

## EXECUTIVE 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Kitchen Food Waste Service Rollout</b>
<b>Lead Member</b>	Cllr Matt Binley, Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets
<b>Report Author</b>	Graeme Kane – Assistant Director Highways and Waste

<b>Key Decision</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Are there public sector equality duty implications?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Applicable paragraph number/s for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972</b>	N/A
<b>Which Corporate Plan priority does the report most closely align with?</b>	Green, sustainable environment

### List of Appendices

**Appendix A** – Defra letter to Local Authorities on indicative capital funding for introduction of weekly food waste collections

**Appendix B** – Climate Change Impact Assessment tool

### **1. Purpose of Report**

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- 1.1. As part of the Government's plans to reform waste collections and packaging now referred to as Simpler Recycling, with the aim to ensure that people across England can recycle the same materials, the Government have amended the statutory responsibilities under s45A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to include the requirement to provide weekly food waste collections to all households.
- 1.2. This report seeks approval to confirm allocation of the funding received from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for the capital expenditure for infrastructure required to undertake the service. In addition, approval is sought to commence a project to mobilise a new service and for approval to undertake procurements and other aspects of service design to ensure North Northamptonshire Council is ready to commence collections in line with the target of April 2026.

## **2. Executive Summary**

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- 2.1 This report contains information in respect of the capital grant funding allocated from DEFRA and seeks approval to commence the procurement activities for the capital infrastructure element required to roll out a new food waste kerb side collection service.
- 2.2 The government has made it a requirement for local authorities to collect household food waste on a weekly basis from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026.
- 2.3 A food waste service already operates in the East Northants and Corby areas. This project will extend the service to include the areas of Wellingborough and Kettering.
- 2.4 Collecting food waste for separate disposal brings environmental benefits as well as reducing the costs of waste disposal.
- 2.5 The total grant, confirmed by DEFRA, for the capital element of this project totals £2,495,563. This will be used for purchasing food waste containers and collection vehicles.
- 2.6 Further funding is also expected from DEFRA to fund the revenue elements of introducing and operating the service. These are yet to be confirmed by DEFRA

## **3. Recommendations**

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- 3.1 That the Executive:
  - a) Recognise and accept the grant from DEFRA for the capital infrastructure relating to introducing a food waste service of £2,495,563 in line with the grant conditions. The approval of the capital project forms part of the Capital Updates report elsewhere on the Executive agenda;
  - b) In line with the approval of the capital project, approve commencement of procurement of vehicles, containers and other items associated with the mobilisation of the new food waste collection service;
  - c) Delegate authority to the Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets, in consultation with Executive Director for Place & Economy, Executive Director for Finance and Performance and the Executive Member for Finance, the authority to take any further decisions and actions required to implement the new service including the procurement process and award of the contracts, without the need to return to the Executive. This will include updating the North Northamptonshire Waste and Recycling Policy to reflect the new services.

### 3.2 Reasons for Recommendations:

- The proposed option ensures compliance with Government requirements to collect food waste from residential properties from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026.
- The recommended course of action will allow the Council to secure the most cost-effective solution for North Northamptonshire residents.
- This approach ensures the Council has legally procured and has a compliant contract in place for the provision of services that provide a direct benefit to residents by collecting their waste.

### 3.3 Alternative Options Considered:

- Contract out the collection service, requiring the supplier to manage the procurement of infrastructure items. This option is not recommended as it does not reflect the operational in-house arrangements in place and is anticipated to be more expensive given the overheads an external provider will place on the procurement of infrastructure items.
- Take no action. This option is not recommended as it will mean that the Council does not meet its statutory obligations in respect of its duties as a Waste Collection Authority.

## **4 Report Background**

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- 4.1 In Autumn 2023 the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) published the outcomes of its consultation on aspects contained within the Environment Act 2021, specifically regarding the statutory requirements for separate collections for recyclable materials.
- 4.2 Under the new requirements waste collection authorities will now be required to collect the same recyclable waste streams for recycling or composting from households. The recyclable waste streams include paper and card, plastic, glass, metal, food waste, and garden waste.
- 4.3 Under the new legislation, waste collection authorities in England must arrange a weekly collection of food waste for recycling or composting from households. Separately, all non-household municipal premises in England must arrange for the separate collection of food waste and to present their waste in accordance with these arrangements, but they are not required to have weekly collections.
- 4.4 North Northamptonshire Council is already collecting dry-mixed recycling materials and garden waste in line with these requirements.
- 4.5 The following materials will be included in the food waste stream:
- 4.5.1 All food intended for human or household pet consumption, regardless of whether it has any nutritional value;
  - 4.5.2 Biodegradable material resulting from the processing or preparation of food, including inedible food parts such as bones, eggshells, fruit and vegetable skins, tea bags and coffee grounds.

- 4.6 North Northamptonshire Council collects food waste in the Corby and East Northamptonshire areas. These services were introduced by the former district councils and continue to operate. The introduction of mandatory food waste collections provides an opportunity to standardise this service across North Northamptonshire and further promote the service.

