

## **EMERGENCY DELEGATED EXECUTIVE DECISION**

In accordance with the Leaders decision and noted by Cabinet on 25/03/2020 to delegate to the Chief Executive any executive decision in this COVID 19 Global pandemic emergency or that is urgent or that would be necessary or expedient, or which would otherwise protect the Council's interests, including key decisions.

# **South Lakeland District Council**

## **Emergency Delegated Executive Decision**

### **Re-Commencement of Green Waste collections**

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Reference: 005 Re-commencement of Green Waste Collections

#### **Reason for emergency**

Chief Executive received emergency delegated executive decision making powers on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020. It is considered that this decision is necessary or arises from the COVID 19 Global pandemic emergency. The matter is urgent, necessary and expedient and is needed to protect the Council's interests.

The decision is required to be taken due to - Following the temporary suspension of green waste collection services on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 via an Emergency Delegated Executive Decision; a decision taken in light of the current Coronavirus Pandemic and the loss of key waste collection staff and the need to redeploy existing staff to maintain the critical collection of residual waste. Staffing levels have now stabilised sufficiently to be able to re-commence green waste collections on an initial monthly basis from the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

This is a Key Decision Yes (**A key decision means an executive decision which, in relation to an executive function, has a significant effect on communities in two or more Wards of the Council and/or is likely to result in the Authority incurring expenditure or making savings above £100,000**)

<b>Portfolio:</b>	Cllr Eric Morrell
<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Chief Executive
<b>Report Author:</b>	<b>Simon Rowley</b> – Director Customer and Commercial Services
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Forward Plan:</b>	Yes - An exemption from the requirements of the Forward Plan was obtained linked to decision reference 002, this decision follows a review of decision reference 002

#### **1.0 Expected Outcome and Reasons for Proposed Decision**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> April an Emergency Delegated Executive Decision was taken to temporarily suspend green waste collections within the district. This was to enable the council to maintain critical waste collection services for its residents, at a time the government's self-isolation messages and restrictions on those with possible symptoms meant that there was a reduction in waste collection operatives and drivers to maintain all existing waste collection services. The staffing situation has now stabilised sufficiently to re-commence green waste collections, initially on a

monthly basis , but with a view to returning to fortnightly collections as soon as operationally possible.

## **2.0 Proposed Decision**

### **2.1 It is recommended that the Chief Executive:-**

**(1) Authorises the re-commencement of Green Waste collection services within the district boundaries , on an initial monthly basis, commencing from the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020 and**

**(2) Delegates to the Director of Customer and Commercial Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder , consideration of staffing level reviews undertaken by the waste collection service with a view to the reintroduction of fortnightly green waste collections when staffing levels permit or such other changes required .**

<b>Review Date:</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
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## **3.0 Background and Proposals**

3.1 During the current Global Pandemic of Covid 19 the council has needed to maintain critical waste collection services for its residents. The government's self-isolation messages and restrictions on those with possible symptoms has meant that there has been a reduction in waste collection operatives and drivers available for work to maintain all existing waste collection services. The collection of garden (Green) waste is not a critical waste service and hence a decision was made on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April to temporarily suspend the green waste collection service to allow staff resources to be prioritised to those waste services that are critical, and to ensure crews could work safely and comply with social distancing guidelines, until such time that staffing levels were stabilised to allow all collections to be undertaken without disruption.

Following a daily review of staff availability, it is considered that the levels of staffing in the waste collection services are now at a level , that will permit the re-commencement of green waste collections, on an initial monthly basis, from the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020. This will continue until further notice and regular staffing level reviews will be undertaken of the service with a view to re-establishing the fortnightly collections of green waste as soon as possible.

## **4.0 Consultation**

4.1 The proposal was discussed with the Portfolio holder and cabinet colleagues on the 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.

## **5.0 Alternative Options**

5.1 The staffing levels currently within the service are such that a recommencement of collections, on an initial monthly basis, is considered manageable. The reintroduction of collections on a fortnightly basis at this time , would be with significant risk , if staffing levels are impacted further by the Coronavirus over the coming weeks and would result in the service being disrupted. A regular review of staffing levels and testing regime for staff advised to self-isolate , will be undertaken with a view to reintroducing fortnightly collections as soon as possible.

An alternative would be not to recommence collections on a monthly basis at this time . This is not a recommended option as staffing levels are such that a monthly collection is achievable with minimal risk at this time.

## 6.0 Links to Council Priorities

6.1 Maintaining critical service delivery during the global emergency .

## 7.0 Implications

### Financial, Resources and Procurement

7.1 Staffing resources can be reprioritised to recommence green waste collections, whilst maintaining those Critical Waste collection services.

### Human Resources

7.2 Staffing resources can be reprioritised to recommence green waste collections, whilst maintaining those Critical Waste collection services.

### Legal

7.3 This decision is required to implement the changes previously brought in due to Covid 19.

### Health, Social, Economic and Environmental

7.4 Have you completed a Health, Social, Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment? No

7.5 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons: The recommencement of Green Waste Collections is considered to have a marginal environmental benefit in ensuring green waste is effectively recycled.

### Equality and Diversity

7.7 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? No

7.8 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons: The recommencement of Green Waste Collections is not considered to have any equality or Diversity implications , it will be reintroduced uniformly across the district.

### Risk

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
Green waste collections place pressure on critical residual waste collections	Negative impact on collection rates of residual waste services	We will keep the staffing levels under regular review , to minimise any disruption.

### Contact Officers

Simon Rowley – Director Customer and Commercial Services

Sion Thomas – Operational Lead Delivery and Commercial Services

### Background Documents Available

Name of Background document	Where it is available
Emergency Delegated Executive Decision, 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2020 - Temporary	<a href="http://www.southlakeland.gov.uk">www.southlakeland.gov.uk</a>

<b>Name of Background document</b>	<b>Where it is available</b>
Suspension of Green Waste Collections Reference:- 002	
<b>Approved by:</b>	<b>Signature and Date ( or email confirmation)</b>
Chief Executive	30/04/2020
Or such person as delegated by the Chief Executive in writing	
<b>In consultation with</b>	
The Leader of the Council	30/04/2020
And Relevant Portfolio Holder	27/04/2020

<i>Due to COVID 19 and Government announcements , it has not been possible for this Key decision to be included in a Forward Plan at least 28 clear days before the decision was to be made.</i>	30/04/2020
<i>In accordance with paragraph 16 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Cllr Hughes) has agreed that the taking of the decision was urgent and could not reasonably be deferred because of the timescales required to protect the public interest and to comply with Government advice.</i>	
<i>In accordance with paragraph 16(j) of the Constitution The Chairman of the Council (Cllr Coleman) has exercised powers that the call-in procedure should not apply this being an urgent decision and any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would, for seriously prejudice the Council's and/ or the public's interests.</i>	01/05/2020