

To Members of the Cabinet Executive

Councillor Ben Taylor (Leader)	- Leader
Councillor Cheryl Cashmore (Deputy Leader)	- Finance, People and Transformation (Deputy Leader) Portfolio Holder
Councillor Nick Chapman	- Health, Community and Economic Development Portfolio Holder
Councillor Nigel Grundy	- Neighbourhood Services and Assets Portfolio Holder
Councillor Les Phillimore	- Housing, Community Safety and Environmental Services Portfolio Holder
Councillor Mike Shirley	- Planning and Strategic Growth Portfolio Holder

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of the **CABINET EXECUTIVE** will be held in the Council Chamber on **MONDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 2025** at **5.30 p.m.** for the transaction of the following business and your attendance is requested.

Yours faithfully



Gemma Dennis
Corporate Services Group Manager



AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Disclosure of Interests from Members
To receive disclosures of interests from Members (i.e. the existence and the nature of those interests in respect of items on this agenda).
3. Minutes (Pages 3 - 10)
To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2025 (enclosed).
4. Public Speaking Protocol
Requests received by the Protocol deadline to be reported by the Senior Democratic Services Officer with details of the Agenda Item to which they relate. (Such persons entitled to use the Protocol attend for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business of the meeting and the time allocated to each person is a maximum of three minutes unless extended at the discretion of the Chairman).
5. Quarter 1 Budget Review 2025/26 (Pages 11 - 22)
To consider the report of Accountancy Services Manager (enclosed).
6. Quarter 1 Capital Programme Review 2025/26 (Pages 23 - 30)
To consider the report of Accountancy Services Manager (enclosed).
7. Quarter 1 Treasury Management Update 2025/26 (Pages 31 - 46)
To consider the report of Finance Group Manager (enclosed).
8. Kerbside Collection Policy (Pages 47 - 78)
To consider the report of Neighbourhood Services Manager (enclosed).

CABINET EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a meeting held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Narborough

MONDAY, 23 JUNE 2025

Present:

Councillor Ben Taylor (Leader)

Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore (Deputy Leader)	Finance, People and Transformation Portfolio Holder
Cllr. Nick Chapman	Health, Community and Economic Development Portfolio Holder
Cllr. Nigel Grundy	Neighbourhood Services and Assets Portfolio Holder
Cllr. Les Phillimore	Housing, Community Safety and Environmental Services Portfolio Holder
Cllr. Mike Shirley	Planning and Strategic Growth Portfolio Holder

Also in attendance:

Cllr. Neil Wright - Vice-Chairman of Scrutiny Commission

Officers present :

Julia Smith	- Chief Executive
Marc Greenwood	- Executive Director - Place
Sarah Pennelli	- Executive Director - S.151 Officer
Louisa Horton	- Executive Director - Communities
Lisa Boland	- ICT & Transformation Group Manager
Gemma Dennis	- Corporate Services Group Manager
Katie Hollis	- Finance Group Manager
Joanne Davis	- Accountancy Services Manager
Anna Farish	- Environmental Services Manager
Caroline Harbour	- Environmental Health, Housing & Community Services Group Manager
Catherine Redshaw	- Project Officer - Air Quality
Avisa Birchenough	- Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer
Nicole Cramp	- Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer

33. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Cllr. Mike Shirley | - | Item 7- Air Quality Annual Status Report |
| Nature of Interest | - | Other Registerable Interests |
| Extent of Interest | - | Was the Chairman of the Audit & Corporate Governance Committee between July 2024 and May 2025. |

34. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2025, as circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record.

35. PUBLIC SPEAKING PROTOCOL

No requests were received.

36. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2024/25

Considered – Report of the Accountancy Services Manager.

Other Options Considered:

None.

DECISION

That the financial performance for 2024/25 be accepted.

Reason:

The unaudited accounts for 2024/25 are to be published on 30th June 2025. Whilst the accounts are still subject to external audit, it is important to give Members early sight of the outturn to assist with the financial planning process.

37. TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2024/25

Considered – Report of the Finance Group Manager

Other Options Considered:

None. It is a legislative requirement that the Council receives an annual report covering its treasury activities for the financial year.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

1. That the treasury management activities for 2024/25 be approved.
2. That the prudential and treasury indicators for 2024/25 be approved.

Reason:

1. The regulatory framework governing treasury management activities includes a requirement that the Council should produce an annual review of treasury activities undertaken in the preceding financial year. It must also report the performance against the approved prudential indicators for the year.
2. This report fulfils the requirement above and incorporates the needs of the Prudential Code to ensure adequate monitoring of capital expenditure plans and the Council's prudential indicators. The treasury strategy and prudential indicators for 2024/25 were contained in the report approved by Council on 27th February 2024.

38. **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

Considered – Report of the Executive Director (S151 Officer)

Other Options Considered:

The option to not produce a separate report on the Annual Governance Statement for the Cabinet Executive was dismissed given it is of utmost importance that the Cabinet Executive are fully informed and assured by the completion of the Corporate Assurance Review and the production of the Governance Statement.

DECISIONS

1. That the Annual Governance statement in respect of 2024/25 financial year, as attached to this report, be approved.
2. That delegated authority be given to the Executive Director (S151 Officer) in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council to make amendments to the Annual Governance Statement following feedback from the External Auditors.

Reason:

1. It is a requirement of the Account and Audit Regulations 2015 for the local authority to prepare and approve an Annual Governance Statement.
2. It may be necessary to make amendments or additions to the Annual Governance Statement following feedback from the External Auditors as they review and audit the Council's Statutory Accounts.

39. **AIR QUALITY ANNUAL STATUS REPORT**

Considered – Report of the Environmental Services Manager, presented by the Air Quality Project Officer.

Other Options Considered:

1. Completion and submission of the ASR is a statutory requirement and therefore there are no other options.
2. Revocations and declarations of AQMAs have to comply with the provisions of the Environment Act 1995 (as amended) and associated Defra guidance, therefore there are no other options.

DECISIONS

1. That the Annual Status Report 2025 be approved for appropriate consultation and submission to the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) and publication.
2. That delegated authority be given to the Environmental Health, Housing & Community Services Group Manager, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to make minor amendments to the Annual Status Report 2025 prior to submission and publication

Reasons:

1. It is appropriate for Members to be informed of the air quality monitoring data for the district in 2024.
2. This is to ensure any final amendments to the ASR report can be made in time for the statutory deadline for submission to Defra by 30th June 2025.

40. **AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN 2025-2029**

Considered – Report of the Environmental Services Manager

Other Options Considered:

The Council is legally required to produce an Air Quality Action Plan following the declaration of a new Air Quality Management Area and therefore no other options have been considered.

DECISIONS

1. That the draft version of the Air Quality Action Plan 2025 – 2029 be approved for consultation.
2. That delegated authority be given to the Environmental Health, Housing & Community Services Group Manager, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to make minor amendments to Air Quality Action Plan 2025 - 2029 prior to submission to DEFRA and consultation.

Reasons:

1. The Council is required to produce an Air Quality Action Plan following the declaration of an Air Quality Management Area.
2. To allow for small changes to be made to the Air Quality Action Plan prior to submission to Defra and the public consultation.

41. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2025/26

Considered – Report of the Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer, presented by the Executive Director (Communities)

Other Options Considered:

None in the context of this report.

DECISIONS

1. That the preferences and changes to appointments to Outside Bodies as proposed in the report be approved.
2. That unless otherwise stated all appointments be held, until the first Cabinet Executive meeting following the Annual Council meeting in 2026.
3. That all appointments be endorsed as approved duties for the payment of allowances.
4. That the Constitution be amended accordingly.

