

# REPORT TO ASSETS AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

## PURCHASE OF A TIPPING TRAILER



**Report Reference** A-23-04  
**Meeting Date** 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
**Agenda Item** 7  
**Prepared by** Planning and Facilities Officer

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### 1.0 BACKGROUND

The Town Council's strategic plan sets out an objective to expand the Town Ranger service to increase the cleanliness, maintenance, and attractiveness of the Town. At its June meeting, the committee resolved that the Town Ranger service should be expanded and with this will come the need for additional resource and equipment.

Historically the Town Ranger service has created little in the way of green waste with the Ranger utilising strategic spaces to collect leaves and detritus to allow it to break down naturally in the local area. Since the acquisition of the Council Offices and Library Gardens the Town Ranger has been maintaining grounds of both spaces. Due to their setting, there are limited spaces available on these sites for composting such large amounts of green matter, which includes grass cuttings, hedge trimmings, weeds from floral beds, and a substantial volume of leaves each autumn. Last year two 8-yard skips were used for the autumnal leaf-drop and due to the space available to store the skip it was located on the opposite side of the site to the leaf matter. This meant additional time was spent moving the leaf matter and this led to an unplanned increase in manual handling, this was overall felt to be impractical. Options have been explored for a green waste bin collection, however these are not available<sup>1</sup>.

The Planning and Facilities Officer has been investigating the acquisition of a tipping trailer primarily for green waste removal. The Town Ranger currently has to fill up bags which are dragged, carried, and lifted, adding additional physical strain to certain maintenance activities. The bags are emptied, and the green waste disposed of, at a site in Macclesfield. The volume of green waste the Town Ranger can move is limited without further equipment and it is not practical to use the transport capacity of the Town Ranger Van for large amounts of material.

### 2.0 TIPPING TRAILER

The purchase of a tipping trailer will make the movement and transfer of green waste more efficient by increasing the volume of material that can be transferred and reducing the time spent on moving material, and limiting the likelihood of musculoskeletal injury through the reduction of manual handling. It will make the fortnightly maintenance and the leaf-drop at the council offices and library gardens more efficient, and will aid other areas the Town Ranger service covers, such as removal of material from some of the alleyways throughout the year but particularly during the autumn, assisting the *In Bloom* volunteers with waste removal, moving landscaping equipment,

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<sup>1</sup> Most companies contacted did not offer commercial green waste collections, those which do only offer a skip.

There are additional benefits to the purchase of a trailer which include, the transport of equipment between sites, additional space to transport event equipment and paraphernalia, the collection and delivery of trees and other horticultural items such as the barrier planters, and the collection of equipment or goods from local suppliers. There has been a significant budget reduction at ANSA which is affecting the grounds operations team and may mean further reductions in maintenance activity throughout the town which could put additional strain on the Town Ranger service. The purchase of a trailer will increase the possibility of tackling some of the scaled-back activity, should the council wish to take on the maintenance of further areas. The purchase of a trailer also provides the council with future potential to expand the service commercially (e.g. to surrounding parishes).

The proposed trailer is an Ifor Williams TT2515, twin axle tipping trailer with mesh siding, as illustrated below. The dimensions of the trailer are a length of 3.8m and width of 1.6m and a bed size of 2.5 x 1.m



The cost of this trailer is £4,250. The committee does not have a budget for this, however, it could be funded through the capital reserve.

### **3.0 DECISION REQUIRED**

It is recommended that the committee considers the purchase of a trailer to improve the efficiency and safety of the movement of green waste and for the other benefits outlined.

The committee should consider a recommendation to Full Council on approving use of the capital reserve for its purchase.