implications

23. The waste management team already pays for this service through established and approved budgets.
24. The annual cost of this service can vary significantly as leachate generation can be heavily influenced by climate and rainfall. The climate change impacts already witnessed in Oxfordshire make this more volatile and difficult to assess.
25. Annex 1 provides a table of historic tonnages produced at each site along with the number of collections required for that tonnage. However, it should be noted that tonnages at Dean Pit are expected to rise significantly possibly up to around 4-5,000 tonnes per annum following significant capital improvement works carried out on the site during the 2024/25. These works were required to meet our legal obligations for this site and the management of leachate.
26. Current costs vary per site but are presently between £20 and £25 per tonne. The table below provides variable estimated costs for each site for each year. Over the maximum period of 6 years these costs will be over £1m per annum and potentially over £2m.

Site	Estimated Annual Average Tonnage	Estimated cost range per annum
Dean Pit	4,500	£90 to £112.5k
Dix Pit	7,500	£150 to £187.5k
Oakley Wood	2,000	£40 to £50k
Total	14,000	£280k to £350k

27. From July this year the Council were notified of a >60% increase in treatment costs for leachate from Dix Pit, which is included in the costs above. This follows a change in legislation and impacts on the water companies who traditionally treat the leachate. At present no further increases are anticipated in connection with this legislative change.
28. At present there is a risk that a further legislative change maybe implemented in connection with any presence of PFAs/ POP's (Persistent Organic Pollutants) in leachate. This may impact the contract for Dix Pit due to it being a more modern facility and containing more recent wastes, rather than the other two which closed much earlier before most POP's were introduced. This may be a significant financial and practical impact should it be implemented. The tender/contract will be flexibly worded to permit contract variation or termination under those circumstances.
29. Currently until tender prices are in, it is not possible to assess whether the tender outcome will result on additional budgetary pressures for this service, or, if any operational savings could be achieved to mitigate the rise in costs through careful contract management. However, the legislative change this year, along with the expected increase in tonnages from Dean Pit following the capital works to ensure the continued compliance of the site and will inevitably increase costs. These costs are considered unavoidable irrespective of this tender/contract process. Officers will continue to work with finance colleagues to assess the full costs implications and built these into financial forecasts and the budget setting process for next year.

Reviewed by: Filipp Skiffins - Assistant Finance Business Partner
Filipp.skiffins@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Legal Implications

30. The Council has a legal and environmental duty and responsibility to handle and treat leachate in full compliance with the landfill environmental permits and all prevailing legislation governing the management and treatment of leachate produced on the sites for which the Council holds responsibility.

Reviewed by: Fiona Harte - Senior Solicitor and Team Leader
Fiona.Harte@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Procurement

31. This contract is a new contract and Procurement. This proposed tender process is to be conducted pursuant to Procurement legislation and contract award to successful service provider enables the Council to fulfil its statutory responsibilities to residents and to comply with legislative requirements of related site permits, taking into account as referred to above, updated environmental law responsibilities.

Reviewed by Head of Category – Environment and Place

Staff Implications

32. No implications for staffing would arise from this tender and contract award. Contract management as now would continue through the existing waste management staff structure and resources.

Equality & Inclusion Implications

33. There are no direct impacts or implications on equality and inclusion from the tender, contract award or service provision. However, with the advent of Social Value it is possible some positive impacts may result from this process.
34. An Equality Impact Assessment has been produced as part of the preparation for this report and has been supported by the Councils Equalities Team. Please refer to Annex 2.

Sustainability Implications

35. The HWRC service contributes to corporate policies and priorities. This service in providing a safe and effective treatment for leachate generated from closed and active landfill sites for which the Council holds responsibility, has a positive impact on climate action, and helps prevent risks of environmental damage.
36. Other positive impacts may also be achieved through more environmentally beneficial transport options and this will be explored with the tender and service provision.
37. A Climate Impact Assessment has been produced as part of this report and has been supported by the Councils Climate Team. Please refer to Annex 3.

Risk Management

38. If the Council fails to fulfil its legal and financial responsibilities for the treatment of leachate risks of environmental damage, prosecution and reputation loss could entail. This tender, contract and service removes/significantly reduces those risks.
39. As referenced above risks around legislative change pose financial and practical risks to elements of this tender, contract and service. The impacts of

these known factors will be flexibly built into the contract and tender process. This will permit amendment to the contract or in extreme cases the termination and retendering of service.