Reason:

It is appropriate to give effect to the wishes of the political groups.

**42. CABINET EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE REVIEW INTO RECRUITMENT AND
RETENTION OF STAFF**

Considered – Report of the Transformation and ICT Group Manager, presented by Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore.

Other Options Considered:

No other options have been considered. Not responding to Scrutiny would not comply with requirements of the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

DECISION

That the response to Scrutiny Commission recommendations as set out in the report be approved.

Reason:

The Local Government & Public Involvement In Health Act 2007 places a duty which requires Cabinet Executive to respond to Scrutiny Recommendations within two months of receiving them.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6.14 P.M.

Blaby District Council

Cabinet Executive

Date of Meeting	1 September 2025
Title of Report	Quarter 1 Budget Review 2025/26 This is a Key Decision and is on the Forward Plan.
Lead Member	Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore – Finance, People & Performance
Report Author	Accountancy Services Manager
Strategic Themes	All Themes: Enabling communities and supporting vulnerable residents; Enhancing and maintaining our natural and built environment; Growing and supporting our economy; Keeping you safe and healthy; Ambitious and well managed Council, valuing our people

1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 This report gives Members an overview of the financial performance against the budget for the first quarter of 2024/25.

2. Recommendation(s) to Cabinet Executive

- 2.1 That the financial performance against the budget for the quarter ending 30th June 2025 is accepted.
- 2.2 That Cabinet executive approve the additional budget expenditure of £382,515 listed within 4.1 and approves the increased forecast contribution of £270,876 from General Fund balances.
- 2.3 That the irrecoverable debts set out in paragraph 4.5 are authorised to be written off.

3. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 It is good practice that Members have oversight of the Council's financial performance at regular points during the financial year.
- 3.2 To recognise movements in the call on reserves and balances to date, along with potential variances in establishment costs and key income streams that may arise between now and the end of the financial year.

4. Matters to consider

4.1 Background

The Council's original budget was approved on 25th February 2025. The approved budget before contributions from reserves and government grants was £15,781,762. It was agreed that the budget would be supported by a contribution of £111,639 to the General Fund Balance and a contribution of £486,470 from earmarked reserves, resulting in a net expenditure budget of £15,406,931.

Since February, there has been some changes made to the budget, most notably to bring forward unspent budget provision from last financial year, and these are reflected in the working budget shown in column B of Appendix A.

The following table sets out the movement between the original Approved Budget and the latest Working Budget.

	£
Approved budget before contributions from reserves and government grant	15,781,762
<u>Additional funding from Earmarked Reserves</u>	
Unspent budget provision carried forward from 2024/25	3,073,276
<u>Additional Funding from General Fund Balances</u>	
Additional Resources and Capacity	255,272
Enderby Road Industrial Estate Rent Review	46,000
Establishment post regrades and increase in hours	35,964
Oadby and Wigston Health and Wellbeing Partnership	16,360
AV System in the Council Chamber	15,000
Lightbulb no change agreement	12,719
One-off budget changes, individually £10,000 or under	1,200
	19,237,553

A total of £3,073,276 has been carried forward from 2024/25, of which £2,157,731 relates to ring-fenced external funding.

As approved at the Cabinet Executive on 12th May 2025, additional establishment budget of £498,174 was added in relation to additional resource for LGR and some other posts. This is offset against confirmed savings and additional income of £242,902 leaving a net cost of £255,272.

As approved at the Cabinet Executive on 12th May 2025, the Council entered into a lease arrangement in 1978, whereby the Council pays a head lease for all the units on the Enderby Road Industrial Estate. The Council then leases

the units to tenants. A rent review for the lease has been undertaken back dated to 19th July 2024. Negotiations have now completed and the increase in budget required for 2025/26 is £46,000.

As approved at the Cabinet Executive on 12th May 2025, there are 7 posts within the Establishment which are being evaluated, and it is anticipated that these posts will be revised and regraded. The increase required in the establishment budget is an estimate as until the evaluations of the posts have been undertaken and concluded, the exact increase will not be known.

The Oadby and Wigston Health and Wellbeing Partnership was agreed to continue for 2025/26. The Management income has been added to the service budget, and expenditure budget funded from the overhead savings realised in 2024/25. £14,780 had been added to the General Fund at year end.

As approved at the Cabinet Executive on 12th May 2025, an additional revenue budget of £15,000 was added in relation to the annual licence, service and maintenance costs required for the replacement of the AV system in the Council Chamber.

The Lightbulb Service was under review at the original budget setting. As the review has been completed and the agreement made for the service for 2025/26, the budget has been amended to align with this.

4.2 Establishment

At the end of quarter 1, at an overall level, establishment costs amounted to £4,332,918 against a profiled budget of £4,665,079, i.e., under profile by £332,161. An estimate of 3% was built into the budget across services for the potential pay award.

The pay award for Chief Executive, Chief Officers (Directors and Group Managers) and officers on grade 1 to 9 was agreed at 3.2% compared with the 3% budgeted. The agreement was made in July and will be reflected in the quarter 2 update.

The following table shows variances to 30th June 2025.

Portfolio	(Under)/Over £	Note
Leader	(58,948)	1
Finance, People & Performance	(72,629)	2
Neighbourhood Services & Assets	(51,470)	3
Health, Leisure, Climate and Economic Development	(89,170)	4
Housing, Community Safety and Environmental Services	(82,059)	5
Planning, Transformation and ICT	(3,955)	6

Central Provisions	26,070	7
Total Variance	(332,161)	

Reasons for Variances

1. Vacant posts - Local Land Charges Team Leader post was vacant throughout the first quarter. Legal Services Officer role vacant for the first two months of the year.
2. Agency costs incurred within the Benefits, HR and Finance teams, offset against savings in the ICT team due to the delayed go live of the internally managed service. The budget will be reviewed and revised if required during the annual budgets setting process which is undertaken during September/October. Vacant posts in relation to the additional budgeted posts identified in section 4.1.
3. Vacant posts within Building Control throughout the quarter.
4. Vacant posts within Lightbulb and Community, Development, Work & Skills.
5. Vacancies in Environmental Protection and Environmental Health teams.
6. Agency costs incurred in relation to Planning Delivery and Planning Enforcement as a result of the significant increase in planning applications. Vacant posts in relation to the additional budgeted posts identified in section 4.1.
7. This represents the vacancy savings provision, net of central provisions for statutory sick pay, statutory maternity pay, and the apprenticeship levy.

4.3 Key Income

	Working Budget	Profiled Budget	Actual to Date	(Surplus)/ Shortfall
	£	£	£	£
Planning Fees	(1,000,000)	(250,000)	(217,216)	32,784
Building Control Fees	(922,500)	(230,625)	(256,529)	(25,904)
Building Control Partnership	(581,277)	(145,319)	(145,319)	0
Land Charges	(175,000)	(43,750)	(58,126)	(14,376)
Investment Interest	(1,100,000)	(275,000)	(305,333)	(30,333)
Refuse and Recycling	(1,821,664)	(1,585,429)	(1,546,566)	38,863
Car Parks	(234,000)	(58,500)	(77,893)	(19,393)
Leisure Income	(779,012)	(206,404)	(206,404)	0

Total	(6,613,453)	(2,795,027)	(2,813,386)	(18,359)
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NB: brackets indicate excess income.

There are no significant variations between profiled budget and actual at the end of Quarter 1.

4.4 Earmarked Reserves

In addition to the General Fund balance the Council also maintains a number of Earmarked Reserves. Some of these are set aside for specific purposes whilst others have been created to mitigate the uncertainties that still surround local government funding. A detailed breakdown of the movement on Earmarked Reserves during the 1st quarter of the financial year and the forecast to the end of the year appears at Appendix B.

