

Report for: Cabinet Member Signing

Item number: 6

Title: Food Waste Extension Programme

Report

authorised by : Barry Francis, Corporate Director of Environment and Resident Experience

Lead Officer: Beth Waltzer, Head of Recycling, Waste & Waste Enforcement

Ward(s) affected: All

Report for Key/

Non-Key Decision: Key

1. Describe the issue under consideration

By 31 March 2026, local authorities will be required to collect the core recyclable waste streams - plastic, paper and card, glass, metals (cans, tins and foil) and food waste - from all households in England. Whilst Haringey already serves all its households with weekly collections of core dry recyclables, our food waste collection service now needs to extend its reach up to an estimated 9,000 further households, as well as to all flats-above-shops. This requires up to £991k total expenditure, none of which creates a core budget pressure as funding is to be made up from £581k of Defra transitional grant, £100k NCIL and £310k of accumulated contract SPI reserves.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

The 'Waste and Street Cleansing Services Review' Paper was approved by Cabinet on 15 October 2024. The Paper's recommendations were evidenced through a borough-wide engagement exercise and included mention throughout of the changes in law that would require changes in service provision and subsequent investment. Specifically, the forthcoming 'Simpler Recycling' changes in law and the need to extend weekly food waste collections to all households, are highlighted within paragraphs 2.d, 3.a.4(1), 4.b.4, 4.f, 6.y.1(2) and 6.aa of that report.

This 'Food Waste Extension Programme' Paper requests Members' to formally accept Defra's transformational grant totalling £581k that has been awarded to Haringey to help finance the implementation of this extension of service

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 As required under CSO 21.01, for the Cabinet Member to formally accept the Defra grant to enable the extension of our food waste recycling collections borough wide. The grant amount is set out in the 'Defra Transitional Grant Determination Letter', Appendix 1, and is as follows:

Capital	£416,858
Revenue	£163,863

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1 The proposed 'Food Waste Extension Programme' and associated grant award from Defra, are necessary for implementing services and subsequently complying with, a change of law prompted by The Environment Act 2020 Regulations 2024.
- 4.2 After a successful challenge of the evidence used by Defra in their allocation of burden funding, Haringey were awarded a total of £580,721 transitional grant upon the understanding that Haringey would comply with the new 'Simpler Recycling' requirements. Members' formal acceptance of this grant, as recommended in 3.1, is a necessary step in satisfying CSO 21.01
- 4.3 In order to fulfil the requirements of Simpler Recycling - specifically, weekly collection of food waste from every household – Strategic Procurement are currently reviewing the available routes to market to ensure the Council maximises the value of the grant funding. The potential procurement routes under consideration include the use of public sector frameworks or undertaking an open tender, depending on which option provides the greatest overall value for the Council.
- 4.4 A high-level estimate of implementation expenditure, along with the source funding, is outlined below:

FUNDING STREAM / EXPENDITURE ITEMS	SPENDING PROFILE £'001
Defra capital funding: £417k	26/27
3x food waste collection vehicles	£321
High rise/communal flats - wheeled bins	£31
High rise/communal flats - 5L caddies	£25
High rise/communal flats - peddle-operated bin housings	£40
Defra revenue funding: £164k	
Additional hire vehicle to cover manufacturer's delivery lead time (over-and-above base budget)	£38
Additional crew (over-and-above base budget)	£96
Additional project resources	£30
Contract SPI funding: £310k + £100k NCIL	
High rise/communal flats - 7L caddy liners	£7
High rise/communal flats - peddle-operated bin housings	£120
Flats-above-shops - food waste containment	£200
Additional project resources	£83

- 4.4 Whilst vehicles are being procured by our incumbent waste contractor, Veolia, on behalf of the council, the remaining project programme's route to market will be through public sector frameworks or open tendering, depending on which approach offers the greatest value to the Council and maximises the benefit of the grant funding.
- 4.5 With much of the country currently readying for the change in law, there is likely to be considerable impact on manufacturing lead times, thus officers anticipate significant slippage against the 31 March implementation date for facilitating weekly food waste collections from every household in Haringey.