40. The contracts to be awarded will be on a 3 year basis extendable up to a further 3 years in aggregate. This will permit flexibility to address risks and changes in circumstance, as well as factoring in any changes that may occur through Local Government Reorganisation. The extension period also allows the option of negotiations with the incumbent contractors to help ensure the best value for money for the Council.

Consultations

41. No specific consultations have been undertaken or are required for this Key Decision.

Paul Fermer
Director for Environment and Highways

Annex 1 - Summary of leachate tonnages from each Closed Landfill Site
Annex 2 - Equality Impact Assessment
Annex 3 - Climate Impact Assessment

Background Papers: None

Other Documents: None

Contact Officer: Steve Burdis
Technical Lead (Waste Contracts)
07741 607829 steve.burdis@oxfordshire.gov.uk

October 2025

Annex 1 – Summary of leachate tonnages from each Closed Landfill Site

Dean Pit		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Year Total
2022/2023	Tonnes	0.00	154.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	154.24
	Collections	0.00	5.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.93
2023/2024	Tonnes	0.00	85.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	71.34	114.14	57.07	71.34	71.34	71.34	542.18
	Collections	0.00	3.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.74	4.39	2.20	2.74	2.74	2.74	20.85
2024/2025	Tonnes	52.41	209.64	52.41	209.64	52.41	235.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	27.00	27.30	271.00	1137.65
	Collections	2.02	8.06	2.02	8.06	2.02	9.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.04	1.05	10.42	43.76
2025/2026	Tonnes	381.32	272.08											653.40
	Collections	14.67	10.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.13

Dix Pit		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Year Total
2022/2023	Tonnes	860.68	506.36	537.32	556.80	429.34	509.72	587.90	684.14	478.86	455.82	435.64	561.22	6603.80
	Collections	33.10	19.48	20.67	21.42	16.51	19.60	22.61	26.31	18.42	17.53	16.76	21.59	253.99
2023/2024	Tonnes	317.90	998.56	587.17	297.00	587.46	727.50	744.97	503.52	619.50	387.33	743.36	401.20	6915.47
	Collections	12.23	38.41	22.58	11.42	22.59	27.98	28.65	19.37	23.83	14.90	28.59	15.43	265.98
2024/2025	Tonnes	361.36	319.80	714.26	689.14	686.96	764.64	630.16	952.20	972.90	789.22	741.72	829.22	8451.58
	Collections	13.90	12.30	27.47	26.51	26.42	29.41	24.24	36.62	37.42	30.35	28.53	31.89	325.06
2025/2026	Tonnes	939.00												939.00
	Collections	36.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	36.12

Oakley Wood		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Year Total
2022/2023	Tonnes	139.93	105.26	53.7	54.5	28	0.00	27.00	28.00	54.50	79.00	81.94	186.85	838.68
	Collections	5.38	4.05	2.07	2.10	1.08	0.00	1.04	1.08	2.10	3.04	3.15	7.19	32.26
2023/2024	Tonnes	104.80	202.98	220.53	242.94	81.4	24	26.42	25.8	187.23	197.3	107.94	185.93	1607.27
	Collections	4.03	7.81	8.48	9.34	3.13	0.92	1.02	0.99	7.20	7.59	4.15	7.15	61.82
2024/2025	Tonnes	192.52	324.26	288.48	132.86	69	240.44	205.39	185.51	344.68	311.68	179.99	188.16	2662.97
	Collections	7.40	12.47	11.10	5.11	2.65	9.25	7.90	7.14	13.26	11.99	6.92	7.24	102.42
2025/2026	Tonnes	296.73												296.73
	Collections	11.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.41



Oxfordshire County Council Equalities Impact Assessment

LANDFILL LEACHATE COLLECTION AND TREATMENT CONTRACT
25 SEPTEMBER 2025

Contents

Section 1: Summary details 9

Section 2: Detail of proposal.....10

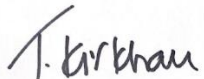
Section 3: Impact Assessment - Protected Characteristics.....14