Changes to funding from earmarked reserves highlighted in the table in paragraph 4.1 are reflected in Appendix B.

The balance remaining on the Huncote Major Incident Reserve relates to capital expenditure funded through borrowing. This balance will be amortised in line with Minimum Revenue Provision charges to General Fund.

4.5 Write-off Irrecoverable Debt

The following debts are presented for write-off subject to the approval of Cabinet Executive. Whilst there is delegated authority in place for the Executive Director (Section 151), in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to write off debts of this nature at an individual level, given the magnitude of the overall total, for transparency purposes it is considered more appropriate for Cabinet to approve the write offs.

As is evident from the following table, there are a number of reasons for the debt being considered to be irrecoverable, including the existence of a debt relief order, individual voluntary arrangements, Company dissolution and all the usual recovery routes having been attempted without success. The Revenue and Benefits team regularly review training guides to ensure they are kept up to date with any change in legislation and any procedural changes, helping to reduce the risk of errors being made. Where the table indicates that recovery action has been exhausted this means that we are unable to obtain a charging order or attachment of earnings, and the use of enforcement agents and other legal means of recovery have proven unsuccessful.

Debt Category	Amount	Reason for Write-off
Council Tax	755.83	Individual Voluntary Arrangement granted
Council Tax	5,226.94	Individual Voluntary Arrangement granted
Council Tax	1,727.42	Individual Voluntary Arrangement granted
Council Tax	3,384.69	Recovery action exhausted
Council Tax	4,449.37	Recovery action exhausted
NNDR	5,631.00	Recovery action exhausted
NNDR	3,934.25	Company Dissolved

Council Tax	3,741.63	Debt Relief Order granted
Council Tax	3,043.97	Individual Voluntary Arrangement granted
Council Tax	2,742.32	Individual Voluntary Arrangement granted
Council Tax	2,648.73	Individual Voluntary Arrangement granted
Council Tax	2,055.86	Recovery action exhausted
Council Tax	2,082.27	Recovery action exhausted
Total	£41,424.28	

If approved, the above debt will be written off against the existing bad debt provision. Council Tax and business rates write offs will flow through the Collection Fund and will impact on the surplus or deficit for the year for all of the major precepting authorities. Blaby's share of the cost of writing off the debt is approximately 8% for Council Tax (£2,549) and 40% for business rates (£3,826).

4.6 Forecast Outturn

The original approved budget allowed for a contribution of £111,639 to be added to General Fund Balances. As shown in Appendix A, this is now a contribution from General Fund Balances of £270,876.

4.7 Significant Issues

In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities and there are no areas of concern.

5. Environmental impact

- 5.1 In preparing this report the author has considered the impact on the environment and there are no areas of concern.

6. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

- 6.1 Financial implications are included in the main body of this report.

7. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

7.1

Current Risk	Actions to reduce the risks
Net expenditure may exceed the approved budget due to shortfall in income or overspending	Ongoing budget monitoring to highlight variances.

8. Other options considered

- 8.1 None.

9. Appendix

9.1 Appendix A – Budget Monitoring Statement to 30th June 2025.

9.2 Appendix B – Forecast Reserves Position to 31st March 2026.

10. Background paper(s)

10.1 None.

11. Report author's contact details

Jo Davis Accountancy Services Manager
Joanne.davis@blaby.gov.uk 0116 2727625

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BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL
GENERAL FUND REVENUE ACCOUNT
BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT TO 30TH JUNE 2025

Portfolio		A Approved Budget £	B Working Budget £	C Profiled Budget £	D Actual to P3 £	E Variance to Profile £	F Forecast Outturn £
FPP	Finance, People & Performance	5,143,376	5,738,577	1,554,587	1,628,677	74,090	5,738,577
HCES	Housing, Community Safety & Environmental Services	2,201,429	3,557,087	322,964	357,995	35,030	3,557,087
HWCEBS	Health & Leisure, Climate and Economic Development	196,761	822,549	102,969	5,320	(97,649)	822,549
LEAD	Leader	2,640,151	2,936,840	616,677	575,355	(41,322)	2,936,840
NSA	Neighbourhood Services & Assets	3,213,411	3,468,264	(244,800)	(247,497)	(2,697)	3,468,264
PDECT	Planning, Transformation and ICT	1,175,504	1,503,106	292,226	247,054	(45,173)	1,503,106
Net Expenditure on Services		14,570,633	18,026,424	2,644,624	2,566,903	(77,721)	18,026,424
RCCO	Revenue Contributions to Capital Outlay	54,500	54,500	13,625	0	(13,625)	54,500
MRP	Minimum Revenue Provision	1,000,318	1,000,318	250,080	0	(250,080)	1,000,318
VRP	Voluntary Revenue Provision	250,000	250,000	62,500	0	(62,500)	250,000
APPROP	Appropriations & Accounting Adjustments	(93,689)	(93,689)	(26,070)	0	26,070	(93,689)
		15,781,762	19,237,553	2,944,759	2,566,903	(377,856)	19,237,553
EAR	Contributions to/(from) Earmarked Reserves	(486,470)	(3,559,746)	(1,502,832)	0	1,502,832	(3,559,746)
GFBAL	Contributions to/(from) General Fund Balances	111,639	(270,876)	(56,219)	0	56,219	(270,876)
Net Budget Requirement		15,406,931	15,406,931	1,385,709	2,566,903	1,181,195	15,406,931

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FORECAST RESERVES & BALANCES AS AT 31ST MARCH 2026

APPENDIX B

	GL Code	Balance at 31/03/2025 £	Contributions from I&E A/c £	Utilisation of Balances £	Balance at 31/03/2026 £
Leisure Centre Renewals Fund	9999/VBA	(73,607)	0	0	(73,607)
Computer Room Environment	9999/VBB	(123,348)	0	0	(123,348)
Licensing Reserve	9999/VBC	(27,868)	0	0	(27,868)
Insurance Reserve Fund	9999/VBD	(100,000)	0	0	(100,000)
Blaby Plan Priorities Reserve	9999/VBJ	(288,697)	0	0	(288,697)
General Reserve Fund	9999/VBK	(1,612,310)	0	0	(1,612,310)
Ongoing Projects Reserve	9999/VBM	(3,130,441)	0	3,130,441	0
Elections Reserve	9999/VBQ	(122,259)	0	0	(122,259)
Homelessness Grant Reserve	9999/VBR	(64,952)	0	0	(64,952)
New Homes Bonus Reserve	9999/VBT	0	0	0	0
Contractual Losses Support Reserve	9999/VBU	(255,000)	0	63,750	(191,250)
Economic Development Initiatives	9999/VBX	(50,000)	0	0	(50,000)
Provision - ERIE Sinking Fund	9999/VCA	(8,487)	0	0	(8,487)
Community Rights Reserve	9999/VCB	(48,724)	0	0	(48,724)
Hardship Reserve	9999/VCD	(325,000)	0	0	(325,000)
Parish New Homes Bonus Reserve	9999/VCE	(881)	0	0	(881)
NNDR Income Reserve	9999/VCF	(1,432,502)	0	0	(1,432,502)
Flexible Working Reserve	9999/VCG	(161,792)	0	0	(161,792)
Local Plan Reserve	9999/V CJ	(365,755)	0	0	(365,755)
Lottery Reserve	9999/VCK	(36,584)	0	0	(36,584)
IT System Replacement Reserve	9999/VCL	(39,815)	0	0	(39,815)
Property Fund Reserve	9999/VCM	(201,628)	0	0	(201,628)
Huncote Major Incident Reserve	9999/VCP	(642,526)	0	0	(642,526)
Court Fees Income Reserve	9999/V CQ	(31,813)	0	0	(31,813)
Business Rates Pool Reserve	9999/VBV	(2,440,417)	0	0	(2,440,417)
		(11,584,406)	0	3,194,191	(8,390,215)
Usable Earmarked Reserves		(11,584,406)	0	3,194,191	(8,390,215)
General Fund Balance		(7,246,467)	0	270,876	(6,975,591)
TOTAL RESERVES & BALANCES		(18,830,873)			(15,365,806)

