

Board/Committee:	Community and Environment Board
Date of meeting:	13 th November 2024
Title:	Simpler Recycling – Food Waste
Author:	Head of Waste
Status:	For Decision

Purpose

This report sets out the timescales, container requirements and an update on simpler recycling, but more specifically food waste collections.

Recommendation

That the Board;

i) approve the draft outline timetable as identified in 2.8 below with a target start date for food waste collections commencing on 31st March 2026

ii) acknowledge the estimated costings for the commencement of food waste collections.

iii) agree the specification for food waste kitchen caddies as 7 litres to be supplied to all residential properties

iv) agree the specification for kerbside food waste containers as 23 litres for all households who currently are served with 140 or 240 litre wheeled bins or sacks for properties that front directly onto the footway for refuse and recycling collections

v) approve that the Council will only fund two rolls of 25 compostable liners which will be delivered with each kitchen caddy as the scheme is initially rolled out.

That the Board notes:

vi) that the Council's communications team will take the lead in developing a communications plan for the implementation of all aspects of "Simpler Recycling"

vii) that a briefing is to be arranged with all members in January 2025 to explain the implications of "Simpler Recycling"

(viii) the progress being made to comply with the collection and packaging reforms, which include simpler recycling.

1.0 Background

1.1 The government has announced its collection and packaging reforms, which include simpler recycling. Through Simpler Recycling the aim is to ensure that people across England are able to recycle the same materials, putting to an end the confusion over what can and cannot be recycled in different parts of the country, this includes the introduction of a weekly collection of food waste. Under section s45A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (introduced by the Environment Act 2021) subject to ministerial approval

councils will need to implement a separate weekly collection of food waste by 1st April 2026.

- 1.2** Gosport Borough Council (GBC) is a waste collection authority and currently operates a kerbside alternate weekly collection of Residual Household Waste and Dry mixed recyclables in either 140 litre or 240 litre wheeled bins. (some properties who front directly onto the footways still have a black sack collection service.) Currently Gosport do not offer a kerbside collection of glass containers instead glass is collected via bottle banks, only three authorities in Hampshire provide a food waste collection service.. Hampshire County Council (HCC) are the Waste Disposal Authority for all Hampshire Authorities apart from Portsmouth and Southampton . GBC officers are working with HCC and other partners including Project Integra on the requirements of the new legislation.
- 1.3** The current collection of dry mixed recyclables from the household is very limited due in the main to the processing facilities that are available from HCC the Disposal Authority. The Governments collection and packaging reforms aims to increase the products that can be collected for recycling, simplify collection which will make it easier for residents.
- 1.4** Part of the collection and packaging reforms has also identified the need for producers to be responsible and fund the treatment of their end of life products. Currently the council are waiting for notification as to what funding is available from the producers responsibility funding allocation. It is anticipated that this will be notified to us in November 2024.

2.0 Report

- 2.1** There are parts of the new Simpler Recycling legislation that need legal clarification from government but under section s45A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (introduced by the Environment Act 2021) subject to ministerial approval councils will need to implement a separate weekly collection of food waste by 1st April 2026. Therefore this reports deals mainly with the actions required by GBC to ensure we are ready for the 1st April 2026 implementation date.
- 2.2** While the Government have stipulated the frequency to which food waste is to be collected (Weekly), the mechanism and how the waste is contained is for each local authority to decide. Approval is sought to agree the specifications for the containers containing food waste. It is recommended that each household, based on a 38,656-household forecast for 2026/27, will be issued with a 7-litre kitchen caddy with lockable lid to contain their food waste within the home and a 23-litre food waste collection container for kerbside collection in preparation for a start date of 31st March 2026.
- 2.3** In the case of multi occupational properties and flats it is recommended that a 140 litre wheeled bin or multiples of be used in to which a 7-litre kitchen caddy container can be decanted.

2.4 The provision of caddy liners is one of the most contentious areas of food waste collection. The cost of the provision of caddy liners is very hard to judge for each individual household and can continue to be a burden on councils finances. The majority of councils who have already implemented a food waste collection service have only issued sacks at the inception of the scheme. In discussions with HCC they have confirmed that they do not have an approved specification for caddy liners but the advice is to wrap all food waste in either compostable sacks or newspaper. Data does show that the tonnage of food waste presented for collection does decrease as households run out of the liners provided and have to purchase their own or use alternative methods to wrap the food. But more significantly the use of food waste collection decreases as residents realise how much food they are wasting on a weekly basis. Therefore its is recommended that all residents be provided with initial 2x25 rolls of compostible sacks at the inception of the scheme at an initial cost of £40,000

2.5 While the collection method for dry mixed recyclables is still unknown, work is still being undertaken by HCC on 3 options.

- Co Mingled – All recyclable, cans, plastics, paper, cardboard as well as glass to be collected in one container. The implications of this are that residents will only require one collection container for all their recyclables, in the majority of cases a 240 litre wheeled bin.
- Co Mingled plus Glass - All recyclable, cans, plastics, paper, and cardboard in one container as well as a box or small bin for the collection of glass. The implications of this for residents are that the majority of properties will require in addition to their 240 litre recycling bin an additional 55 litre container for glass.
- Twin Stream – All recyclable cans and containers, both glass and plastic in once container and all paper and cardboard in another container. The implications of this for residents is that the majority of properties will require in addition to their 240 litre recycling bin an additional 140 litre wheeled bin.

It is expected that the financial models for collection and disposal will be confirmed in early 2025, and then a further report will come to the Board later in 2025.

