

REPORT TO:		Cabinet	
DATE:		21 January 2026	
PORTFOLIO:		Councillor Stewart Eaves - Environment Services	
REPORT AUTHOR:		Craig Haraben (Head of Environmental Services)	
TITLE OF REPORT:		The introduction of food waste collections	
EXEMPT REPORT (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A)	Options	Not applicable	
KEY DECISION:	Options	If yes, date of publication:	

## 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update Cabinet about progress made relating to the introduction of weekly food waste collections to all domestic properties in Hyndburn by 1 April 2026.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet note the report

## 3. Background and Service Requirements

- 3.1 Section 57 of the Environment Act 2021 has named food waste as a recyclable waste stream for the first time. It also states that recyclable household waste which is food waste must be collected at least once per week.
- 3.2 Further guidance from the Government has stated that the provision of food waste collections has to be in place by 1 April 2026 for each local authority in England.
- 3.3 To help facilitate this Defra has provided some funding to help Local Authorities with the cost of introducing and continuing with food waste collections. There are three tranches of funding: capital funding for the procurement of vehicles and containers, transitional funding to roll out food waste containers & information about collections and revenue funding to pay for the future costs of food waste collections.
- 3.4 To date Defra have provided Local Authorities with the capital funding and the transitional funding. The revenue element has been included in the financial settlement for financial year 26/27 and beyond.

- 3.5 Lancashire County Council, as waste disposal authority, has informed District Councils that they intend to process food waste via anaerobic digestion rather than in-vessel composting. As such, food waste cannot be mixed with green waste and must be collected separately. This will mean each household will need a kitchen caddy for food waste collection and a kerb side caddy to facilitate the collection of food waste by Waste Services collection crews.
- 3.6 The Council (as collection authority) will provide a kitchen caddy and kerb side caddy to each household in the Borough. In addition, the Council will provide each household a roll of food waste bags to line the kitchen caddy, as lining the kitchen caddy with a food waste bag makes recycling food waste more convenient as well as more hygienic for the resident.
- 3.7 The Council will deliver a kitchen caddy, kerbside caddy, roll of food waste bags and a calendar/information leaflet to each household in the Borough during January and February 2026. Food waste collections will then start on 1 April 2026.
- 3.8 To facilitate the collection of food waste the Council has ordered some new collection vehicles. These new vehicles will allow the Council to collect food waste at the same time as collecting waste and recycling from residents. As food waste has to be collected each week, this means food waste will be put out for collection at the same time and on the same day as residents wheelie bin collection for that week (whether it be grey, brown or blue wheelie bin)
- 3.9 As stated in paragraph 3.5 Lancashire County Council as disposal authority have advised that the disposal method for food waste is via anaerobic digestion (AD) units. For AD units to work properly part of the process requires food waste bags to be removed before the food waste goes into the AD plant. As such bio-degradable bags are not necessary and the Council has purchased recycled plastic food waste bags instead.

#### **4. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 Do not introduce food waste collections on 1 April 2026. This has been rejected because it is a legal requirement set out in the Environment Act 2021 and on average 25% of grey bin waste is food waste, so recycling food waste reduces the amount of non-recyclable waste going to landfill or being incinerated.

#### **5. Consultations**

- 5.1 The portfolio holder and waste services team have been consulted as part of writing this report.
- 5.2 Officers have given a presentation to Councillors in the controlling group and main opposition group relating to food waste collections.

## 6. Implications

<p><b>Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council)</b></p>	<p>There is an ongoing revenue cost to collecting food waste. As there are more collections rounds this requires additional staff and vehicles which needs to be paid for year on year.</p> <p>There is also an ongoing cost for the provision of food waste bags. The first batch of food waste bags has been paid for by Lancashire County Council. Officers are waiting for confirmation as to whether the Lancashire County Council will continue to fund food waste bags. If not, the Council will need to fund the cost of providing food waste bags (circa £8K per annum)</p>
<p><b>Legal and human rights implications</b></p>	<p>The Council has a duty to provide a food waste collection service to domestic properties by 1 April 2026</p>
<p><b>Assessment of risk</b></p>	<p>The introduction of a new Borough wide waste collection service, which involves delivering new receptacles to each household in the Borough, commission new vehicles and recruit more staff is complex and logistically challenging. However officers have ordered new vehicles and caddies 12 months in advance to ensure timely delivery. A project plan has been put in place to recruit necessary staff prior to collections starting and working with Lancashire Couty Council to disseminate suitable information to make residents aware of the new service.</p>
<p><b>Equality and diversity implications</b>  <i>A <a href="#">Customer First Analysis</a> should be completed in relation to policy decisions and should be attached as an appendix to the report.</i></p>	<p>The Council is subject to the public sector equality duty introduced by the Equality Act 2010. When making a decision in respect of the recommendations in this report Cabinet must have regard to the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; and</li> <li>• advance equality of opportunity between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't; and</li> <li>• foster good relations between those</li> </ul>

	<p>who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't.</p> <p>For these purposes the relevant protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. To assist the Cabinet in this regard a Customer First Analysis has been carried out as part of the review process and is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.</p> <p>As this is a new service being provided to every household in the Borough, Cabinet is advised to consider the Customer First Analysis and its obligations in respect of the public sector equality duty when making a decision in respect of the recommendations contained in this report.</p>
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**7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985:  
List of Background Papers**

- 7.1 Cabinet Report dated 11 June 2024 entitled new regulations for the introduction of food waste collections.

**8. Freedom of Information**

- 8.1 The report does not contain exempt information under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A and all information can be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.