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Blaby District Council

Cabinet Executive

Date of Meeting	1 September 2025
Title of Report	Quarter 1 Capital Programme Review 2025/26 This is not a Key Decision and is on the Forward Plan
Lead Member	Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore – Finance, People & Performance
Report Author	Accountancy Services Manager
Strategic Themes	All Themes: Enabling communities and supporting vulnerable residents; Enhancing and maintaining our natural and built environment; Growing and supporting our economy; Keeping you safe and healthy; Ambitious and well managed Council, valuing our people

1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 This report provides Members an update on expenditure against the Capital Programme for the first quarter of 2025/26.

2. Recommendation(s) to Cabinet Executive and Council

- 2.1 That the report is accepted.
- 2.2 That the latest Capital Programme for 2025/26, totalling £7,438,038, is accepted.

3. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 To ensure that the Council has adequate resources in place to meet its capital expenditure commitments.
- 3.2 To reflect additions or other changes to the Capital Programme since it was approved by Council on 25th February 2025, including the carry forward of unspent budget from 2024/25.

4. Matters to consider

- 4.1 Background

The original Capital Programme for 2025/26 was approved by Council on 25th February 2025 and totalled £1,422,512, including a borrowing requirement of £680,012.

After allowing for unspent budget carried forward from 2024/25 and other movements, the Capital Programme now stands at £7,438,038. The movements between the original value and the latest value are shown in the following table, Appendix A gives a scheme-by-scheme breakdown of the planned expenditure for 2025/26.

	£
Original Capital Programme – approved February 2025	1,422,512
<u>New Additions</u>	
1. Incomplete schemes brought forward from 2024/25	5,884,382
2. ICT Infrastructure Improvements	75,000
3. Installation of PV Panels at Enderby Leisure Centre	70,000
4. Affordable Housing - Grove Rd	57,835
5. Open Space at rear of Huncote Leisure Centre	50,000
6. Food Waste Vehicles and Receptacles	30,000
7. ICT: Development and Refresh	25,000
8. Section 106 backed schemes	9,098
9. Capital Grants Programme	616
<u>Reductions</u>	
10. Replacement CRM/Granicus solutions	(186,405)
Revised Capital Programme 2025/26	7,438,038

The reasons behind the additions and reductions highlighted in the table above are as follows:

New Additions

- Reflects schemes that were not finalised at 31st March 2025. Budget provision, along with associated resources, was carried over into the new financial year to allow for the projects be completed. This includes:
 - £970k for the purchase of new food waste vehicles and caddies in preparation for the rollout of weekly food waste collections from March 2026.
 - £805k for the Council's fleet vehicle replacement programme. Orders have been placed for three new refuse collection vehicles and are due to be delivered in 25/26.
 - £683k for strategic property investment which is subject to the identification of appropriate opportunities.
 - £591k provision for the installation of electric vehicle infrastructure at the Council Depot, with works due to commence when plans are finalised.

2. ICT Infrastructure Improvements – This is part of the Council's ongoing commitment to transitioning IT services in-house. The 2025/26 additional budget was approved by Council on 27th February 2024.
 3. Installation of PV Panels at Enderby Leisure Centre – In the 2024/25 Q2 Capital Programme Review presented to Council on 19th November 2024 the report detailed the external grant funding being removed due to unfavourable grant conditions. In the 2024/25 Q3 Capital Programme Review presented to Council on 25th February highlighted that UKSPF funds were used towards the project in 2024/25. To successfully meet the original scope of the project an additional £70k is being added back to the project which is to be financed by the Council.
 4. Affordable Housing - Grove Rd – This decision was approved by Council on 24th September 2024 to support the Norton Housing Mental Health scheme in Blaby.
 5. Open Space at rear of Huncote Leisure Centre – Repurposing of land at the former Huncote BMX track as public open space funded by general reserves. This decision was approved by Council on 21st May 2024.
 6. Food Waste Vehicles and Receptacles – Increase parking capacity at Whetstone Depot to accommodate the new food waste vehicles. This budget addition is to be funded by prudential borrowing.
 7. ICT: Development and Refresh – see note 2.
 8. Section 106 – Monies received are only released and added to the Capital Programme as and when suitable schemes are identified by the Planning Obligations Monitoring Group, following receipt of bids from Parish Councils or other community groups.
 9. Capital Grants Programme – Repayment of unused grant that has been returned by the grant recipient.
 10. Replacement CRM/Granicus solutions – Due to the proposed local government reorganisation it been decided that a new CRM would not be required at this time.
- 4.2 At the end of June 2025, the Council had spent £385,182 against its planned Capital Programme.

The reasons behind the main variances are as follows:

- Fleet Vehicle Replacement Programme - £1,109,047 planned spend not yet utilised. The majority of budget is allocated for three new waste collection vehicles. One of the vehicles was delivered in July 2025 and the other two are due to be delivered later in the year.

- Food Waste Vehicles and Receptacles - £1,000,000 planned spend not yet utilised: The vehicles, which will use Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) have been ordered, of which two are the being delivered imminently while the remaining vehicles will be delivered in 2026 due to high demand. Vehicles not received by March 2026 will be leased in the short-term to meet service needs. This report seeks to approve additional capital budget for the new layout of the depot to accommodate the food waste vehicles.
- Disabled Facilities Grants - £895,327 planned spend not yet utilised: DFG allocation has been increased by central government over recent years. Lightbulb have seen a permanent rise in the complexity of cases coming through due to an increase in residents' health complications. We have also experienced an increase in child cases where the needs can be complex resulting in cases taking longer to complete. Lightbulb is currently going through a service review and streamlining ways of working which will increase the number of DFG's completed throughout the year.
- Strategic Regeneration Property Investment - £682,056 planned spend not yet utilised: Due to the high demand of homelessness accommodation in the District the Council is investigating a larger portfolio of property purchases in which unspent budget on this project will contribute towards.
- Net Zero at the Depot - £591,000 planned spend not yet utilised: The project is progressing after a pause while the installation of solar panels at the depot was being completed. We are awaiting designs and tendered costs from the consultants/specialists for the electric vehicle infrastructure at the depot. Any difference in costs will be taken to Council in a separate report. Once this is complete a timeframe can be determined.
- Strategic Review: Land Rear Of Enderby Leisure Centre - £364,398 planned spend not yet utilised: Consultants are engaging with the Council's Local Plan team; providing information for the site to be assessed for inclusion in the new Local Plan.
- IT Infrastructure Improvements - £323,927 planned spend not yet utilised: The majority of capital spend has been expedited leading up to the launch of in-house IT services on 1st July 2025. There will be additional expenditure on IT infrastructure in the next few months.
- Section 106-backed Schemes - £268,975 planned spend not yet utilised: The Planning Obligation Monitoring Group approved a large S106 project at Trinity Road Park and Warwick Road Recreation Ground (Whetstone) in March 2025 which is currently being undertaken.