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Community Impacts.....16

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Wider Impacts.....17

Section 4: Review20

Section 1: Summary details

Directorate and Service Area	Environment and Place – Waste and Circular Economy Team
What is being assessed (e.g. name of policy, procedure, project, service or proposed service change).	Tender for the safe and legal collection, transport and treatment of leachate from 3 landfill sites for which the Council have legal, financial and environmental responsibility.
Is this a new or existing function or policy?	Existing leachate has been collected at these 3 sites for over 30 years and will continue for a number of decades.
Summary of assessment Briefly summarise the policy or proposed service change. Summarise possible impacts. Does the proposal bias, discriminate or unfairly disadvantage individuals or groups within the community? (following completion of the assessment).	Oxfordshire County Council has a legal, financial and environmental responsibility for safe and legal capture, storage, removal and treatment of leachate from 3 landfill sites at Dean Pit, Dix Pit and Oakley Wood. This is in line with statutory Environmental Permits for each site. Failure to do so could lead to enforcement action as well as the risk of environmental and reputational damage. Dean Pit and Oakley Wood landfills closed in the early 1990's, part of Dix Pit which has been operational since the 1980's is still active but is due to close in autumn 2026. The safe storage, removal and treatment of leachate will still be required for a number of decades to come, and has been carried out for over 30 years to date. The leachate is collected from specialist sealed managed tanks at Dix Pit and Oakley Wood and a large open leachate lagoon at Dean Pit. At present the leachate is taken to water treatment plants for safe treatment and disposal. The continued provision of this legal and environmental requirement is not considered to discriminate or unfairly disadvantage individuals or groups within the community. However, failure to remove and treat the leachate technically could lead to environmental damage and potentially impact the local community.
Completed By	Steve Burdis
Authorised By	
Date of Assessment	25 th September 2025

Section 2: Detail of proposal

Context / Background Briefly summarise the background to the policy or proposed service change, including reasons for any changes from previous versions.	Oxfordshire County Council has a statutory responsibility for the safe and legal treatment of leachate from the 3 landfills referenced above. In recent years this has been facilitated through a national leachate collection contract operated by FCC Environment who operate Dix Pit landfill at present. The decision has been taken to end this relationship and retender these works. Each site will form a separate Lot/contract. If cheaper prices are not obtained for Dix Pit this may stay under the FCC Environment contract for the time being. Though for the avoidance of doubt the Council retains the financial costs of this arrangement. The capture, storage, removal and treatment of leachate from all sites is a legal and environmental requirement on the Council. Failure to do so could lead to enforcement action as well as reputational and environmental damage. This is the primary reason for the new tenders along with ending the current arrangements. For the avoidance of doubt the new tenders will continue the same form of service with little/no material change from the existing legally compliant service. It should be noted that the handling and transport of hazardous materials is tightly controlled and managed. Although issues are always possible we have not had any significant leaks or environmental damage over the 30+ years. Steps taken to prevent and address leaks and damage include the following: • On site storage tanks and fully bunded to 110% in case of rupture, ensuring in the even of tank failure leachate cannot escape. • On site storage tanks have drip tray to capture and recover any small leakages whilst emptying should that occur. • Tanks are fitted with anti syphon valve. • The collection point from Dean Pit leachate lagoon is fitted with the latest Bauer valve to limit any potential leaks. • Specialist vacuum tankers are used for collection. Even if these are holed (Small) they would hold the leachate until the delivery point. • All vehicles carry a full spillage kit in the unlikely even any spillage occurs. Such events would also have to be reported to Environment Agency and Highways Authority as a matter of course. This would ensure any spillage was fully actioned and recovered. Though it must be stressed in reality spillages like this do not occur.
--	---

	However, it should be noted that that during the term of the new contracts we may see legislative change around the treatment of leachate. This if anything would strengthen Environmental Controls and procedures. If that occurs the Council will of course comply with these changes either through these new contracts or by terminating them and retendering to meet the new standards.
Proposals Explain the detail of the proposals, including why this has been decided as the best course of action.	As background above. Though it should also be noted that Social Value will be included as part of this tender exercise and tenderers will be asked for their plans on how they will limit carbon impacts in providing the service, this would include areas like the tankers used to collect and transport the leachate. This could lead to wider benefits for the community. The Council currently drafting a new set of objectives which align with the economic and social aims of the Council These include: 1.Early Careers Opportunities 2. Supported Employment 3.Local Area Regeneration 4. Youth Engagement and Support 5. Healthy Lives; Healthy Future Through effective and robust contract management, SV will be monitored throughout the Lifecycle of the contract by Procurement and the Waste Management Team, with improvement plans if the contractor is not reaching the social value targets. Transportation from site is in specialist vacuum HGV tankers, which collect 27 tonnes per load. All vehicles are required to abide by routing agreements and general highway rules. Any failure to adhere to this would be addressed through the contract, with potential defaults being issued for consistent breach.

