

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change

Food Waste and Simpler Recycling Implementation1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on developments relating to Simpler recycling and weekly food waste collections. It also seeks approval for the implementation of a food waste pilot, commencing in September 2026. This is in accordance with the Council's Corporate Priority for Environment – 'Protect the environment for the future'.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to note the report and RESOLVE that:

- 1. The implementation of a pilot food waste round, commencing September 2026, be approved.**
- 2. The pilot rollout of food waste collections proceeds without Council provision of liners be approved.**

3. Detail

In November 2023, a report was presented to Cabinet outlining the Council's position on Simpler Recycling and the status of mandated food waste collections. At that time, a transactional agreement had been agreed, confirming October 2027 as the rollout date for mandatory weekly food waste collections across Nottinghamshire.

Since that initial report, the policy landscape has progressed, and the Council is now preparing for Borough-wide delivery of food waste services. A decision is being sought from Cabinet to approve a pilot food waste collection round in September 2026. The pilot will provide invaluable insights into service design, operational logistics, and resident engagement. Further details on the proposed pilot are provided in the **Appendix**.

In support of this, a comprehensive round review is currently underway. This review is critical in laying the operational foundations for future food waste collections. It will also address long-standing pressures on the waste and recycling collection service, as highlighted in the 2023 report. The Borough has experienced significant development growth, and a round review was last undertaken in 2018. The updated round structure is scheduled to be in place by April 2026, and further details are included within the **Appendix**.

The rollout of weekly food waste collections will present additional financial and resource implications. Further details are provided in the **Appendix**. These considerations are essential to ensure a sustainable and effective transition.

The report also provides an update on Simpler Recycling implementation and the implications for trade waste services, including the requirement for all businesses to participate in food waste and Simpler Recycling collections from March 2027.

4. Key Decision

This report is a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

It will result in the Council incurring revenue and capital expenditure of £250,000 or more and will be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more Wards or electoral divisions in the Council's area.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not applicable.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Interim Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer were as follows:

New Burdens Funding will be used to support both capital and revenue costs as appropriate and aligning with current government guidance.

The estimated capital shortfall of around £490,000 and the ongoing revenue requirement of over £1 million per annum will require careful monitoring, particularly considering inflationary pressures and potential changes to funding conditions. Work is underway with the Assistant Director - Environmental Services, to develop appropriate funding packages, and these proposals will be brought back to Cabinet in future reports.

The inclusion of the Trade Waste collection vehicle in the Capital Programme for 2026/27 will need to be agreed at a future Cabinet meeting.

Continued engagement with Government consultations and close alignment with other Nottinghamshire districts will be essential to ensure financial resilience and service efficiency.

Further updates will be required as more detail becomes available, particularly regarding the second consultation on funding reform and the performance-based assessment framework linked to EPR allocations from 2026/27.

7. Legal Implications

The comments from the Head of Legal Services were as follows:

The Council has a statutory duty, as set out in the Environment Act 2021, to implement weekly food waste collections and to offer trade waste services within the Borough. The proposed pilot and subsequent borough-wide rollout are consistent with these obligations. Any changes to service delivery or funding mechanisms arising from future government consultations will be reviewed to ensure ongoing legal compliance.

8. Human Resources Implications

The comments from the Human Resources Manager were as follows:

9. Union Comments

Not applicable.

10. Climate Change Implications

The introduction of weekly food waste collections and the anticipated increase in recyclable materials captured through the green-lidded recycling bin will contribute positively to the Council's climate change objectives. These measures align with the Council's broader environmental commitments and will help to reduce the Borough's overall carbon footprint.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

13. Background Papers

Nil.