

**POLICY REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL REPORT**

REPORT TO:	Environment and Community Panel		
DATE:			
TITLE:	Food Waste Collections – Maximising Collections		
TYPE OF REPORT:	Performance Update		
PORTFOLIO(S):	Cllr Sandra Squire		
REPORT AUTHOR:	Barry Brandford		
OPEN/EXEMPT	Open	WILL BE SUBJECT TO A FUTURE CABINET REPORT:	No

**REPORT SUMMARY/COVER PAGE**

<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT/SUMMARY:</b>
To provide Members with an opportunity to consider the proposed actions on maximising the capture of food waste.
<b>KEY ISSUES:</b>
Proposed trial on increasing food waste capture through providing caddy liners in trial areas. Response to Government changes on commercial and other sources of food waste
<b>OPTIONS CONSIDERED:</b>
Do Nothing Implement a trial for a limited period of time to support residents in four collection round areas to understand the impact of providing free caddy liners on the amount of food waste collected. Implement a limited food waste collection service for some non household waste sources including schools with existing contracts for collections with the council. Implement a full service for all food waste collection service for all sources and negotiate this change with Serco. Determine not to provide a food waste collection service beyond domestic properties.
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>
The Panel is invited to consider the options presented and make any appropriate recommendations relating to the Officer Delegated Decision
<b>REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>
To scrutinise recommendations being made for an officer delegated decision

Date of meeting:

## FOOD WASTE COLLECTIONS – MAXIMISING COLLECTIONS

### Summary

#### Recommendation

1. That a trial is undertaken to determine the impact of providing free food caddy liners across 4 collection rounds as set out in the report and the trial last for a period 6 months as a minimum.
2. Additional costs associated with any trial is met from the Food Waste Collection earmarked reserve.
3. The Waste and Recycling Manager in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for the Environment and Coastal is authorised to issue a Contract Change Notice making temporary changes to Schedules 2 and 6 of the Waste and Related Services Contract 2021 to provide greater flexibility in the delivery of food caddy liners.
4. The council will offer a food waste collection to schools, who have existing contracts for waste collections, in a manner to be determined by the Waste and Recycling Manager and the cost of the service shall be determined by the Assistant Director Operations and Commercial and the Assistant Director Finance in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Environment & Coastal and Finance, if introduced before 31 March 2025.
5. The Waste and Recycling Manager in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for the Environment and Coastal is authorised to issue a Contract Change Notice making temporary changes to Schedules 2 and 6 of the Waste and Related Services Contract 2021 to provide the service.

#### Reason for Decision

To enable greater capture of food waste for recycling and implementing in a coherent manner the changes to the law on collection of food waste from non domestic properties.

### 1 Background

- 1.1. The Council commenced food waste collections in April 2013, with the provision of caddies to all households, through the years certain changes within the way customers could engage with the council and how food waste was processed meant that the council stopped providing caddy liners at cost. Caddy liners were not required so it was decided to move to the 'any bag will do' message. This is an environmentally sound message but the users of the service declined and tonnages captured reduced. Food waste collections had to be suspended during Covid 19. The relaunch of the service in July 2021 has limited success with a reduction of over 1,000 tonnes in captured waste.
- 1.2. Recent work in spring 2024 has shown that promotion and support with free caddy liners and leaflets, supporting active engagement and social media presence can increase food waste put out for recycling.

- 1.3. The cost of food waste processing will from October be reduced in cost by half or if tonnages increase become a small revenue stream.
- 1.4. The government just prior to the calling of the July 2024 General Election implemented changes in the law on food waste collections and recycling. This included collection of food waste from non-household municipal premises, except micro-firms, will be required to make arrangements for separate food waste collections and to present the waste in accordance with the legislation by 31 March 2025. Local authorities are obliged to make such collections on request. The legal change also applies to commercial waste producers, such as pubs and residential care homes and others who do catering activities.

## **2 Options Considered**

### **Trial of free food caddy liners**

#### No Change

- 2.1. The response to the challenges around the maximisation of food waste sent for recycling and the Corporate Strategy is to implement changes operational changes where these are shown to be effective. Therefore, it is determined that to do nothing is not accepted as an option.

#### Implement Trial of Food Caddy Liners

- 2.2 The council is at a point where the service for the treatment of food waste is being renewed with NEWS. If more food waste were collected the price charged for its processing would improve. This may equate to my positive impact of more than £40 per tonne.
- 2.3 Neighbouring authorities in Norfolk have a similar service but both have higher rates of food waste to capture. There a significant disparity between the councils.
- 2.4 The most significant difference between the service design for Norwich City Council & Broadland District Council compared to King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council is the provision of caddy liners. The other councils in Norfolk supply caddy liners on request this is achieved by the resident requesting liners by tying a single liner to the handle of the kerbside caddy. This key difference is supported by wrap reference Food Waste Collection Trials – use of liners for kerbside containers and kitchen caddies. WRAP Study 2009.
- 2.5 The impact of providing food caddy liners is expected to be an increase in food waste collected with a potential of at least 1200 tonnes per annum. This is the same level of capture as in 2013 when

the service was first launched. It should be noted that recycling credits are payable for food waste collected.