	Tanker movements by nature will depend on volume of leachate for collection and be seasonal. However, the highest level from each site over recent years is per annum: Dean Pit : 55 (Equivalent to 1 a week) Dix Pit : 315 (Equivalent to 6 a week) Oakley : 100 (Equivalent to 2 per week) There are no know issues or complaints about this service which has operated for over 30 years. Should any complaints or issues arise they would be addressed with the complainants and through the contract as necessary.
Evidence / Intelligence List and explain any data, consultation outcomes, research findings, feedback from service users and stakeholders etc, that supports your proposals and can help to inform the judgements you make about potential impact on different individuals, communities or groups and our ability to deliver our climate commitments.	Current contractors and landfill specialists have been consulted on our approach and the draft specification and pay mech was shared with interested bidders as part of a soft market testing exercise already undertaken. Within this they were asked about innovation and different approaches. All parties agreed our adopted approach was the correct one. As part of the soft market testing we also shared analysis of and the current quantities of leachate from each site. This did not generate any issues or concerns. Residents and communities are by and large unaware this service is carried and have not been consulted on what is considered to be a necessary operational issue for the continued legal and safe operation of the landfills. Failure to continue this statutory service could potentially negatively impact our climate commitments and lead to reputational damage. This is a very long term service provision, one which is not really changing in nature and as above is not considered to impact individuals or communities. Though would add where HGC routing agreements and restrictions are in operation as now they will be adhered too under this new/replacement contract.

Alternatives considered / rejected Summarise any other approaches that have been considered in developing the policy or proposed service change, and the reasons why these were not adopted. This could include reasons why doing nothing is not an option.	Leachate capture, collection, and treatment is a hazardous, niche and specialist area of operation. This in part means options and alternatives are limited. Initial treatment on site and then disposal to designated sewer was briefly looked at. However, the quantities and lack of any suitable nearby sewer, these sites tend to be in rural areas, meant the economics and practicalities did not stack up. Our assumptions were raised and challenged through the soft market testing exercise and through our existing contractors and specialist. All agreed our proposed course of action was the correct one to adopt. For the avoidance of doubt due to the statutory, legal and environmental requirements for the treatment of leachate, doing nothing was not and is not an option.
--	--

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Protected Characteristics

Protected Characteristic	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Age	☒	☐	☐	No specific impact related to this protected characteristic			
Disability	☒	☐	☐	No specific impact related to this protected characteristic			
Gender Reassignment	☒	☐	☐	No specific impact related to this protected characteristic			
Marriage & Civil Partnership	☒	☐	☐	No specific impact related to this protected characteristic			
Pregnancy & Maternity	☒	☐	☐	No specific impact related to this protected characteristic			
Race	☒	☐	☐	No specific impact related to this protected characteristic			
Sex	☒	☐	☐	No specific impact related to this protected characteristic			
Sexual Orientation	☒	☐	☐	No specific impact related to this protected characteristic			
Religion or Belief	☒	☐	☐	No specific impact related to this protected characteristic			

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Community Impacts

Additional community impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Rural communities	☒	☐	☐	No specific impact related to this characteristic. However, could potentially exist if no action was taken.	If any specific issues during the lifespan of this contract, a full review would be undertaken, an updated EIA provided and steps taken to mitigate any impacts.		
Armed Forces	☒	☐	☐	No specific impact related to this characteristic			
Carers	☒	☐	☐	No specific impact related to this characteristic			
Areas of deprivation	☒	☐	☐	No specific impact related to this characteristic			

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Wider Impacts

Additional Wider Impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Staff	☒	☐	☐	No specific impact for OCC related to this characteristic TUPE will not apply to this tender. Also to note that current provider is not based within Oxfordshire. Most providers are national so will not impact local employment.			
Other Council Services	☒	☐	☐	No specific impact related to this characteristic			
Providers	☐	☒	☐	The tendering of these works for the first time in around 8 years will permit service providers to bid for this essential and legal service provision. Though should also be recognised that the current service provider may lose the option to provide this service.		Oxfordshire County Council Waste Management Team with assistance from the Procurement Team	Tenders to be issued as soon as possible.

