

Appendix 1

Summary information for Appendix 1 and 3Implementation timeline:

- Simpler recycling and food waste collections for trade waste are set to be implemented by 31 March 2025.
- Microbusinesses (10 or fewer employees) are exempt until the 31 March 2027.
- Trade glass will be collected with domestic glass collections. A volume to weight calculation will be undertaken to ascertain tonnage.
- Simpler recycling for households will be implemented 31 March 2026.
- Simpler recycling (Both trade and domestic) will see the inclusion of additional material to the recycling bin, including; foil, plastic pots, tubs and trays and waxed cardboard cartons.
- Weekly collection of food waste for households will be implemented 1 October 2027.

Survey insights:

Results from the trade waste questionnaire reveal:

- 67% of respondents are micro businesses, predominately in the hospitality sector (60%).
- Majority of the Councils Trade Waste Customers are aware of the new requirements for disposing of food and recycling.

Trade waste food generation

- Businesses anticipate generating less than 140 litres of food waste every week.
- An estimated 134 tonnes of food waste will be generated initially from the Councils trade waste customers, equating to 2.5 tonnes every week.

Challenges for trade waste customers

- Insufficient storage space for another bin.
- Not generating enough food waste.
- Difficulties with waste segregation.

Collection and disposal logistics

- Gate fee for trade waste recycling will increase significantly for 2025/26.
- Gate fee for residual waste will increase above inflation for 2025/26.
- Gate Fee for food waste will be much lower compared to the recycling and residual waste streams.
- Disposal point for food waste identified at Derby.
- Disposal point for Simpler recycling material identified at Alfreton. This adds a further 16 miles plus an hour on travel time to current disposal point.

- Customers initially will be offered a choice of a 140 or 240 litre bin (black body, dark green lid. The bin will also have an identifying orange sticker).

Proposed fees for food waste (2025/26)

| Container size | Proposed Charge |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 23 litre container | £2.35 |
| 140 litre bin | £5.50 |
| 240 litre bin | £7.50 |

Table 1: Proposed fees for trade waste food collection

Trade waste review

A comprehensive service review will need to be undertaken in early 2025 to evaluate the sustainability and financial implications for trade waste collections given the rise in gate fees.

Trade Waste Collections – Simpler Recycling and Weekly food waste collections.

Domestic recycling and food waste collections

New Burden Funding and pEPR

- New Burden funding allocation of £1,074,000 has been received.
- There is an estimated funding gap of £138,000. The gap is anticipated to widen due to rising inflation rates
- pEPR funding letter received in November 2024 projects payments of around £950,000, which could help mitigate the gap.

Household trial for food waste

- Proposed trial for domestic weekly food waste collections to commence either at the end of 2025 or the spring of 2026.
- A Cabinet report will be prepared detailing the proposed scheme in spring 2025.

Background

Under the provisions outlined in the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA), local authorities are mandated to provide trade waste collection services to local businesses. This is a service that is not covered under business rates. Whilst local businesses have the autonomy to select their waste collection provider, the Council has an obligation to offer a reliable and compliant service.

The Council currently provides trade waste collection services to 683 businesses, which generates £650,000 per annum. It is important to note that the number of trade waste customers accessing this service has declined since 2021/22, where the figure was 804. This represents a 15% decline (124 businesses).

In terms of services offered, trade waste businesses receive a weekly general waste collection, with an option to choose from a variety of bin sizes. This can be seen in Table 2. Additionally, businesses are eligible for a fortnightly recycling collection,

which is currently included within the general waste fee and is not priced separately. This approach was implemented to encourage businesses to recycle their waste, as the gate fee for recycling was significantly lower than that for residual waste.

| Container type | Cost £ (General) | Cost £ (Recycling) |
|----------------|-------------------|---|
| Bag | £3.65 | £0.00 |
| 140 Litre bin | £7.35 | £0.00 |
| 240 Litre bin | £11.35 | £0.00 |
| 660 Litre bin | £26.70 | £0.00 |
| 820 Litre bin | £31.70 | £0.00 |
| 1100 Litre bin | £41.45 | £0.00 |
| Notes | Weekly collection | Fortnightly collection. £0 if alongside a general waste contract. |

Table 2: Current costs of trade waste bins.