- Strategic Asset Review - £223,858 planned spend not yet utilised: Following the Local Government Reorganisation planned, priorities have been reviewed and work on this project has been paused.
- Income Management System – £163,211 planned spend not yet utilised: The new system is live; we are awaiting final billing for the completed project. Once final costs have been determined it is thought there will be a saving on budget to be returned to the Council.
- EV Charging Hub at Enderby Leisure Centre - £147,200 planned spend not yet utilised: The tender process for 12 electric vehicle charging points has completed and contract awarded. The installer has carried out the first site visit and final drawings and designs are being produced. It is anticipated that works will complete by the end of the year.
- Walk & Ride, Blaby - £140,000 planned spend not yet utilised: The new walk and cycle route in the district will be complete by March 2026. Leicester City Council are leading this project along with Leicestershire County Council. The budget allocated in the capital programme is contingency for any unforeseen costs to Blaby District Council. Once the project is complete any savings will be determined and returned to the Council.
- Finance System Upgrade - £127,320 planned spend not yet utilised: The project will commence later in the year when it's anticipated that resources will be available.
- Replacement of gym equipment at Enderby Leisure Centre - £125,292 planned spend not yet utilised: The condition of existing gym equipment is being evaluated and suitable replacements sourced. It's forecast that the new gym equipment will be purchased by the end of October 2025.
- End User Device Replacement - £110,648 planned spend not yet utilised: Phase one of IT devices rollout has been completed with phase two to be rolled out during 2025/26.
- Installation of PV Panels at Enderby Leisure Centre – £109,260 planned spend not yet utilised: Installation is on track for completion by September 2025. Grid connection will be finalised following the National Grid inspection. The energy generated will be sold to the leisure centre's operator (SLM), creating a revenue stream for the council alongside significant carbon savings.

4.3 Significant Issues

In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities and there are no areas of concern.

5. Environmental impact

5.1 In preparing this report the author has considered the impact on the environment and there are no areas of concern.

6. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

6.1 Details are set out in the preceding paragraphs.

7. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

7.1

Current Risk	Actions to reduce the risks
Net expenditure may exceed the approved budget due to a shortfall in income or overspending.	Ongoing budget monitoring to highlight variances at an early stage.
Rising inflation costs may cause project costs to exceed the approved budgets.	Regular monitoring of the project costs by the project managers together with support from Finance to address any concerns at an early stage. Any price rise that cannot be accommodated within normal tolerances will be reported back to Council before proceeding with the planned works. The overall affordability of the Capital Programme will be considered in terms of its impact on the Revenue Budget and projects will be deferred or removed from the programme as necessary

8. Other options considered

8.1 None.

9. Appendix

9.1 Appendix A – Capital Monitoring Statement to 30th June 2025

10. Background paper(s)

10.1 None.

11. Report author's contact details

Jo Davis Accountancy Services Manager
Joanne.davis@blaby.gov.uk 0116 2727625

	Approved Capital Programme 2025/26 £	Budgets Brought Forward from 2024/25 £	Virements / Additions etc within the year £	Project completed Saving realised £	Latest Capital Programme 2025/26 £	Capital Expenditure to 30th June 2025 £	Variance as at 30th June 2025 £
<u>Invest to Save Schemes</u>							
Regeneration Property	0	682,056	0	0	682,056	0	682,056
Strategic Asset Review	0	223,858	0	0	223,858	0	223,858
Strategic Review : Land Rear Of Enderby Leisure Centre	0	372,721	0	0	372,721	8,323	364,398
Car Park LED Replacements	15,000	0	0	0	15,000	0	15,000
Revenues & Benefits - Document Management & MyView	0	3,478	0	0	3,478	0	3,478
Replacement CRM/Granicus solutions	0	186,405	0	(186,405)	0	0	0
	15,000	1,468,518	0	(186,405)	1,297,113	8,323	1,288,790
<u>Essential/Contractual Schemes</u>							
Affordable Housing - Grove Rd	0	0	57,835	0	57,835	0	57,835
Net Zero at the Depot	0	591,000	0	0	591,000	0	591,000
Walk & Ride Blaby	0	140,000	0	0	140,000	0	140,000
Finance System Upgrade	45,000	82,320	0	0	127,320	0	127,320
Replacement of gym equipment at Enderby Leisure Centre	125,292	0	0	0	125,292	0	125,292
Replacement of gym equipment at Huncote Leisure Centre	50,000	0	0	0	50,000	0	50,000
Installation of PV Panels at Enderby Leisure Centre	0	39,260	70,000	0	109,260	0	109,260
Installation of PV Panels at Holt Way	0	450	0	0	450	0	450
CCTV Upgrade at Council Offices	0	29,033	0	0	29,033	26,488	2,545
Capital Grants Programme	54,500	24,386	616	0	79,502	9,876	69,626
Works to Landfill Gas Monitoring System, Huncote	0	36,944	0	0	36,944	0	36,944
Replacement of Air Quality Analysers	0	2,958	0	0	2,958	1,580	1,378
Contaminated Land Strategy	15,000	0	0	0	15,000	0	15,000
Huncote Leisure Centre Gas Mitigation Equipment	28,000	0	0	0	28,000	0	28,000
Dogs Public Space Protection Order	18,720	0	0	0	18,720	0	18,720
Income Management System	0	163,211	0	0	163,211	0	163,211
HR & Payroll System	0	90,661	0	0	90,661	4,987	85,674
Replacement Audio/Visual System for Council Chamber	0	95,000	0	0	95,000	0	95,000
End User Device Replacement	107,000	27,323	0	0	134,323	23,675	110,648
ICT Infrastructure Improvements	0	307,914	75,000	0	382,914	58,987	323,927
ICT: Deveopment and Refresh	0	25,000	25,000	0	50,000	19,666	30,334
Fleet Vehicle Replacement Programme	304,000	805,047	0	0	1,109,047	0	1,109,047
Vehicle CCTV & Tracking Upgrade	0	5,850	0	0	5,850	0	5,850
Open Space at rear of Huncote Leisure Centre	0	0	50,000	0	50,000	17,142	32,858
Mobile Working Software	0	50,412	0	0	50,412	0	50,412
	747,512	2,516,769	278,451	0	3,542,732	162,401	3,380,331
<u>Externally Funded Schemes</u>							
Disabled Facilities Grants	630,000	443,761	0	0	1,073,761	178,434	895,327
Housing Support Grants	30,000	14,266	0	0	44,266	2,593	41,673
Air Quality Particulates Matter	0	30,810	0	0	30,810	250	30,560
EV Charging Hub at Enderby Leisure Centre	0	147,200	0	0	147,200	0	147,200
Food Waste Vehicles and Receptacles	0	970,000	30,000	0	1,000,000	0	1,000,000
Section 106-backed Schemes	0	293,058	9,098	0	302,156	33,181	268,975
	660,000	1,899,095	39,098	0	2,598,193	214,458	2,383,735
TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24	1,422,512	5,884,382	317,549	(186,405)	7,438,038	385,182	7,052,856

	Approved Capital Programme 2025/26 £	Budgets Brought Forward from 2024/25 £	Virements / Additions etc within the year £	Project completed Saving realised £	Latest Capital Programme 2025/26 £	Capital Expenditure to 30th June 2025 £	Variance as at 30th June 2025 £
<u>FINANCED BY:</u>							
<u>Internally Resources</u>							
Prudential Borrowing	680,012	2,557,941	189,712	(186,405)	3,241,261	116,303	3,124,958
Usable Capital Receipts	28,000	987,390	9,749	0	1,025,138	39,799	985,340
Blaby District Council Plan Priorities Reserve	54,500	8,206	1,155	0	63,861	9,876	53,985
IT Reserve	0	7,528	0	0	7,528	4,747	2,781
IT Systems Replacement Reserve	0	39,815	0	0	39,815	0	39,815
Revenue Funded Capital Expenditure	0	100,000	50,000	0	150,000	0	150,000
<u>External Resources</u>							
Disabled Facilities Grant	660,000	458,027	0	0	1,118,027	181,027	937,000
Defra	0	952,822	0	0	952,822	250	952,572
La Housing Fund Round 2	0	332,395	0	0	332,395	0	332,395
S106 Contributions - Various	0	293,058	66,933	0	359,991	33,181	326,810
Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure	0	147,200	0	0	147,200	0	147,200
TOTAL FUNDING	1,422,512	5,884,382	317,549	(186,405)	7,438,038	385,182	7,052,856

