

# Waste Strategy Implementation

November 2023

# Simpler recycling reforms

A response to the long-awaited Consistency Consultation from May 2021 was released by Defra on Saturday 21 October 2023. The response has rebranded the consultation as '**Simpler recycling**'.

## ***Underlying principle***

All local authorities in England must 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.



# Changes to dry recyclable collections

<b>Materials required at kerbside by <u>31 March 26</u></b>	<b>Currently collected by NFDC at kerbside?</b>
<b>Glass</b> bottle and jars, <b>steel</b> and <b>aluminium</b> tins and cans and aerosols, <b>Plastic</b> bottles, <b>Paper</b> and <b>card</b>	YES
<b>Aluminium</b> foil, food trays, tubes, <b>plastic</b> pots, tubs and trays, <b>cartons</b> for food/drink, and <b>plastic</b> films*	NO

\*plastic film deadline 31 March 27

- The Environment Act 2021 stated that these materials must be collected separately from one another. However, the secretary of state now intends to set an exemption to allow all English authorities to collect these materials in one container as a comingled collection, if they wish.
- Businesses are required to make these changes by 31 March 2025 (12m earlier). Not applicable to micro-firms (less than 10 full time employees) until 31 March 2027.

# Changes to food waste collections

- Waste collection authorities in England must arrange a weekly collection of food waste from all households **by 31 March 2026**.
- Governments preference is for food waste to be treated by anaerobic digestion.
- Businesses are required to separate food waste for recycling by 31 March 2025. This will not apply to micro-firms (less than 10 full time employees) until 31 March 2027.

## ***Garden waste collections***

There will be no change to garden waste services, Local Authorities can continue to charge for them as per current arrangements.

## ***Minimum service standards***

Defra have indicated that a minimum service standard should be a fortnightly collection for residual waste (alongside a weekly food waste collection).

# Summary of implementation dates



## Non-household Recycling

Simpler Recycling for non-household premises (such as businesses, schools and hospitals) in England will be implemented by **31 March 2025**



## Household Recycling

Simpler Recycling for households in England will be in place for most by **31 March 2026\***

\*(Where specific local authority contracts apply, we have agreed that weekly household food waste collections may start by a later date - known as a transitional arrangement)



## Micro-firms

Micro firms (those with fewer than ten full-time equivalent employees) will need to meet requirements by **31 March 2027**



## Plastic films

Plastic film and flexibles collections from all premises will be introduced by **31 March 2027**

# Funding

- **New burdens funding for food waste collections:**

- Funding will include capital costs, transition resource costs and ongoing service costs . All funding will be based on modelled costs rather than a process of reimbursing LAs for actual expenditure.
- NFDC have been advised that capital funding will be paid to LA's in the current financial year (2023/24).
- Funding for ongoing resource will not be available until 2026. Meaning that to remain compliant, implementation must take place during 2025 but only capital costs will be funded initially. Although transitional resource costs paid from the 2024/25 financial year

- **Funding for changes to DMR collections**

- Extended Producer Responsibility payments (paid by packaging producers to local councils) are intended to cover the cost of collecting additional packaging materials. Payments to start in financial year 2025/2026 – amounts are currently unknown but the system is intended to provide full net cost recovery, as long as collections are deemed to be “efficient and effective.”

# HCC negotiations and infrastructure

- Since all Hampshire councils approved a new Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) in 2021, HCC has been working towards provision of suitable transfer stations and a new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) that will handle “twin stream” material – metal, glass and plastic collected as one stream, and paper/card as another stream.
- At the time of the Government announcement, a small district negotiating group was in place to progress discussions with HCC regarding future financial arrangements associated with waste/recycling. However, since the Govt announcement it is likely that partners will wish to review the current twin stream approach.
- An alternative could be a fully co-mingled service – a new MRF would be required for this purpose. The exact implications of this on the current planned MRF facility (designed to deal with “twin stream” material) in Eastleigh are currently unknown.
- Regardless of the exact type of MRF required, a new MRF won’t now be ready until at least 2026. These discussions with Hampshire partners, including continued discussion on financial arrangements, need to be progressed and will not be imminently resolved.

# The way forward

## Original Proposal:

- 180 litre wheeled bin for refuse collection, collected fortnightly.
- 180 litre wheeled bin for glass, plastic and metal collected fortnightly\*
- 90 litre reusable bag for paper and card, collected fortnightly\*
- 25 litre caddy for food waste, collected weekly (with additional 5l caddy provided for internal use)

- Ongoing negotiations with HCC and these recent announcements from Government are set to slow decisions and eventual completion date for new infrastructure to at least 2026. This is because we need to review the original “twin stream” recycling system described above.
- The challenge now is to rollout the large part of our service change in 2025 in order to comply with Government deadlines, but to retain flexibility to allow for a potential “phase 2” change once the new MRF is ready.



# Proposed 2 phase approach

## Phase 1:

- ***Elements that remain as per original waste strategy proposal:***
  - 180 litre wheeled bin for refuse collection, collected fortnightly.
  - 25 litre caddy for food waste, collected weekly (with additional 5l caddy provided for internal use)
- ***Elements that are different to original waste strategy proposal:***
  - 240 litre wheeled bin for our existing material mix i.e. paper, card, plastic and metal, collected fortnightly
  - 55 litre box for glass collection, collected monthly.

## Phase 2:

This approach give us ability to flex and adapt in future, and move to either twin stream or fully co-mingled, depending on the eventual outcomes of further work.

# Timeline

- Rollout to take place in 2 geographical phases in 2025 (indicative, and subject to further discussions with partners and suppliers):
  - Phase 1 - May 2025
  - Phase 2 – August 2025
  - Phase 3 – November 2025
- Due to long lead times and additional pressures of potential procurement bottlenecks there is an immediate need to start procurement exercises to secure delivery of vehicles, containers and other rollout services such as container distribution to households.
- Residents to receive first official section 46 notice of service change in Jan 2025 - full timeline development currently in progress

# Next steps

Making the service changes in full during 2025 gives the council the best opportunity to improve its performance, provide a better service to householders and to fully enact its waste strategy which has already been agreed by this Council in 2022. Therefore, the suggested way forward is as follows:

- To prepare a proposal for Cabinet and Council, to rollout the proposed service change in 2025 as discussed. This will allow full detailed work on a full timetable of service change, and to begin procurement for essential goods and services
- To continue to discuss longer term recycling arrangements with HCC and other partners
- To engage with DEFRA over funding for the new service
- To carry out additional work to assess the impact of the simpler recycling reforms on NFDC's business waste service