Trade waste questionnaire

In February 2024, the Council released a food waste collection service questionnaire (**Appendix 2**) to all of its customers to gauge their readiness to address the new changes in trade waste collections.

At that time, over 755 questionnaires were distributed, which included businesses and establishments that fall under schedule one collection arrangements, such as schools, charities and places of worship. A total of 191 questionnaires were returned, resulting in a response rate of 25.3%. Notably 86% of the responses were submitted via a paper copy, whilst the remaining 14% were completed online.

Results from the survey

1. How many employees does your business have?

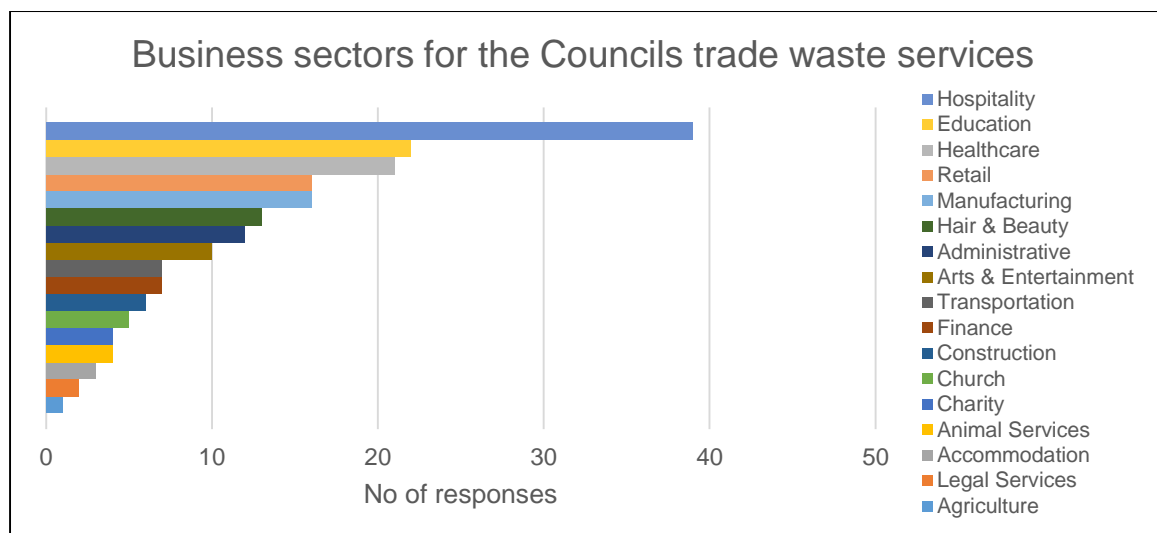
Table 3 highlights the size of the businesses that receive a collection from the Council. It should be noted that the majority of these are micro businesses, who do not need to comply with the regulations until 31 March 2027.

| No of employees | % of responses |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1 – 9 (micro business) | 67% |
| 10 – 249 (SME) | 31% |
| 250+ (Large business) | 2% |

Table 3: Size of business and % responses

2. What Sector is your business involved in?

Graph 1 provides a breakdown of the business sectors the trade waste customers belong to. It should be noted that hospitality (21%), accounts for the largest sector area.



Graph 1: Business sectors for the Council’s trade waste services.

3. Are you aware of the requirement for your business to recycle and dispose of food waste?

| | | | |
|------------|-----|-----------|-----|
| Yes | 58% | No | 42% |
|------------|-----|-----------|-----|

Table 4: Awareness to recycle and dispose of food waste.

4. How do you currently dispose of any food waste from your business?

| Choices | Response % |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Put it in the black bin | 77% |
| Not applicable | 21% |
| Use a contractor to collect | 2% |

Table 5: How businesses currently dispose of food waste

5. On a weekly basis, how frequently does your business generate food waste?

| Choices | Response % |
|------------------|------------|
| Every day | 34% |
| 2-3 times a week | 19% |
| Once a week | 22% |
| Not Applicable | 25% |

Table 6: Frequency of food waste generation

6. If you do generate food waste, how much waste do you generate over a week)?

| Choices | Response % |
|-----------------|------------|
| Under 140 Litre | 79% |
| 140L-239 Litre | 12% |
| 240L-659 Litre | 3% |
| 660L-819 Litre | 2% |
| 820L-1100 Litre | 1% |
| Over 1100 Litre | 3% |

Table 7: Amount of food waste disposed of

7. What challenges do you foresee in implementing a weekly food waste collection?

This was an open ended question and the answers received were around the following themes:

- Storage (Not enough room to store another bin).
- Don't generate enough food waste to warrant a separate bin.
- Cost.
- Smells, flies and rodents.
- Segregation would be difficult. There would need to be a lot of employee engagement.