5. **Alternative options considered**

There is no alternative – weekly food waste collections will be a statutory undertaking as from 31 March 2026. Defra's transitional grant has been awarded after extensive challenge of the evidence used to arrive at a previous grant allocation sum.

6. **Background information**

- 6.1 Prompted by The Environment Act 2020 Regulations 2024, the government's 'Simpler Recycling' legislation is intended to facilitate 65% recycling of municipal waste by 2035. The requirements are as follows, with this Paper solely focusing on the requirements of 6.1.2:
- 6.1.1 By 31 March 2025, businesses and relevant non-domestic premises in England with more than ten FTE employees must arrange for the collection of the core recyclable waste streams: glass, metal, plastic, paper and card, and food waste. Haringey has met this deadline in regards the necessary waste collection services that support this requirement. Micro firms and relevant non-domestic premises of less than ten FTE employees, have until 31 March 2027 to comply.
- 6.1.2 By 31 March 2026, local authorities will be required to collect the core recyclable waste streams from all households in England. This includes introducing weekly food waste collections for most homes, unless a transitional arrangement applies. Haringey already serves all households with collections of refuse and dry recycling. Our food waste collection service now must extend its reach to any communal locations not yet facilitated as well as all flats-above-shops.
- 6.1.3 By 31 March 2027, kerbside plastic film collections from businesses and relevant non-domestic premises, and households will be introduced. Haringey will be implementing this as part of the new waste contract commissioning programme.

- 6.2 To extend the existing weekly food waste collection service to all Haringey households, requires the purchase of vehicles, containment and some externally funded revenue costs during year 1.

7. Contribution to the Corporate Delivery Plan High Level Strategic outcomes?

This project will not change the existing weekly food waste service; it will merely extend its reach to households not yet served by it. However, extending the reach of Haringey's food waste recycling service supports the council's aim of 'Responding to the Climate Crisis' and our 'Destination 50%' target. Around 30% of north London's waste is made up of food.¹ WRAP estimated that the greenhouse gas emissions associated with wasted food and drink in the UK accounted for approximately 18 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent in 2021/22.²

The diversion of food waste, away from disposal routes such as energy from waste or landfill, will also be a significant factor to achieving an MTFs obligation of £1.7m savings resulting from the commissioning of new waste collection and street cleansing contracts. For every tonne of food waste diverted from Haringey's refuse bins, the NLWA levy payment reduces by around £100. According to the results of a 2022 waste composition analysis, an additional tonne of food waste diversion per year is possible from just ten average Haringey households participating fully in their food waste collection service³.

8. Carbon and Climate Change

- 8.1 The 'Waste and Street Cleansing Services Review' Paper, as approved by Cabinet on 15 October 2024, outlines several positive carbon impacts anticipated from new service designs and fleet requirements resulting from the award of a new contract, due to commence April 2027.
- 8.2 Via North London Waste Authority, Haringey's residential food waste is sent for anaerobic digestion treatment. The process has a net carbon WARM emission of -78 kg.CO2e / tonne. Anaerobic digestion is the best Carbon WARM treatment scenario for managing food waste⁴.
- 8.3 In addition, though not directly targeted by this proposal or its funding, significant carbon benefits are to be had by avoiding food waste as a first step. Waste reduction remains at the top of the Waste Hierarchy, and any

¹ <https://www.nlwa.gov.uk/reducereuserecycle/reduceandreuse/food-waste>

² <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-7552/CBP-7552.pdf>

³ M.E.L study: average across four Acorn groups, found 1.94kg/household/week of putrescibles in refuse bins.