HCC are still evalutating the options for the the new processsing facilities, with infrastructure delivery is expected to take between 3 – 5 years depending on the dry recycling system chosen by the partnership.

HCC have confirmed disposal facilities will be in place for food waste implementation for March 2026.

2.6 Through Simpler Recycling the aim is to ensure that people across England are able to recycle the same materials, putting to an end the confusion over what can and cannot be recycled in different parts of the country, this includes the introduction of a weekly collection of food waste. These

changes will impact on every household in the borough and as such this will involve all elected members receiving communications from the electorate. It is essential that all elected Members are fully informed of the changes and are prepared when they are asked questions. It is therefore recommended that all GBC elected members attend a presentation on the proposed changes.

2.7 The implementation of a major service change such as this will fail without a clear communications plan. Resources will be made available from within the Councils communications team to develop a communications plan, which will need to include information on the Councils web site, social media engagement as well as leafleted information to be provided with the new food waste receptacles.

2.8 Below is a draft timetable for the implementation of food waste.

Action	Date by	Responsible Officer
Agree with Members container sizes and timescales. C&E Board 13 th November	13 th November 2024	Colin Read
Presentation to Members	31 st January 2025	Stephanie Lucking/Colin Read/Dem Services
Complete Specification for the supply of wheeled bin and food waste containers	28 th February 2025	Nicky Lee/Colin Read
Survey all flats and or HMO's to identify locations and sizes of bins	28 th February 2025	TBC
Agree the collection method for Dry Mixed Recyclables and report to Board	28 th February 2025	Colin Read
Agree with FCC an extension to their current contract or consider options for alternative provision of this service	31 st March 2025	Stephanie Lucking/Colin Read
Award Contract for wheeled bins and food waste Containers including delivery	31 st March 2025	Nicky Lee/ Colin Read
Agree with FCC or alterative provider method of collection and costs	31 st March 2025	Colin Read
Budget Approval for costs of providing a food waste service and committee reports etc.	31 st March 2025	Sue Newman/Colin Read
Notify HCC of disposal requirement	31 st March 2025	Colin Read
Agree a communications plan	30 th April 2025	TBC

Award Contract for Wheeled bin and Food Waste Container Provision	30 th April 2025	Nicky Lee
Schedule deliveries of food waste bins	30 th April 2025	TBC
Train Customer Service staff	TBC	TBC
Container Deliveries Commence	February 2026	TBC
Collections Commence	2026	TBC

2.9 Financial Implications – The Council has received funding from central Government of £670,000 for capital costs in implementing food waste collection. This is already contained within the 24/25 budget and is ring fenced to waste and recycling activities for the capital purchase of kitchen caddies, external kerbside containers and communal bins as well as food waste collection vehicles. The table below identifies initial capital costings for the capital purchase required to implement a food waste collection service. This does not include any transition or revenue costs as we are awaiting confirmation from central government of that allocation.

Goods to be Purchased	Number of Units required	Specification	Cost per unit	Total Costs
Kitchen Caddies	39,000	7 litre kitchen containers with locking handle	£3 per unit	£117,000
Kitchen caddy liners	2,028,000	Compostable	0.45p per roll of 25 sacks. Suggest 2 rolls per property	£40,000
Kerbside food waste Containers	30,000	23 litre containers with locking handle, logo	£6 per unit	£180,000
140 Litre Wheeled bins(HMO/flats)	5000	140 litre wheeled bins	£20 per unit	£100,000
Delivery Costs	35,000 Locations	To all of the above to the door or collection point	£1.50	£52,500

Collection Vehicles	4 vehicles	Food Waste Collection Vehicles	£900,000 Further discussion needed with service provider to understand the financial implications of lease vs outright purchase.	£128,571 per annum depreciation, see comment re lease vs outright purchase.
Total				618,071

2.10 Initial indications are that the council will require 4 additional vehicles, 10 additional members of staff and various additional costs for fuel etc. The current estimate of additional revenue costs is between £850,000 and £900,000 per annum. Currently we are awaiting confirmation of the producer responsibility funding as well as any additional revenue funding from central government.

3.0 Risk Assessment

3.1 The risk in implementing any new recycling scheme can be mitigated by a good communications plan as identified in section 2.7.

3.2 With the county council as the disposal authority there is a risk that the disposal facilities wont be available for the agreed start

3.3 As all authorities need to comply with the new collection and packaging reforms there may be an issue with demand exceeding supply for vehicles and containers, or as a minimum costs rising.

3.4 As revenue funding is unconfirmed there is a risk to overall Council budgets should full costs not be covered by Government grant, at this point the Government have confirmed the costs will be covered by grant funding.

4.0 Conclusion

4.1 Members are asked to approve the recommendations as above and note the remaining intended actions to ensure work can continue to implement a food collection service by 1st April 2026.

4.2 Members are also asked to note the current discussions that are ongoing with Hampshire County Council regarding disposal and processing options for dry mixed recyclable and agree that a further report be presented to this board as soon as officers have sufficient information to do so.

Financial Services comments:	Contained within report See section 2.9
Legal Services comments:	Contained within report
Equality and Diversity:	See impact assessment
Climate Change implications:	See Impact assessment
Crime and Disorder:	None
Service Improvement Plan implications:	None
Corporate Plan:	Providing and maintaining waste and recycling services and keeping the borough clean
Risk Assessment:	Contained within report
Background Papers:	Waste and recycling policy document 01/09/22
Appendices:	IIA
Report Author/Lead Officer:	Colin Read Head of Waste