8. Are there any specific requirements or preferences that you have for a food waste collection service, such as bin size or frequency of collections?

| Choices | Response % |
|----------------|------------|
| 23 Litre | 32% |
| 140 Litre | 24% |
| 240 Litre | 11% |
| 660 Litre | 4% |
| 820 Litre | - |
| 1100 Litre | 3% |
| Not applicable | 26% |

Table 8: Food Waste bin size preference

Table 8 highlights that nearly a third of respondents would like to receive a 23 litre container collection. This would tie in with the fact the majority of respondents had 9 employees or less.

Comments also made on this question highlight that once a week for a collection would be sufficient.

9. Would you be interested in a weekly food waste collection service provided by the council?

| | | | |
|-----|-----|----|-----|
| Yes | 40% | No | 60% |
|-----|-----|----|-----|

Table 9: Interest in a weekly food waste collection

10. If you received food waste collections from another contractor, would you remain a Broxtowe Trade Waste customer?

| Choices | Response % |
|-----------------|------------|
| Yes | 67% |
| No | 16% |
| Other | 6% |
| Depends on cost | 11% |

Table 10: Would a business remain with the Council for its trade waste services if it received a food waste collection from another contractor.

Options for food waste collections from trade waste customers

1. Collection by a third party

Given the timeline and potential challenges associated with implementing a separate food waste service, the option of utilising a contractor was considered. Whilst the contractor could handle the collection aspect of the service, the disposal element presented limitations. The contractor would be required to dispose of the food waste at facilities designated by the County Council. This stipulation would deter contractors, as they generally like to use their own disposal facilities.

The reliance on County Council directives for disposal may also create logistical complications for the contractor. Whilst engaging a contractor for food waste collection might offer a temporary solution, it would not be the most viable or attractive option in the long term.

2. Signposting

Signposting current trade waste customers to alternative suppliers for their food waste collections whilst allowing them to maintain their existing trade waste agreements was explored. Whilst 67% of respondents to the trade waste survey indicated that they would remain with the Council even if their food waste was collected by another contractor, was positive, given the current decline in the Council's customer trade waste base, this approach poses a risk.

Whilst some businesses might be open to splitting their services, the growing competition could lead to a further loss of customers.

3. Council to undertake collections

The Council has identified that undertaking food waste collections in-house as the preferred option, especially given the current capacity within the collection team. By managing these collections directly, the Council would help to mitigate any further loss in business (in the short term).

Initially the service would be available exclusively to the SMEs that meet the criteria, with an estimated 200 businesses likely to express an interest in the service (this also includes contracts that fall under schedule 1). It has been estimated that 134 tonnes of food waste will be collected from these businesses annually, which equates to 2.58 tonnes per week. This focus on SMEs is important as they are

required to be compliant with the upcoming regulations. In contrast, micro businesses have until 31 March 2027 to align with these requirements.

By concentrating on a smaller group, the team can effectively assess the collection process, identify any potential issues and enhance operational efficiency. This phased approach will provide valuable insights into service delivery whilst ensuring that the team has the capacity to manage collections smoothly. Should capacity allow, the service can be expanded to include more users.

How will weekly food waste collections work?

In the short term, the team will utilise the kerbside glass collection vehicle for food waste collections. These will take place on either a Tuesday or a Thursday. One of the days will be allocated for trade waste collections, whilst the other would be used for schedule 1. The choice of the glass vehicle is due to it being of a sealed unit design and would help to contain any liquid from the collections.

In the longer term, it is proposed to transition to a 7.5 tonne food waste vehicle. The designated disposal point for this service will be Severn Trent in Derby and has been designated by Nottinghamshire County Council.

Regarding the allocation of collection routes, specific details will be determined once businesses are approached in the new year. Initially, collections will be undertaken using a 140 or 240L bin, as there are concerns that larger bins may become too heavy for employees to manage safely. Additionally, smaller 23L containers (these will be the same size given to householders during the food waste roll out), will be considered for micro businesses, especially those businesses outside of the hospitality sector. These can be implemented later if it is deemed there is capacity within the collection rounds.