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Blaby District Council

Cabinet Executive

Date of Meeting	1 September 2025
Title of Report	Quarter 1 Treasury Management update 2025/26 This is not a Key Decision and is on the Forward Plan
Lead Member	Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore – Finance, People & Performance
Report Author	Finance Group Manager
Strategic Themes	Ambitious and well managed Council, valuing our people

1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 This report provides Members with an update on the Council's treasury activities for the quarter ended 30th June 2025, and the economic factors that have affected those activities.
- 1.2 The report also demonstrates compliance with the prudential indicators that were approved by Council on 25th February 2025.

2. Recommendation(s) to Cabinet Executive

- 2.1 That the latest position in respect of treasury activities, and the prudential indicators, are accepted.

3. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 The 2023/24 edition of the Prudential Code added a requirement for quarterly reporting of treasury management activities and prudential indicators. Whilst quarters 1 and 3 do not need to be formally reported to full Council, there is an implicit understanding that they should be adequately scrutinised by Cabinet Executive.

4. Matters to consider

4.1 Background

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice for Treasury Management 2021 recommends that Members are updated on treasury management activities at least quarterly. This report, therefore, ensures that the Council is following best practice in accordance with the Code. The financial year 2025/26 is the third year in which Cabinet will receive quarterly treasury updates.

Whilst it is a requirement of the Code that the annual and mid-year reports on treasury activity must be ratified by full Council, the reports for the first and third quarters of the financial year only need to be presented to Cabinet.

4.2 Economic Update

The economic update for the first quarter of 2025/26, provided by MUFG Corporate Markets, the Council's treasury management advisors, is included at Appendix A.

It should be noted that changes to the UK economy, and their resulting implications for the Council's treasury activities, can often be fast-paced and, therefore, some of the economic data may be partially out of date by the time it is reported.

There were two Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meetings this quarter. In May, the Committee cut Bank Rate from 4.50% to 4.25%, while in June policy was left unchanged.

4.3 Interest Rate Forecasts

The Council has appointed MUFG Corporate Markets as its treasury advisors and part of their service is to assist the Council to formulate a view on interest rates.

The latest forecast as at 10th February 2025 is shown at Appendix B.

MUFGs view is that the monetary policy is sufficiently tight at present to cater for some further moderate loosening, the extent of which, however, will continue to be data dependent. As can be seen in Appendix B, the forecast is that the next reduction in Bank Rate will be made in November and for a pattern to evolve whereby rate cuts are made quarterly and in keeping with the release of the Bank's Quarterly Monetary Policy Reports (February, May, August and November). Any movement below a 4% Bank Rate will, nonetheless, be very much dependent on inflation data releases in the coming months.

4.4 Annual Investment Strategy

The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2025/26, which includes the Annual Investment Strategy, was approved by the Council on 25th February 2025. In accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice, it sets out the Council's investment priorities as being:

- Security of capital
- Liquidity
- Yield

The Council will aim to achieve the optimum return (yield) on its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity, aligned with the

Council's risk appetite. In the current economic climate, over and above keeping investments short-term to cover cash flow needs, there is a benefit to seeking out value available in periods up to 12 months with high credit rated financial institutions, using the MUFG Corporate Markets suggested creditworthiness approach, including a minimum sovereign credit rating and Credit Default Swap (CDS) overlay information.

Investment rates have started to taper downwards during the first quarter of 2025/26 and are expected to fall back further if inflation falls through 2025 and 2026 and the MPC loosens monetary policy more substantially.

Creditworthiness

There have been few changes to credit ratings over the quarter under review. However, officers continue to closely monitor these, and other measures of creditworthiness to ensure that only appropriate counterparties are considered for investment purposes.

Investment counterparty criteria

The current investment counterparty criteria selection approved in the TMSS is meeting the requirement of the treasury management function.

CDS prices

For UK and international banks, these have remained low, and prices are not misaligned with other creditworthiness indicators, such as credit ratings. Nevertheless, it remains important to undertake continual monitoring of all aspects of risk and return.

Investment balances

The funds available for investment purposes on 30th June were just under £27.1m. These were a mixture of temporary, cashflow funds where the level of funds available was mainly dependent on the timing of precept payments, receipt of grants and progress on the capital programme, and longer-term core funds.

In terms of investment performance, the Council measures its rate of return against the Sterling Overnight Index Averages (SONIA). The following table reflects the backward-looking benchmark, which reflects where the market was positioned when investments were placed.

Financial year to quarter ended 30th June 2025

	Bank Rate	SONIA	7 day	30 day	90 day	180 day	365 day
High	4.50	4.46	4.46	4.47	4.58	4.73	5.02
Low	4.25	4.21	4.21	4.22	4.34	4.48	4.79
Average	4.35	4.31	4.33	4.36	4.46	4.61	4.91
Spread	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.25	0.23

The Council's budget for in-house investment income in 2025/26 profiled to Quarter one is £275k (£1.1m full year). On 30th June, the Council had already secured a return of £305k.

The investment with Lothbury Property Trust was wound up on 30th May 2024, the assets are being disposed of and distributions made to investors. The Council's investment is being transferred to UBS Triton property fund LP. As at 30th June 2025 the remaining balance with the Lothbury Fund still to be distributed was £57,057, the investment value of UBS Triton on the same date was £692,394.

Officers can confirm that the approved limits within the Annual Investment Strategy were not breached during the quarter ended 30th June 2025.

4.5 Borrowing

The Council can raise cash through borrowing to fund expenditure on its capital programme. The amount of borrowing needed each year is determined by capital expenditure plans, the underlying borrowing requirement, the availability of other capital resources, and prevailing economic conditions.

In Quarter 1 of 2025/26 no new borrowing has been undertaken. However there has been scheduled loan repayments of £750,000, meaning that the outstanding debt is £4,107,601 on 30th June 2025.

For a number of years, the Council has been an internally borrowed cash position, and balances will need to be replenished at some point in the future, subject to expenditure demands. This strategy is prudent whilst investment rates are lower than borrowing rates and also serves to mitigate counterparty risk. In the short-term it is planned to maintain internal borrowing, but officers will closely monitor the reserves, balances and cashflows that support this position.

No rescheduling of borrowing was undertaken in the first quarter.

4.6 Compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits

The Council's treasury and prudential indicators are shown in Appendix D.

It is a statutory duty for the Council to determine and keep under review the affordable borrowing limits. During the quarter ended 30th June 2025, the Council has operated within the treasury and prudential indicators set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.

All treasury management operations have also been conducted in full compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Practices.

4.7 Relevant Consultations

The Council's Treasury Management advisors MUFG Corporate Markets Treasury Limited (previously named Link Treasury Services Limited) have been consulted in the drafting of this report.

4.8 Significant Issues

None

In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities and there are no areas of concern.

5. Environmental impact

- 5.1 There is no direct environmental impact arising from this report. However, the Council continues to utilise sustainable investment opportunities in line with its approved investment criteria.
No Net Zero and Climate Impact Assessment (NZCIA) is required for this report.

6. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

- 6.1 Treasury management decisions and activities are driven by the capital programme and the Council's overall financial position and will impact on the interest payable and receivable budgets which are included in the quarterly budget monitoring report elsewhere on the agenda.

7. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

7.1

Current Risk	Actions to reduce the risks
That external borrowing might not be undertaken at the most advantageous rate	Treasury officers maintain regular contact with the Council's advisors, MUFG Corporate Markets Treasury Limited, who monitor movements in interest rates on our behalf. The aim is always to drawdown loans when interest rates are at their lowest point.
Credit risk – the risk that other parties might fail to pay amounts due, e.g., deposits with banks etc.	The Annual Investment Strategy sets the criteria through which the Council decides with whom it may invest. The lending list is updated regularly to reflect changes in credit ratings.
Liquidity risk – the Council might not have sufficient funds to meet its commitments	Daily monitoring of cash flow balances. Access to the money markets to cover any short-term cash shortfall.

Refinancing and maturity risk – the risk that the Council might need to renew a loan or investment at disadvantageous interest rates	Monitoring of the maturity profile of debt to make sure that loans do not all mature in the same period. Monitoring the maturity profile of investments to ensure there is sufficient liquidity to meet day to day cash flow needs.
Market risk – losses may arise because of changes in interest rates etc	Maximum limits are set for exposure to fixed and variable interest rates. The Finance team will monitor market rates and forecast interest rates to limit exposure
Loss on the Property Fund investment if property values continue to fall	The Property Fund should be seen as a longer-term investment where the value of the fund can fluctuate both upwards and downwards. Historically, property prices tend to rise over time. Due to concerns reported to Council in 2024 and the winding up of the Lothbury Property Fund, the move to the UBS Triton Property Fund LP was instigated.

8. Other options considered

8.1 None, this report is a requirement of the 2025/26 Prudential Code.

9. Appendix

9.1 Appendix A – Economic Update

9.2 Appendix B – Interest Rate Forecast

9.3 Appendix C – Investments Held at 30th June 2025

9.4 Appendix D – Treasury and Prudential Indicators

10. Background paper(s)

10.1 None

11. Report author's contact details

Katie Hollis	Finance Group Manager
Katie.Hollis@blaby.gov.uk	0116 2727739

1. Economics update

- The first quarter of 2025/26 (1st April to 30th June) saw:
 - A 0.3% m/m fall in real GDP in April – the first fall since October 2024
 - The 3myy rate of average earnings growth excluding bonuses fall from 5.5% to 5.2% in May
 - Core CPI inflation ease from 3.8% in April to 3.5% in May as temporary Easter-related effects faded
 - The Bank of England cut interest rates from 4.50% to 4.25% in May, holding them steady in June
 - The 10-year gilt yield fluctuate between 4.4% and 4.8%, and end the quarter at 4.50%
- The 0.3% m/m fall in real GDP in April was the first fall since October 2024 and the largest fall since October 2023. This is a significant shift from the 0.7% q/q rise in Q1 2025, probably as a result of the boosts from net exports and business investment unwinding. The decline in exports was mostly due to a reversal of US tariff front-running with export values to the US falling by 31% m/m after rising 34% in total in the five months to February. April's GDP figures also showed manufacturing output falling by 0.9% m/m along with the domestic economy showing signs of weakness in April. Despite construction output growing by 0.9% m/m, services output declined by 0.4% m/m, reversing all of March's 0.4% m/m rise. This weakness in services likely reflects higher labour costs from April's rise in National Insurance Contributions for employers. May's GDP may have fallen a bit further as the boosts in Q1 continued to unwind. Overall, GDP in Q2 is likely to have flatlined and the economy will probably be hindered by subdued overseas demand and domestic businesses cutting spending given a rise in costs due to April's increase in taxes. The Bank of England expects growth in 2025 to be around 0.8%.
- Despite the rise in the composite Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) from 50.3 in May to 50.7 in June, it is still below its level in March, prior to the rise in business taxes and Trump's Liberation Day tariffs. This rise was driven by increases in both the services and manufacturing output balances. Although the services PMI rose from 50.9 to 51.3, that is consistent with non-retail services output growth slowing from 0.5% 3m/3m in April to 0.3% 3m/3m in June.
- The sharp 2.7% m/m drop back in retail sales volumes in May adds to other evidence that the burst of economic growth in Q1 is over. The weakness was widespread with sales falling in all seven of the major categories. This decline was partly due to the unwinding of the previous boost from April's unusually warm and dry weather along with inflationary pressures prompting consumers to cut back. The latter would be a more persistent drag on retail spending. Looking ahead, the rise in the GfK measure of consumer confidence from -20 in May to -18 in June is consistent with the annual rate of real retail sales growth accelerating from -1.3% in May to around +0.5%.
- While the £17.7bn of public sector borrowing in May was higher than the Office of Budget responsibility (OBR) forecast of £17.1bn, borrowing was £2.9bn below the OBR's forecast in the first two months of the 2025/26 fiscal year. The current budget deficit was £12.8bn in May, a touch below the OBR's forecast of £13.0bn. Within that, government spending surprised to the downside. Central government expenditure was £0.5bn lower than the OBR's forecast in May, leaving it £1.6bn lower in April and May combined. That has been largely driven by debt interest payments, which were £1.1bn below the OBR's forecast in May. But if the rises in gilt yields since the Spring Statement in March are sustained, the OBR will revise up its forecast for debt interest payments in the years ahead. That of itself would knock £1.0bn off the Chancellor's £9.9bn of headroom against her fiscal mandate and the subsequent Government U-turns on benefit and welfare spending and higher borrowing costs may mean to maintain her current £9.9bn buffer, Reeves has to raise upwards of £13bn later this year. And with the gilt

market sensitive to significant increases in borrowing, all this means substantial tax rises are looking very likely.

- The weakening in the jobs market is gathering pace. May's 109,000 m/m fall in the PAYE measure of employment was the largest decline (barring the pandemic) since the data began and the seventh in as many months. The monthly change was revised lower in five of the previous seven months too, with April's 33,000 fall revised down to a 55,000 drop. Overall, the payroll measure of employment has now fallen by 276,000 since the announcement of the rise in payroll taxes and the minimum wage in the October Budget. The job vacancies data also portrays a rapidly weakening labour market. The number of job vacancies is now falling a bit faster, dropping from 760,000 in the three months to April to 736,000 in May. Capital Economics' seasonally adjusted measure of single-month vacancies declined sharply from 763,000 in April to 713,000 in May.
- A looser labour market is driving softer wage pressures. The 3myy rate of average earnings growth excluding bonuses fell from 5.5% to 5.2% in May. The rate for the private sector slipped from 5.5% to 5.1%, putting it on track to undershoot the Bank of England's Q2 forecast of 5.2%. And after rising in April as the 6.7% rise in the minimum wage took effect, the timelier PAYE median earnings measure fell back from 6.2% y/y in April to 5.8% in May. Softer wage growth is feeding through to lower services inflation, pointing to a slowdown from 4.7% in May to around 3.0% by the end of the year.
- CPI inflation fell slightly from 3.5% in April to 3.4% in May – close to consensus. The sharp falls in services inflation from 5.4% to 4.7% and in core inflation from 3.8% to 3.5% confirmed that the previous month's jumps partly reflected an Easter-related blip. Services inflation is expected to continue to fall as wage growth slows, supporting a view that CPI inflation will fall close to 2.0% by the start of 2027. An upside risk, however, in the near term is that higher oil/gas and food prices could trigger another bout of second-round effects on wages and inflation expectations, meaning CPI inflation stays above 3.0% for longer and causes the Bank to shift to an even slower rate cutting path. CPI is expected to peak at 3.8% in September.
- The yield on the 10-year gilt moved sideways in the second quarter of 2025. After rising from 4.4% in early April to 4.8% in mid-April following wider global bond market volatility stemming from the "Liberation Day" tariff announcement, gilt yields eased back as trade tensions began to de-escalate. By the end of April, the 10-year gilt yield had returned to 4.4%. In May, concerns about stickier inflation and shifting expectations about the path for interest rates led to another rise, with the 10-year gilt yield fluctuating between 4.6% and 4.75% for most of May. Thereafter, as trade tensions continued to ease and markets increasingly began to price in looser monetary policy, the 10-year yield edged lower, and ended Q2 at 4.50%. We expect this trend to continue over the next year. However, it is more difficult to be confident that the longer part of the curve will also see falls in yields, although that is still our central case, as that part of the curve is increasingly held by transient investors, such as foreign investors and hedge funds. Pension funds and insurance companies have more appetite in the short to medium part of the curve nowadays.
- The FTSE 100 fell sharply following the "Liberation Day" tariff announcement, dropping by more than 10% in the first week of April - from 8,634 on 1st April to 7,702 on 7th April. However, the de-escalation of the trade war coupled with strong corporate earnings led to a rapid rebound starting in late April. As a result, the FTSE 100 closed Q2 at 8,761, around 2% higher than its value at the end of Q1 and more than 7% above its level at the start of 2025.