⁴ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/63974500e90e077c329444f0/Statistics_on_carbon_emissions_Waste_Households_England_v8_2018.pdf, p11

engagement programme that Haringey either delivers or supports, will continue to promote this message

9. Statutory Officers comments (Director of Finance (procurement), Head of Legal and Governance, Equalities)

9.1 Finance

The report seeks approval from the Corporate Director of Environment and Resident Experience to accept the £581k Defra transitional grant, commence procurement of necessary vehicles and food waste containment to achieve the objectives of the extension to the Food Waste Extension Programme.

The grant funding will be spent in line with the conditions of the grant and further £100k NCIL and £310k of contract SPI funding would be available to purchase further food waste containment and project resources necessary for the delivery of the food waste extension programme.

The programme will support the Council's priority to reduce waste and to achieve a better environment for the residents.

9.2 Procurement

Strategic Procurement has been consulted in the preparation of this report. The expansion of weekly food waste collections—particularly to locations not previously serviced, such as flats-above-shops and remaining communal properties—will require the acquisition of appropriate containers, caddies, and related equipment.

Strategic Procurement will support the commissioning team in identifying and utilising the most suitable and compliant procurement route to secure products that meet service, requirements, and best value to maximise grant funding to support the Council's ambition in reducing its net carbon emission.

9.3 Legal

9.3.1 The Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) was consulted in the preparation of the report.

9.3.2 Pursuant to the Council's Contract Standing Order (CSO) 21.01 Cabinet has the power to approve receipt of grants where the value of the grant is £500,000 or more and such the recommendation in paragraph 3 of the report is line with the Council's CSO.

9.3.3 The Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) see no legal reasons preventing Cabinet from approving the recommendation in the report.

Equality

The council has a Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics and people who do not
- Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not. The three parts of the duty apply to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty. Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic

Weekly food waste collections already serve the majority (>85%) of Haringey's households. However, a change in law requires food waste to be collected from all households - this project is not introducing a new service to Haringey, simply extending the reach of an existing one. Other than extending the service to those living in flats-above-shops, it is only the last remaining communal collections (high rise/blocks of flats) that are yet to be added to the service.

The location of flats-above-shops, being busy high roads, will require a slightly different approach to containment logistics. Whatever containment is decided upon, it will have an impact on the street scene. For example, whether given individual containers or the installation of communal food waste bins, there will be space and infrastructure challenges within Haringey's busy high roads. It is therefore key that Inclusive Mobility, together with adherence to Haringey's Highways infrastructure criteria, are considered when extending the service to flats-above-shops.

A previous 'on-street recycling and waste containment' project saw 238 installations of bins for use by residents living in flats-above-shops to place their sacks of recycling and waste in. That project was steered by the formulation of an in-house installation guide, the essence of which has since been echoed within ReLondon's Toolkit for flats-above-shops recycling⁵. Implementing collections of food waste from flats-above-shops will be guided both by Haringey's prior learning from a very similar challenge and any further considerations highlighted by ReLondon.

⁵ <https://relondon.gov.uk/resources/toolkit-flats-above-shops-recycling>

When the food waste service is first introduced to any household, as a minimum, a 5L kitchen caddy and information leaflet is delivered to assist householders to participate. Where a block of flats is a new build, these are supplied to the developer/managing agent for them to distribute prior to habitation. Currently, all domestic food waste containment, and where necessary, replacements, are supplied free-of-charge.

As part of the Council's promotion of food waste recycling, the Recycling, Waste & Waste Enforcement Team's 'Outreach' resource is currently undertaking an ongoing programme of additional engagement to support residents and housing managers to incorporate food waste recycling into everyday behaviours. As part of their engagement, they also deliver a free roll of 26x caddy liners.

10. Use of Appendices

Appendix 1 - Defra Weekly Food Waste Collections Transitional Capital grant determination letter

11. Background papers

- a. Cabinet decision, 15 October 2024, 'Waste and Street Cleansing Services Review'.

<https://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=80216>