## **5 Issues and Choices**

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- 5.1 Due to the number of local authorities required to make service changes to integrate weekly food waste collections into waste collection services, the vehicle and waste container providers are receiving orders from many local authorities over the same period, therefore limiting the production slots available for new business.
- 5.2 To ensure service delivery in time for the new requirements, it is necessary for the Council to progress the procurement process for both types of equipment as soon as possible to ensure the long lead-in time particularly for vehicle delivery, does not delay the required start date for the new service.
- 5.3 Due to the total value of the grant and subsequent procurement it is necessary to procure required items in line with the Procurement Act 2023 to ensure that the Council meets its obligations and delivers best value and other organisational objectives such as those identified under the Carbon Management Plan.

## **6 Next Steps**

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- 6.1 Subject to approval, a project team will be formed to begin works to commence procurement processes for collection vehicles and containers for food waste.
- 6.2 A project team will focus on designing the new service and planning for its introduction. This will include, amongst other things, a review of the collection rounds for the new service to ensure routes are optimised to minimise fuel consumption and the associated carbon emissions associated with the introduction of new vehicles to the waste collection fleet. A communications plan will also be developed to ensure residents are fully aware of the new service and know how to use it effectively.

## **7 Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **7.1 Resources, Financial and Transformation**

- 7.1.1 Approval to allocate this external funding to the Capital Programme is within the Capital Update report going to the same Executive meeting as this report.

- 7.1.2 The following funding has been confirmed by DEFRA:

- Kitchen caddies (plus spares): £228,768
- Kerbside caddies (plus spares): £518,921

- Communal wheeled bins (plus spares): £8,775
- Vehicles (Plus spares): £1,739,100
- Total funding: £2,495,563

7.1.3 The funding allocation from DEFRA is expected to be sufficient for the provision of vehicles and containers required for the roll out of this service. There is no requirement for any additional funding to be allocated to support this project.

7.1.4 Any officer time required to manage the roll out of the new service will come from existing service resources.

7.1.5 Further funding allocations from DEFRA for both the transitional stage and ongoing resource / revenue costs of operating the service are due. DEFRA have confirmed that the transitional funding will be allocated during 2024/25 financial year whilst the ongoing revenue costs will be provided from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 onwards.

7.1.6 Where operationally practicable the majority of any new fleet procured will have all electric propulsion systems to minimise the impact on the climate and the Council's Net Zero Carbon objectives.

## 7.2 Legal and Governance

7.2.1 The Environmental Protection Act 1990 requires local authorities to provide waste collections to households (section 45) and the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 requires those collections to encompass arrangements to separately collect paper, metal, plastic, and glass as a minimum. The Environment Act 2021 amends these provisions to define recyclable waste as: (a) glass; (b) metal; (c) plastic; (d) paper and card; (e) food waste (f) garden waste.

## 7.3 Relevant Policies and Plans

7.3.1 North Northamptonshire Waste and Recycling Policy as approved by Executive on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021:

7.3.2 <https://northnorthants.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s3804/Appx%20A%20-%20NNC%20Waste%20Recycling%20Policy%20V0.1%2013.10.21.pdf>

7.3.3 These policies have been designed to meet our statutory obligations in relation to waste collection and recycling and to ensure that there are clearly defined policies and standards in relation to the collection and disposal of waste and recyclable materials. This includes the current food waste collection service in the East Northants and Corby areas. It is expected that the new service in the areas of Kettering and Wellingborough will reflect the service currently operating in East Northants and Corby.

7.3.4 In designing the new service, the North Northamptonshire Waste and Recycling Policy will be updated to reflect the new service. Approval for the changes will be made under the delegation outlined in the recommendations contained within this report.

7.3.5 The proposal is in line with the Council's Corporate Plan, particularly the commitments to provide modern public services and create a greener, sustainable environment. The recommendations seek to promote a harmonised service, which promotes recycling opportunities for all users.

7.3.6 Activity undertaken in this service area is supported by the following corporate policies and plans: Highways & Waste Service Plan (2023-24); North Northamptonshire Waste & Recycling Policy; Street Cleansing Policies; Litter and Fly tipping strategy; Enforcement Policy for Waste Crime; and North Northamptonshire Council Carbon Management Plan

#### **7.4 Risk**

7.4.1 Due to global factors, lead times and costs for all materials, products and services that form part of the wider infrastructure that provide critical support to waste collection services such as fuel, vehicles, replacement parts and containers are increasing. These factors negatively impact the service delivery teams' ability to expedite service updates at pace and may extend the timeframes for the delivery of new services or service changes. There is also a risk that the costs of these elements rise to a point that they exceed the budget available. There is a particular risk of delay from ordering large quantities of new bins and vehicles. This will be mitigated as far as possible by progressing the procurement process as quickly as possible and ensuring the process seeks best value for money.

7.4.2 The Council holds an overarching risk for the waste and recycling service which is recorded on the service risk register for Highways and Waste: H&W08 - Waste collection (kerbside and HWRC (Household Waste Recycling Centre) services) and street cleaning services that fail to perform statutory functions. Failure could result from disruption to waste disposal facilities, disruption to collection arrangements (vehicle break-down or staff shortages), or lack of budget to provide adequate services.

