

**Democratic Services Section  
Legal and Civic Services Department  
Belfast City Council  
City Hall  
Belfast  
BT1 5GS**



**Belfast**  
City Council

## **SPECIAL MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet both online and in-person, in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Friday, 26th September, 2025 at 9.30 am, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

### **AGENDA:**

1. **Routine Matters**

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Declarations of Interest

2. **Restricted Items**

- (a) Draft Irish Language Policy (Pages 1 - 24)
- (b) Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann (Pages 25 - 92)

3. **Finance. Procurement and Performance**

- (a) Contract Update - Hire of Skips (Pages 93 - 94)

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**Belfast**  
City Council

**STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE**

Subject:	Contract Update - Hire of Skips (CNS Q24.15)
Date:	26 September 2025
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Operational Director, City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Brendan Murray – Waste Manager

**Restricted Reports**

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Some time in the future

Never

☐  
☐  
☐  
☐

**Call-in**

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
	The purpose of this report is to provide additional information to members in response to queries raised at the SP&R committee meeting of 19 September 2025 in respect of the Hire of Skips - CNS Q24.15 report.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>Members are requested to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>note the additional information and approve the original request i.e. modification of the existing contract to include an extension of up to 3 months at a cost of up to £34,000.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>determine if they wish to proceed with an economic appraisal in respect of the in-housing of the skip haulage contract and if so, approve a budget of up to £30k to conduct this study.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
<b>3.1</b>	Members will recall that at the SP&R committee meeting of June 2025, a procurement exercise was approved for the provision of a service to remove, transport and empty skips and hook lift containers. This is a critical service to ensure service continuity at household recycling centres and other operational OSS facilities.
<b>3.2</b>	Historically this contract also incorporates an a small (approx. 5% of contract value) but important element of skip hire which assists the Services (Resources & Fleet & OSS) to deliver their functions. In recent years, the Resources & Fleet Service has received internal capital funding to invest in skips and hook lift containers and is in the process of acquiring and rolling out this equipment to the recycling centres. The priority has been on replacing any hired skips and compactors. As it currently stands, the recycling centres have no hired skips on site, all now replaced by BCC purchased containers. However, there is still a requirement for hired skips at a number of the OSS operations until a similar exercise is undertaken to replace these with BCC purchased containers. This is a project which can be undertaken over the course of the next 18-24 months, subject to funding.
<b>3.3</b>	In the meantime, in order to ensure skip provision at OSS sites until the new haulage contract (removal, transport and emptying skips) is awarded, it is necessary to seek a contract modification.as outlined in the report to SP&R committee on 19 September 2025 and set out below.
<b>3.4</b>	The skip haulage contract is a fundamental part of the recycling centre operations. It is imperative that the service is reliable and flexible to meet the needs of the sites which include weekend and bank holiday operations. Prior to 2008, the Council previously provided a skip transportation service but at that time a strategic decision was taken to divest of the service given the increased demands arising from the recycling centres and other sites and with the focus being placed on other waste collection services.
<b>3.5</b>	This resulted in the Council procuring these essential services from the local marketplace and this has been the position since. Should members wish to explore the in-sourcing of this function it is recommended that the Council approves a budget of approximately £30,000 to conduct an economic appraisal and report back to members. If approved officers will bring an update paper back to this committee once a contractor has been appointed and a timeline agreed for the work.
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>The estimated cost of the contract modification is up to £34k. Should members agree to an economic appraisal on in housing the hook lift haulage contract, the estimated cost is £30k.</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>There are no good relations assessments associated with this project.</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<p><b>Appendices</b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>6.0</b>	<p><b>Abbreviations</b></p> <p>None</p>