

Bolsover District Council

Meeting of Council on 8th October 2025

Weekly Food Waste Collection Service

Report of the portfolio holder for Environment

Classification	This report is public.
Contact Officer	Steve Brunt (Strategic Director of Services)

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

- To request approval to increase the Waste Services Team staffing establishment and associated budget, to establish a separate weekly food waste collection service.
- Agree changes to the Council's Waste and Recycling Collection Policy for the inclusion of a separate weekly food waste collection service.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

Food Waste Collection

- 1.1 From the 1st of April 2026, the Council will have need to meet its new statutory duty in the undertaking of separate weekly collection of food waste from all domestic households. From this date, food waste must be collected separately from waste collected in black (residual), burgundy (dry mixed recycling), and green (garden) bins. The Council's Waste and Recycling Collection Policy has been updated in readiness of this change. (**Appendix A**) and consulted with Customer Services Scrutiny Committee (19th August 2025).
- 1.2 The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) have previously awarded new burdens capital funding to the Council for the purchase of food waste containers and collections vehicles of £699,908.
- 1.3 Streetscene (Waste) Services Team found this insufficient to purchase the number of vehicles they felt were necessary to operate a separate weekly food waste collection service. At a meeting of Council (22nd May 2024), the Defra funding was accepted and a further £321,500 capital funding approved to meet the shortfall anticipated.
- 1.4 Streetscene (Waste) Services assessment of the number of vehicles needed, took into account Bolsover's urban\rurality (60\40) profile where collections are undertaken across a total District area of 15,982 hectares, which based on modelling a household participation rate of 65% (approximately) equates to 6 vehicles (teams) plus 1 relief to afford breakdown, maintenance and repair cover.
- 1.5 During 2024/25, the Council received notice of an award of revenue transitional resource grant from Defra of £265,077.21 for the implementation of weekly food waste collection.

Container delivery	Project management	Procurement	Communications	Total
£126,021	£67,000	£2,000	£70,056	£265,077

- 1.6 An assessment of operational staffing resource took into consideration collection team structures of driver plus 2 porters, operating within the established 4-day (9.25 hour) compressed 37 hour working week, utilising 12 tonne (G.V.W) vehicles rather than 7.5 tonne, to contain daily work\payload, on 1 delivery to the waste disposal\transfer point.
- 1.7 Based on the team structure set out above, eventually 20 staff consisting of 13 porters (Grade 4) and 7 drivers (Grade 5) are required to operate the new separate weekly food waste collection service, being 6 teams of 3 and cover provision for annual leave and sickness absence of 2 further staff members.
- 1.8 Delivery of food waste caddy bins (which will include publicity material) to all district households is intended to commence from mid-January 2026. For the purposes of undertaking the delivery of the containers and training, including familiarisation of staff with the new collection system and geographical areas, it is proposed to recruit 10 of the required staff from mid-January 2026 at a cost of £164,500 for the period.
- 1.9 42,000 external (23 litre) food waste bins have been purchased and stored at one of the Council's business centres in readiness to be delivered to district households.

Summary of Financial Implications – By the Section 151 Officer

- 1.10 The Government's Collection and Packaging Reforms, including Simpler Recycling, have meant Bolsover District Council has been awarded a number of different grants. In 2024/25, we were awarded £699,907.63 in capital transitional costs grant; an amount of £511,500 was awarded for vehicles and £188,408 was provided for purchasing kerbside caddies and communal wheeled bins.
- 1.11 Council approved this and a further £321,500 of capital funding to enable the purchase of 7 vehicles which it was felt were required to operate the food waste collection service.

Defra capital transitional costs grant – received 2024/25	£699,908
Council capital programme funding	£321,500
Total capital budget	£1,021,408
Less Caddies purchased during 2024/25	£139,050
Less 7 vehicles ordered during 2024/25	£817,887
Balance of capital budget remaining 2025/26	£64,471

- 1.12 The Government's Simpler Recycling policy requires retail and packaging producers to meet the cost of the collection and disposal of their packaging. Levies charged to packaging producers and retailers provides income to the Government's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Scheme. Local Authorities receive payments from the EPR scheme, to meet the collection and treatment of recyclable waste based on an assessment of costs carried out by Government.