- 2.6 The costs of Serco delivering caddies to homes in the trial area has been agreed at £120 per week, where four rounds are used in the trial. The Waste and Recycling Manager is delegated to make such minor changes in the Scheme of Delegation.
- 2.7 To determine if the research is valid in the provision of caddy liners and support for householders will increase the capture of food waste it is proposed that a trial is established for the remainder of the current financial year. For the purposes of a trial areas need to be identified. The delivery of change is most appropriately targeted at places where positive behaviours are most likely to be seen. The demographic which is most likely to be to respond to encouragement to recycle more food waste are those homeowners with children with enough commitment and capacity to prepare food from fresh and to recycle any food waste. The following potential are Areas for potential selection

Reffley Lane area King's Lynn  
Beech Road / Willow Road Nelson Ave / Broadlands area  
Downham Market  
Docking and Methwold.

- 2.8 The areas selected are based upon being Acorn 3 predominant post codes and served by an identifiable collection round. All parts of a collection round will be included even if a post code area is not predominantly Acorn 3. Monitoring data will be collected for the purposes determining outcomes based on weight of food waste collected before and during the trial. This can be reported quarterly in arrears.

### **Response to change in the law**

- 2.9 The council has a legal duty to provide from April 2025 to provide food waste collections to businesses and non domestic premises which are similar to households in the form of the waste they create.
- 2.10 The implementation of the service across all of the potential sources of food waste is complex and will require an agreement with Serco on a new cost structure. Serco due to their claim of a loss making contract may make claims for both capital and revenue which are potentially designed to improve their position but are difficult to fully resist. The ability to have vehicles procured and delivered on time for April 2025 is extremely challenging, particularly after any negotiation has been completed.
- 2.11 Therefore, it is not considered reasonable to not provide the full range of services as a pragmatic response whilst contract changes, vehicles and bins are resolved.

- 2.12 The council through Serco provide waste services to a number of schools across the area of the borough and use predominantly the same collection vehicles as collect from the adjacent houses. Schools are always in a locality where there are homes that receive a food waste collection service. The cost of providing the service should be readily capable being agreed with Serco. The cost should be similar to costs already exhibited in the contract. Schools often have the type of accessibility that provides a safe means of access to food waste bins.
- 2.13 The risk of not providing a pragmatic response to universal food waste collections could be a challenge, reputational damage and an adverse determination by the Environment Agency.

### 3 Policy Implications

- 3.1 The policy of the council remains to consider environmental issues in all we do and by encouraging residents and businesses to do the same. Through the effective management of the Serco Waste and Related Services Contract we will provide value for money through efficient and effective service delivery.
- 3.2 The pragmatic approach to providing food waste to non domestic premises minimising additional emissions in collections and keeping costs adequately controlled meets the Corporate Strategy.

### 4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The Council has set aside earmarked reserve allows for this project to be funded across the current year and deal with uncertainty.
- 4.2 There are existing budgets for the processing of food waste and the ongoing delivering caddy liners after the initial roll out.
- 4.3 All forecast numbers are additional income and expenditure and assumes that only half of the food waste collected is from new participants.

#### 4.4 Cost forecasts are

Caddy liners	£3,200
Caddy liner delivery	£3,600
Food waste processing	£2,350
Communications	£3,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>£12,750</b>

#### Income forecasts are

Recycling Credits	£4,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4,800</b>

- 4.4 If the same process were applied across the whole of the borough on the same base assumptions it is expected that a budget saving would be created.

## **5 Personnel Implications**

- 5.1 There are no personnel implications.

## **6 Environmental Considerations**

- 6.1 The proposal is intended to increase the amount of food waste collected across the Borough. This will also have environmental benefits. The use of bio degradable caddy liners avoids plastic pollution of the environment.

## **7 Statutory Considerations**

- 7.1 The Environment Act 2021 as currently enacted requires at Section 57 and by amending Section 45 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 that food waste collections are provided, subject to minimal exemptions, to all domestic properties, non household and commercial premises requesting the service. Non domestic premises producing food waste, similar to domestic waste producers, ie pubs and catering establishments, must separate and arrange separate collections of food waste.
- 7.2 The council is an enforcing authority our approach will be pragmatic and advisory until we are content that services are available which match the businesses needs.

## **8 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)**

See attached

**Pre-Screening Equality Impact Assessment**

Borough Council of  
**King's Lynn & West Norfolk**



Name of policy/service/function	Refuse and Recycling				
Is this a new or existing policy/service/function?	Existing				
Brief summary/description of the main aims of the policy/service/function being screened.  Please state if this policy/service is rigidly constrained by statutory obligations	Collection and recycling of food waste				
<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>				
<p>1. Is there any reason to believe that the policy/service/function could have a specific impact on people from one or more of the following groups <b>according to their different protected characteristic</b>, for example, because they have particular needs, experiences, issues or priorities or in terms of ability to access the service?</p> <p>Please tick the relevant box for each group.</p> <p><u>Free caddy liner provision is positive as avoids costs for low income households</u></p> <p>NB. Equality neutral means no negative impact on any group.</p>		Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
	Age			x	
	Disability			x	
	Gender			x	
	Gender Re-assignment			x	
	Marriage/civil partnership			x	
	Pregnancy & maternity			x	
	Race			x	
	Religion or belief			x	
	Sexual orientation			x	
	Other (eg low income)	x			