Colour of the food waste bin

Currently, trade waste bins for general waste feature a black body and an orange lid. There is no differentiation in the colour between domestic recycling and trade recycling bins. To enhance clarity and ensure appropriate use, it is proposed to implement a darker green lid for the food waste bins, which aligns with the existing food related iconography and imagery used by Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP).



Image 1: WRAP food waste iconography

In addition to the new lid colour, an orange sticker will be affixed to the bin so that it indicates clearly that the bin is designed for food waste. It is anticipated that the bin colour for householders will align with this standard; however, final approval would

need to be given across all districts. This unified approach will not only help to achieve efficiencies by purchasing in bulk, but will also allow for a consistency in waste management across Nottinghamshire.

Kitchen caddies and compostable bin liners

Kitchen caddies and compostable bin liners are being considered for household collections; however, for trade waste collections it was deemed not necessary to provide them. Research conducted with other contractors providing food waste services indicated that these items were not provided with the bin and that customers were expected to provide their own. This approach did not appear to adversely affect engagement with the service.

Pricing model

Indications from the County Council suggest that the gate fee for food waste in 2025/26 will be much lower than those for both residual waste and recycling. This competitive pricing for food waste is designed to encourage greater participation in food waste recycling.

The proposed pricing models (Table 10) have been developed after conducting research with other local authorities and Nottinghamshire districts to ensure consistency. Given fluctuations in gate fees, it is recommended that a comprehensive trade waste review is undertaken towards the end of 2025. This review will focus on evaluating the pricing structure for trade waste collections. Currently, recycling collections are included in the trade waste fees, but with rising costs, it is essential to reassess this approach to maintain and ensure the sustainability of the service.

| | Collection 2025/26 | Disposal 2025/26 | Total 2025/26 |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 23 litre container | £1.75 | £0.60 | £2.35 |
| 140 litre bin | £3.60 | £1.90 | £5.50 |
| 240 litre bin | £5.50 | £2.00 | £7.50 |

Table 11: Proposed food waste collection fees.

Financial Implications

In regard to the financial implications, it is important to acknowledge that there will be associated costs, including expenses related to employees, vehicle operation and containers. However, these costs are expected to be off-set by the revenue generated from the service, ensuring that the overall financial impact remains cost-neutral. This means that whilst there might be an initial outlay for implementing the service, there will be no need to draw from the general fund.

Trade Waste – Simpler Recycling

On 31 March 2025, recycling rules for trade waste will also undergo some adjustments, particularly concerning the items accepted in the green-lidded recycling bin. The revised waste acceptance criteria will allow for the collection of additional materials including foil, plastic food tubs, pots and trays and waxed cardboard

cartons. These same changes will also be applied to domestic collections from 31 March 2026.

As the teams already undertake recycling collections it is hoped that the impact from these changes will be limited, although the disposal point for recycling will change from Giltbrook to Alfreton. This will add an additional 16 miles and approximately one hour to collections with additional associated fuel costs. Currently, recycling takes place once a fortnight for businesses, although the team will need to reassess if demand for the dry recycling bin increases.

Glass will also be collected from businesses. Due to resources and the anticipated low volumes of glass these will be managed by the domestic glass collection team. A volume to weight calculation will be used to ascertain the weight of this material.

Non-compliance

From April 2025, the general public and other parties will be able to report workplaces that do not follow these rules to the Environment Agency. Defra will update this guidance with information on how to report non-compliance when it is available. (Source: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/simpler-recycling-workplace-recycling-in-england>. Referenced: 8 December 2024.

Risk

The implementation of food waste presents uncertainties regarding both collected volumes and the subsequent effects on black bin collections. Whilst many businesses report minimal to no food waste, those that do, may experience a shift in their waste management (especially the amount of material placed in the black bin). Businesses that transition to a food waste collection, which is currently less expensive compared to black bin waste collection, may find that the amount of material they put in their black bin for collection will reduce. This reduction could lead to businesses opting for smaller black bins, which would then lead to an impact on trade waste revenue, as the cost of bin collection decreases.

As highlighted earlier, it is imperative to conduct a comprehensive service review post implementation to assess the sustainability and financial implications of these changes on trade waste collections.