#### **7.5 Consultation**

7.5.1 No consultation has been undertaken at this stage as the activities contained within the report are mandatory due to the requirements under Public Contracts Regulations or as part of the Statutory duties laid out under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

#### **7.6 Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel**

7.6.1 This report has not been considered by Executive Advisory Panel (EAP). As the implementation plan is developed and the service is designed, there will be an opportunity for the relevant EAP to review the plans and provide comment.

## **7.7 Consideration by Scrutiny**

- 7.7.1 This report has not yet been considered by the Place and Environment Scrutiny Committee. The Scrutiny Committee may like to review the success of the implementation plan and the uptake of the new service once it has been running for some time.

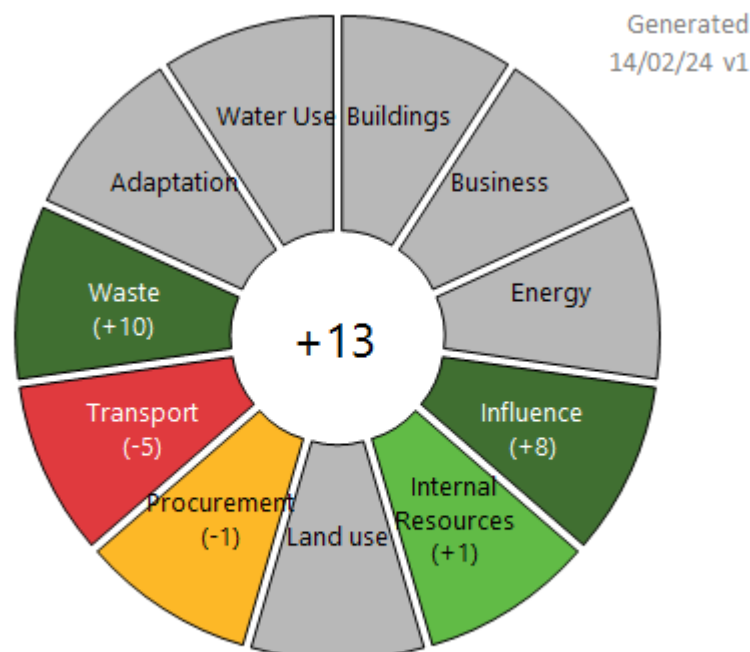
## **7.8 Equality Implications**

- 7.8.1 In line with the Equality Act 2010, an Equality Screening Assessment has been undertaken and included as background paper to this report. The new service will be like the existing food waste collection service, which is already designed to account for specific needs of our vulnerable residents and communities. This includes an assisted collection service for those residents who are unable to move their bin to their collection point. We will also consider and account for those who need specific assistance to understand our communication material or require it in different formats.

## **7.9 Climate Impact**

- 7.9.1 The Council, having declared a climate change emergency in June 2021, is committed to reducing its climate impact both within its own Council buildings and in working with businesses and the wider community to achieve the Council's target to be Carbon Neutral by 2030.
- 7.9.2 By ensuring the Council meets its statutory obligations for waste collections, the Council can continue to promote and encourage the separate collection and appropriate treatment of recyclable, reusable and compostable material.
- 7.9.3 Any new contractual arrangements for the delivery of vehicles and containers will include a commitment from new contractors to help the Council meet its targets as well as a commitment to meeting national targets within the Net Zero Carbon agenda. Where plastic containers are to be used, they will be re-usable, and they will be made from post-consumer recycled materials. At the end of their useful life, the containers can be recycled into new plastic products.
- 7.9.4 Adding vehicles to the fleet will increase the carbon emissions associated with collection operations and construction of the vehicles. During the specification and procurement process, the possibility to bring electric, or part-electric, vehicles onto the fleet will be explored and maximised where possible within the available budget.
- 7.9.5 An extended food waste collection service contributes towards maximising the recycling opportunities for waste arisings from within the local area. The service will remove waste material from the residual waste stream and processing it through a more appropriate, and environmentally beneficial process. The waste disposal process for food waste material involves the capture of all biogases as the material decomposes. The digestate is used to fertilise and condition agricultural land whilst the gases are used to generate electricity.

7.9.6 The service will increase recycling opportunities. Current waste composition analysis indicates that up to one third of the material contained within the residual waste container is currently food waste material. The new service, with appropriate communications, will seek to remove this food and have it treated in a more environmentally friendly manner.



North Northamptonshire Council has committed to being a carbon neutral organisation by 2030, 5 yrs & 10 mos away.

## 7.10 Community Impact

7.10.1 The waste collection service is highly valued by residents and provides a valuable service for all North Northants residents who wish to increase the total amount of material recycled from their households.

## 7.11 Crime and Disorder Impact

7.11.1 Implementation of this service will reduce the potential for inappropriate storage of waste and waste accumulations which will make positive contributions to anti-social behaviour.

# 8 Background Papers

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## 8.1 Equalities Screening Assessment