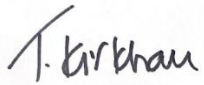
Additional Wider Impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Social Value ¹	☐	☒	☐	For the first time, Social Value will be included in the tendering of this service. The Council currently drafting a new set of objectives which align with the economic and social aims of the Council These include: 1.Early Careers Opportunities 2. Supported Employment 3.Local Area Regeneration 4. Youth Engagement and Support 5. Healthy Lives; Healthy Future Through effective and robust contract management, SV will be monitored throughout the Lifecycle of the contract, with improvement plans if the contractor is not	This will be a positive impact.	Oxfordshire County Council Procurement and Waste teams.	From tendering evaluation and then ongoing for the life of the contract.

¹ If the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 applies to this proposal, please summarise here how you have considered how the contract might improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the relevant area

Additional Wider Impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
				reaching the social value targets.			

Section 4: Review

Where bias, negative impact or disadvantage is identified, the proposal and/or implementation can be adapted or changed; meaning there is a need for regular review. This review may also be needed to reflect additional data and evidence for a fuller assessment (proportionate to the decision in question). Please state the agreed review timescale for the identified impacts of the policy implementation or service change.

Review Date	All aspects of this contract will be kept under review by the Waste Management team as part of day to day contract management. Although significant or long term issues are not envisaged, any material changes would necessitate a review and refresh of this EIA. Perhaps the most likely is material legislative change as referred to within this EIA. Full compliance will be ensured but as mentioned may necessitate the cessation of this contract and retender if required.
Person Responsible for Review	The Waste Management Team
Authorised By	

Annex 3 - Climate Impact Assessment

Climate Impact Assessment

Summary

Directorate and Service Area	Environment & Place - Waste & Circular Economy Team
What is being assessed	New Tender/Contract for the collection, transport and safe treatment of leachate from 2 closed landfills (Dean Pit & Oakley Wood) and one active landfill site (Dix Pit - Due to close Autumn 2026).
Is this a new or existing function or policy?	Existing service with leachate being collected from these landfills for over 30 years.
Summary of assessment	Preview Generated 06/10/25 v1.36 Oxfordshire Council has committed to being a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 Oxfordshire County Council has a legal and financial responsibility for safe and legal capture, storage, removal and treatment of leachate from 3 landfill sites at Dean Pit, Dix Pit and Oakley Wood. This is in line with statutory Environmental Permits for each site. Failure to do so could lead to enforcement action as well as the risk of environmental and reputational damage. Dean Pit and Oakley Wood landfills closed in the early 1990's, part of Dix Pit is still active but is due to close in autumn 2026 and has been in operation since the 1980's. The safe storage, removal and treatment of leachate will still be required for a number of decades to come and has been carried out for over 30 years to date. The leachate is collected from sealed managed tanks at Dix Pit and Oakley Wood and a large leachate lagoon at Dean Pit. At present the leachate is taken to water treatment plants for safe treatment and disposal. The continued provision of this legal and environmental requirement is not considered to discriminate or unfairly disadvantage individuals or groups within

	the community. However, failure to address that technically could lead to environmental damage and could potentially impact the local community.
Completed by	Steve Burdis - Technical Lead (Waste Contracts)
Climate action sign off by	Franco Gonzalez
Director sign off by	
Assessment date	06/10/2025

Detail of proposal

Context / Background	Oxfordshire County Council has a statutory responsibility for the safe and legal treatment of leachate from the 3 landfills referenced above. In recent years this has been facilitated through a national leachate collection contract operated by FCC Environment who operate Dix Pit landfill at present. The decision has been taken to end this relationship and retender these works. Each site will form a separate lot/contract. If cheaper prices are not obtained for Dix Pit this may stay under the FCC Environment contract for the time being. Though for the avoidance of doubt the Council retains the financial costs of this arrangement. The capture, storage, removal and treatment of leachate from all sites is a legal and environmental requirement on the Council. Failure to do so could lead to enforcement action as well as reputational and environmental damage. This is the primary reason for the new tenders along with ending the current arrangements. For the avoidance of doubt the new tenders will continue the same form of service with little/no material change from the existing legally compliant service. However, it should be noted that during the term of the new contracts we may see legislative change around the treatment of leachate. This if anything would strengthen Environmental Controls and procedures. If that occurs the Council
-----------------------------	---

	will of course comply with these changes either through these new contracts or by terminating them and retendering to meet the new standards.
Proposal	As background above. Though it should also be noted that Social Value will be included as part of this tender exercise and tenderers will be asked for their plans on how they will limit carbon impacts in providing the service, this would include areas like the tankers used to collect and transport the leachate.

