

## Officer Decision Record – 28 August 2025

### Additional collection resource – waste and recycling

Classification	<p><b>Public</b></p> <p><b>Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972</b></p> <p>This report contains information relating to the financial and business affairs of the Council, specifically in relation to staffing costs and pay.</p> <p>These are presented at high level and disclosure of this information would not prejudice the Council’s position in future negotiations nor undermine its ability to manage workforce costs effectively.</p> <p>There is a general public interest in transparency regarding the use of public funds, a public decision supports openness and accountability in pay decisions.</p>
<b>Decision taken</b>	<b>Assign additional resource to staffing support for “behind the gate” collections of food waste.</b>
Reasons for the decision	<p><b>Background:</b></p> <p>New Forest District Council, as the statutory Waste Collection Authority, is currently undergoing a significant service transition. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A shift from weekly to fortnightly residual waste collections</li><li>• The introduction of a new food waste collection service, in line with the Government’s mandate for separate food waste collections by March 2026</li></ul> <p>One of the key challenges encountered so far is the interaction of animals with the contents of containers in areas of open forest. This has led to NFDC, with partners, reviewing options for ensuring this issue is minimised, in particular with the upcoming pannage season.</p> <p>The waste programme board agreed that additional resource was needed to facilitate this. The funding will provide staffing to enable food waste to be collected from behind gates in at</p>

	least the phase 1 area, with further work being carried out on phases 2 and 3.
Consultations undertaken	Internal discussion with finance, waste and streetscene colleagues. Consultation with the Waste Programme Board, Strategic Director for Corporate Resources and Transformation (s151) and relevant Portfolio Holders has been undertaken, with support confirmed.
Finance and Resourcing implications	<p>£150,000 in staff and vehicle funding will be allocated in 2025/26 to address the issues raised. Through trials and further data gathering, a longer-term approach will be reported on at a later date.</p> <p>Latest correspondence from DEFRA has confirmed that we're likely to receive in excess of their initial £1.175 million estimate in funding for recycling services. The exact amount is not yet confirmed, but it is anticipated this additional amount will offset this additional cost.</p>
Legal implications	This change will ensure that NFDC can fulfil its statutory duty to collect household waste.
Risk assessment	<p><b>Operational and reputational risks of not implementing the additional resource:</b></p> <p><b>Service disruption:</b></p> <p>Attempting to run trials of collecting waste from behind gates without additional resource in place will mean that the operation will be slower and rounds may not complete their work.</p> <p><b>Media scrutiny and reputation:</b></p> <p>Animal interference with containers and missed collections and service delays are likely to attract negative media attention and damage to reputation, particularly during the transition period.</p>
Impact assessment	<p><b>Impact Assessment:</b></p> <p><b>Environmental / Climate and Nature Impact - Positive Impact</b></p> <p>Ensuring continuity and reliability of waste and recycling collections supports the Council's</p>

	<p>environmental objectives, including increased recycling rates and reduced landfill.</p> <p>The successful rollout of the separate food waste collection service will significantly reduce biodegradable waste in residual bins, helping to lower methane emissions and improve composting outcomes.</p> <p>Avoiding service disruption reduces the risk of fly-tipping and uncollected waste, which can harm local ecosystems and biodiversity.</p> <p><b>Equalities Impact - Neutral Impact</b></p> <p><b>Crime and Disorder Impact - Neutral Impact</b></p> <p><b>Data Protection / Information Governance / ICT Impact - Neutral Impact</b></p> <p><b>New Forest National Park Impact - Positive Impact</b></p> <p>Reliable waste collection services are essential to maintaining the environmental quality and visitor experience within the National Park.</p> <p>The introduction of food waste collections will support the Park’s sustainability goals and reduce the visual and ecological impact of waste in sensitive areas.</p> <p><b>Cranborne Chase National Landscape Impact - Neutral Impact</b></p>
Any conflict of interest by officer taking the decision	There is none.
Decision taken by	James Carpenter <b>JAMES CARPENTER</b> Date of Decision: 28 August 2025
Background information	
Ward(s)	All
Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Heron – Finance and Corporate Councillor Blunden – Environment and Sustainability

Strategic Director(s)	James Carpenter Strategic Director of Place, Operations and Sustainability
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**Appendices**

None

**Background Papers:**

None