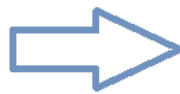


BRIEFING	TO:	OSMB
	DATE:	07/10/2026
	LEAD OFFICER:	Debra Barnett Fleet Programme Officer R & E Directorate Mobile: 07920547220 Email: debra.barnett@rotherham.gov.uk
	TITLE:	Information briefing on RCV replacement
1. Background		
1.1	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) currently operate 30 Council-owned Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCVs) and relies on an additional 17 hired vehicles to deliver household and commercial waste collections. The owned assets are aged and are operating outside the generally accepted life of 7 years, with several of them being over 10 years old. Efficient and regular scheduled household waste removal is totally reliant on reliable and efficient RCVs. Waste Services have confirmed that 44 RCVs are required to establish the optimum sized owned fleet for RMBC.	
1.2	This briefing provides an overview of progress and status of Phase 1 of the RCV replacement programme for 16 vehicles. It includes details of the awarded supplier, anticipated time scales for delivery and future replacement plans for the remaining vehicles.	
1.3	RCVs play an essential role in maintaining clean, safe and attractive neighbourhoods. Effective waste removal and management support the Council Plan objective of ensuring places are thriving, safe and clean, whilst contributing to the Council's statutory duties relating to household waste and environmental quality	
1.4	In July 2026 a contract was awarded for 16 new vehicles, and a Capital bid has been submitted requesting funding to purchase up to 26 more vehicles over the next few years. These steps will renew all owned vehicles and reduce the reliance on hired vehicles to deliver essential waste management services across the entire borough. The proposal will also significantly reduce service costs for these vehicles.	
2. Key Issues		
2.1	Phased purchasing of RCVs.	
2.1.1	Older vehicles are subject to more frequent maintenance requirements and breakdowns that does cause service disruption. A proactive refurbishment programme of owned vehicles has successfully lengthened the service life of some of these vehicles, but this is not a sustainable long-term solution.	
2.1.2	A contract valued at £4.2m was awarded to Dennis Eagle for the purchase of 16 RCVs for the waste management service. The contract commenced in July 2026, with the first 4 vehicles scheduled to arrive week commencing 16 th August 2027. This is Phase 1 of the renewal programme for RCVs over 7 years old. The new vehicles will help mitigate issues regarding breakdowns and service delivery problems associated with older vehicles.	

2.1.3 Working closely with the awarded supplier, service leads, and fleet management colleagues; a plan of receiving, testing and onboarding the vehicles as soon as practicable is scheduled and being monitored.

2.1.4 Phase 2 of replacement has begun, with a request for a Capital Investment of £7.02M to purchase a further 26 RCVs, over a three-year period. This ambitious programme will see the current fleet completely refreshed by 2030. These actions will effectively manage out the issues we currently have due to the age of the feet and the need to hire vehicles. It should also be noted that there will be times when there will be a need to hire in vehicles on an ad hoc basis, but this will be in exceptional situations.

Current Fleet (Count)	Owned / Hired	Year registered	Age (yrs)
12	Owned	2016	10
16	Owned	2018	8
2	Owned	2025	1
Sub total	30		
6	Hired	2016	10
3	Hired	2018	8
2	Hired	2024	2
1	Hired	2025	1
5	Hired	2026	Less than 1
Sub total	17		
Total	47		



Future Fleet (Count)	Owned	Year registered	Age (yrs) in 2030
2	Owned	2025	5
16	Owned	2027	3
16	Owned	2028	2
10	Owned	2029	1
Total	44		

2.1.5 RMBC's fleet heavily relies on hire vehicles to secure service delivery, but specialised vehicles come with a large hire bill. Comparing current hire rates of £63,700 per annum to hire one RCV to anticipated costs of purchase and compliant maintenance, cost benefits can be seen in the table below:

RCVs	Hire		Owned		Variation
Initial Pricing	Per Year	£63,700	Purchase price	£37,645 (£263,515 split over 7 years)	
Fees	29% insurance + 10% Admin	£24,843	3.84% service funded borrowing per year	Average £6000 per year over 7 years	
Maintenance & testing	Included in Hire fees	£0	Estimated annual pricing	£9,251	
Total per year	£88,543		£52,896		£35,647
Total 7 year	£619,801		£370,272		£249,529
16 Vehicles	£9,916,816		£5,924,352		£3,992,464
42 Vehicles	£26,031,642		£15,551,424		£10,480,218

2.1.6 The large investment in owned vehicles can see potential revenue benefits of over £10m during the 7-year anticipated life of the RCVs. It must be noted that these figures do not include fuel nor any wear and tear items that are not included in hire costs, like tyres, fluids or accident damage.

2.2 Replacement of the RCV fleet is planned as below:

- 16 on order to be delivered August 2027 (to replace 16 2016 models)
- 16 to be purchased for delivery 2028 (replace 16 2018 models)

- 10 to be purchased for delivery 2029 (replace 10 hire vehicles)
- 42 new RCVs to be on fleet and in use by service by 2030

- 2.2.1** To support the future of waste management and fleet efficiencies, the fleet replacement programme will continue beyond Phase 2 to develop an on-going rolling replacement plan. This will ensure that the commissioning cycle starts well in advance of required replacements of all fleet vehicles, including RCVs. This will ensure replacements are secured before assets reach their end of service life. Proactive planning in fleet replacement will mitigate the need for refurbishment costs and keep maintenance needs lower.
- 2.2.2** The fleet replacement programme is focused on continuous improvement. This includes research into the newest vehicle technologies that can elevate colleagues and residents' experiences with fleet vehicles. Safety and efficiencies are key areas when specifications are written.

3. Key Actions and Timelines

- 3.1** Replacement of the RCV fleet is planned as below:
- 16 purchased for delivery 2027 (replaces 16 2016 models) contracts in place.
 - 16 to be purchased for delivery 2028 (replace 16 2018 models) funding requested
 - 10 to be purchased for delivery 2029 (replace 10 hire vehicles) funding requested
 - 42 new RCVs to be on fleet and in use by service by 2030
 - Commissioning cycle for replacement 2027 vehicles begin 2032 for 2034 delivery

4. Recommendations

- 4.1**
- Note the progress being made in the purchase of 16 Refuse Collection Vehicles, with delivery in August 2027
 - Note the development of a long-term rolling programme for fleet replacement to avoid service delivery becoming overly reliant on hire vehicles.