Evidence / Intelligence	Current contractors and landfill specialists have been consulted on our approach and the draft specification and pay mech was shared with interested bidders as part of a soft market testing exercise already undertaken. Within this they were asked about innovation and different approaches. All parties agreed our adopted approach was the correct one. As part of the soft market testing we also shared analysis of and the current quantities of leachate from each site. This did not generate any issues or concerns. Residents and communities are by and large unaware this service is carried and have not been consulted on what is considered to be a necessary operational issue for the continued legal and safe operation of the landfills. Failure to continue this statutory service could potentially negatively impact our climate commitments and lead to reputational damage.
Alternatives considered / rejected	Leachate capture, collection, and treatment is a hazardous, niche and specialist area of operation. This in part means options and alternatives are limited. Initial treatment on site and then disposal to designated sewer was briefly looked at. However, the quantities and lack of any suitable nearby sewer, these sites tend to be in rural areas, meant the economics and practicalities did not stack up. Our assumptions were raised and challenged through the soft market testing exercise and through our existing contractors and specialist. All agreed our proposed course of action was the correct one to adopt. For the avoidance of doubt due to the statutory, legal and environmental requirements for the treatment of leachate doing nothing was not an option.

Category	Impact criteria	Score (-3 to +3)	Description of impact	Actions or mitigations to reduce negative impacts	Action owner	Timeline and monitoring arrangements
Energy	Increases energy efficiency	N/A				
Energy	Promotes a switch to low-carbon or renewable energy	N/A				
Energy	Promotes resilient, local, smart energy systems	N/A				
Transport & Connectivity	Reduces need to travel and/or the need for private car ownership	N/A				
Transport & Connectivity	Supports active travel	N/A				
Transport & Connectivity	Increases use of public transport	N/A				
Transport & Connectivity	Accelerates electrification of transport	N/A	Electric Articulated HGC needed for this service and not a practical option at this time.	Tenders will be asked around the steps they will take to lower the carbon impact of the service.	Waste Management	Through tender process duration of contract
Buildings	Promotes net zero new builds and developments	N/A				
Buildings	Accelerates retrofitting of existing buildings	N/A				
Nature	Protects, restores or enhances biodiversity, landscape and ecosystems	3	The continuation of the safe and legal capture, storage, collection, transport of leachate helps prevent the risk of any future environmental damage which may be		Waste Management	As soon as practical.

caused by failure of
current
infrastructure/service

Nature	Develops blue and green infrastructure	N/A
Nature	Improves access to nature and green spaces	N/A
Waste & Consumption	Reduces overall consumption	N/A
Waste & Consumption	Supports waste prevention and drive reuse and recycling	N/A
Resilience & Adaptation	Increases resilience to flooding	N/A

Resilience & Adaptation
Increases resilience to other extreme weather events (e.g., storms, cold snaps, heatwaves, droughts)

2

The continuation of the safe and legal capture, storage, collection, transport of leachate helps prevent the risk of any future environmental damage which may be caused by failure of current infrastructure/service. Should be noted also helps meet needs of climate adaptation as climate change can cause greater/extreme rainfall which directly impacts leachate production.

Waste Management

As soon as practical.

Resilience & Adaptation	Increases resilience of council services, communities, energy systems, transport infrastructure and/or supply chains	1	The continuation of the safe and legal capture, storage, collection, transport of leachate helps prevent the risk of any future environmental damage which may be caused by failure of current infrastructure/service	Waste Management	As soon as practical.
Procurement & Investment	Procurement practices prioritise low-carbon options, circular economy and sustainability	1	Tenders will be asked what actions they will take to mitigate carbon impacts from this service.		
Procurement & Investment	Investment being considered supports climate action/ is consistent with path to net zero	1	More provides for greater management/resilience for climate adaptation, as increased rainfall can lead to greater leachate production, and greater risk of environmental damage if not managed correctly.		
People & Organizations	Drives behavioural change to address the climate and ecological emergency	N/A			
People & Organizations	Drives organizational and systemic change to address the climate and ecological emergency	N/A			
Just transition	Promotes green innovation and job creation	N/A			
Just transition	Promotes health and wellbeing	N/A			
Just transition	Reduces poverty and inequality	N/A			
Just transition	Promotes inclusion and participation	N/A			