- 1.13 In November 2024, the Council received provisional notice of its EPR assessment for 2025/26 of £379,000. After this was checked and challenged by the Council, it increased in July 2025 to £693,860.67.
- 1.14 Guidance received from MHCLG and the District Council's Network during December 2024 when the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) was being prepared, was that the EPR payments for 2025/26 were not ring-fenced and were in effect a windfall to mainly district councils who had done poorly from the Local Government Finance Settlement. Therefore, as happened at many other districts/boroughs, the initial assessment of £379,000 was included in the MTFP as extra income to support all general fund services, and no extra costs were included against it. This means only the additional income of £314,860.67, awarded to us in July 2025, is new money to the MTFP in the 2025\26 period. The government's EPR scheme administrator (PACK UK) has since confirmed that Councils must in future be able to demonstrate EPR funding allocated is utilised in improving the performance and efficiency in delivery of waste services.
- 1.15 The Council will continue to receive EPR payments on an annual basis based on Government assessment. However, as retailers reduce packaging to save on costs they incur under the scheme, EPR income may eventually reduce. We have been informed from the start that only the first year of funding was confirmed and that future years' payments will be subject to waste levels collected. This is inevitable from the nature of the scheme, as there may be less packaging for us to collect and recycle if the retailers are successful in reducing their costs from EPR payments.
- 1.16 It is expected that the revenue transitional resource grant from Defra of £265,077.21, will be a one-off receipt to help with the implementation of the weekly food waste collection.
- 1.17 In addition to the capital and revenue funding already mentioned, it was anticipated that there would be further Government New Burdens funding to meet the future cost of providing the ongoing weekly food waste collection service. However, correspondence received from Defra (September 2025) informed us that ongoing funding for food waste collection services will be included in the Spending Review 2025 reflecting the Government's wider commitment in its Fair Funding Review 2.0 consultation. The Spending Review is not expected to be announced until the week commencing the 15th of December 2025, and it is unknown at this stage, if the weekly food waste collection funding will be separately identifiable.
- 1.18 The uncertainty surrounding this Government funding has meant that we are unable to present to Members at this time, the full detail regarding the new expenditure requirements to provide this service. We are expecting to receive funding for this service from the Government and through continuing EPR payments, but the level of the funding is too uncertain for us to commit to establishing the expenditure budgets. Therefore, this report is seeking the funding for just 10 of the permanent, full-time porter posts. The cost of this is £380,383 per annum, based on a grade 4. We are confident that this cost will be met from the EPR payments.
- 1.19 New budgetary implications arising from this report are therefore £380,383 per annum from 2026/27, with £164,500 required in 2025/26 as per paragraph 1.8. Both funded by EPR payments or grant received.
- 1.20 Like many Councils, there is a risk to Bolsover District Council that we commit to incurring extra costs in providing the food waste collection service without knowing how much of the new burden will be funded, and the funding when known is

insufficient. We are mitigating this by only committing in this report, to the number of staff it is necessary to recruit to get this service ready to operate by the 1st of April 2026. This is a statutory duty placed on us as a waste collection authority, by the Government, and it is felt this is a prudent strategy.

- 1.21 A further decision will be required regarding the remaining staff needed to undertake the service as set out in paragraph 1.7 of this report. A decision cannot be made on this until we are aware of the full extent of the Government funding available. As we will need to commence a recruitment process early in the new year it is proposed that the decision is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for the Environment.

2. Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 To ensure budget is established and ensure adequate resources are in place to meet the statutory deadline of introducing separate weekly food waste collections by not later than the 1st of April 2026.

3 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 3.1 Not implementing weekly food waste collection is not an option open to the Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the uncertainty around the Government funding to meet the cost of introducing new statutory weekly food waste collections, Council is asked to:

1. Approve the establishment of 10 new full-time, permanent positions on grade 4, who will be required to undertake the new weekly food waste collection service. The cost is £380,383 per annum (subject to the usual LG pay awards).
2. Approve a budget of £164,500 for 2025/26, to meet the cost of employing the 10 staff (in recommendation 1) to undertake delivery of food waste collection caddies along with promotional materials; and, undertake training and familiarisation with the new service arrangements from mid-January 2026.
3. Approve the update to the Waste and Recycling Collection Policy to reflect inclusion of a separate weekly food waste collection service (**Appendix 1**).
4. To delegate to the Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for the Environment, the decision to approve the establishment of 10 additional full-time permanent positions consisting of 3 porters (Grade 4) and 7 drivers (Grade 5) to undertake the weekly food collection service

Approved by Councillor Hiney-Saunders Portfolio Holder for the Environment, under which Streetscene Waste Service arrangements fall.

IMPLICATIONS.

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details:

The financial implications for this report can be found throughout but are summarised from paragraphs 1.10 onwards by the Section 151 Officer. There is a risk that EPR payments may reduce over time, but only committing to expenditure well within the level of the income received in 2025/26, it is felt this is mitigated.

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection):	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Details:		
<p>Section 57 of The Environment Act 2021 (Separation of Waste) amends the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (s45A) in regard of Waste Collection Authorities duties and inserts new Sections 45AZA to 45AZG, setting out Government’s ‘Simpler Recycling’ arrangements and the new duty of separate weekly food waste collection.</p>		
On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council		
Environment:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Details:		
<p>Vehicles procured for the collection of waste are diesel (combustion) engine powered and meet current Euro6 emission standards and operate on 100% biodiesel (Hydrated Vegetable Oil – HVO) offering 91% reduced CO2 exhaust emissions.</p>		
<p>Food waste collection offers environmental benefits by diverting waste from landfills, in turn reducing harmful methane gas emissions and supporting a circular economy by way food waste treatment processes producing biogas for energy generation and fertiliser for agriculture.</p>		
<p>The introduction of the weekly food waste collection presents an opportunity for the Council to increase its combined recycling rate to 50% (approximately) if we achieve 50% diversion of putrescible (organic) waste from the black bin (residual) waste stream.</p>		
Staffing:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Details:		
<p>Proposals set out within the report recommends increased staffing of 10 posts to meet future requirements of the Council’s waste collection arrangements. Recruitment and management of staff will be undertaken in line with established Council Policy.</p>		
On behalf of the Head of Paid Service		

DECISION INFORMATION

<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards, or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:</p> <p>Revenue - £75,000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies.</i></p>	Yes
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i></p>	No

District Wards Significantly Affected	(Please state which wards or state All if all wards are affected) All Wards
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Details: N/a

Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy, and Environment.

Customers – Improving health, safety, wellbeing, and access to services.

Environment – collection of waste, increasing recycling, reducing landfill disposal and carbon emissions.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix	Title
1	Waste Collection and Recycling Policy

Background Papers

(These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive, you must provide copies of the background papers).

N/a