APPENDIX B

The PWLB rate forecast below is based on the Certainty Rate (the standard rate minus 20 bps) which has been accessible to most authorities since 1st November 2012.

MUFG Corporate Markets Interest Rate View 10.02.25													
	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27	Jun-27	Sep-27	Dec-27	Mar-28
BANK RATE	4.50	4.25	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
3 month ave earnings	4.50	4.30	4.30	4.00	3.80	3.80	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
6 month ave earnings	4.40	4.20	4.20	3.90	3.70	3.70	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
12 month ave earnings	4.40	4.20	4.20	3.90	3.70	3.70	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.60
5 yr PWLB	5.00	4.90	4.80	4.70	4.60	4.50	4.40	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.20	4.10	4.00
10 yr PWLB	5.30	5.20	5.10	5.00	4.90	4.80	4.70	4.70	4.60	4.50	4.50	4.40	4.40
25 yr PWLB	5.80	5.70	5.60	5.50	5.40	5.30	5.20	5.10	5.00	5.00	4.90	4.90	4.80
50 yr PWLB	5.50	5.40	5.30	5.20	5.10	5.00	4.90	4.80	4.70	4.70	4.60	4.60	4.50

- Money market yield forecasts are based on expected average earnings by local authorities for 3 to 12 months.
- The MUFG Corporate Markets forecast for average earnings are averages i.e., rates offered by individual banks may differ significantly from these averages, reflecting their different needs for borrowing short-term cash at any one point in time.

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INVESTMENTS HELD ON 30TH JUNE 2025**Appendix C**

Counterparty	Investment Type	Investment Date	Maturity Date	Interest Rate	Principal
HSBC Business Deposit Account	Money Market call Account	n/a	n/a	1.53%	£7,000
Aberdeen Liquidity Fund	Money Market Fund	n/a	n/a	4.30%	£7,557,000
Federated Investors	Money Market Fund	n/a	n/a	4.26%	£1,363,000
Landesbank Hessen-Thueringen Girozentrale	Time Deposit	05/06/2025	05/12/2025	4.26%	£3,000,000
Landesbank Hessen-Thueringen Girozentrale	Time Deposit	14/04/2025	14/07/2025	4.32%	£2,000,000
SMBC Bank International PLC	Time Deposit	16/06/2025	16/12/2025	4.24%	£2,300,000
SMBC Bank International PLC	Time Deposit	28/05/2025	28/11/2025	4.33%	£3,000,000
Standard Chartered Bank	Sustainable Fixed Term Deposit	06/06/2025	05/06/2026	4.25%	£2,000,000
HSBC Bank PLC	31 Day Notice Account	n/a	n/a	4.10%	£2,000,000
Lloyds Treasury Call Account	Money Market call Account	n/a	n/a	4.04%	£46,200
Lloyds Bank Corporate Markets	Time Deposit	03/04/2025	03/07/2025	4.43%	£2,000,000
National Bank of Canada	Time Deposit	16/06/2025	16/12/2025	4.19%	£1,800,000
					<u>£27,073,200</u>

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APPENDIX D

PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

1. Capital Expenditure and Financing

This indicator shows the capital expenditure plans for the year and demonstrates how those plans are expected to be financed.

	2025/26 Approved Budget £	Position as at 30th June 2025 £	2025/26 Revised Estimate £
Total Capital Programme	1,422,512	385,182	7,438,038
IFRS16 lease additions	0	0	0
Financed by:			
Capital receipts	28,000	39,799	1,025,138
Capital grants and contributions	660,000	214,458	2,910,435
Capital reserves	54,500	14,622	111,204
Revenue contributions	0	0	150,000
Total Financing	742,500	268,879	4,196,777
Borrowing Requirement	680,012	116,303	3,241,261

The Revised Capital Programme includes expenditure and resources brought forward from 2024/25 totalling £5,884,382.

2. Capital Financing Requirement

The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) is a measure of the Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes. It will increase as the Council incurs capital expenditure which cannot be met from other resources, but this will be partially offset by revenue repayments for the year (the Minimum Revenue Provision).

	2025/26 Approved Budget £	Position as at 30th June 2025 £	2025/26 Revised Estimate £
CFR as at 1 st April 2025	20,225,620	17,365,910	17,365,910
Capital Expenditure in Year	1,422,512	385,182	7,438,038
Financing in Year	(742,500)	(268,879)	(4,196,777)
Minimum Revenue Provision	(1,000,318)	0	(1,000,318)
Voluntary Revenue Provision	(250,000)	0	(250,000)
CFR as at 31st March 2026	19,655,314	17,482,213	19,356,853

APPENDIX D

3. The Portfolio Position

The table below compares the Council's actual external debt, including other long-term liabilities such as finance leases, with the CFR. This indicator also acts as a limit to borrowing activity. Gross external debt should not, except in the short term, exceed the total of CFR in the preceding year plus the estimated additional CFR for 2025/26 and the next two financial years. This allows some limited flexibility for borrowing in advance of need. No difficulties are envisaged in complying with this indicator for the current or future financial years.

	2025/26 Approved Budget £	Position as at 30 th June 2025 £	2025/26 Revised Estimate £
External Debt			
Debt at 1 st April 2025	4,857,602	4,107,601	4,107,601
Finance Leases at 1 st April 2025	841,739	860,070	860,070
Estimated Borrowing 2025/26	1,250,000	0	1,250,000
Estimated Loan Repayments	(857,602)	(107,602)	(107,602)
Estimated Lease Repayments	(16,331)	0	(16,339)
Estimated Debt at 31st March 2026	6,075,408	4,860,069	6,093,730
CFR (as above)	19,655,314	17,482,213	19,356,853
Under/(Over) Borrowing	13,579,906	12,622,144	13,263,123

4. Operational Boundary for External Debt

This is the limit which external debt is not normally expected to exceed. In most cases this would be a similar figure to the CFR but may be lower or higher depending on the levels of actual debt.

	2025/26 Approved Budget £	Position as at 30 th June 2025 £	2025/26 Revised Estimate £
Borrowing	18,800,000	4,107,601	18,800,000
Other Long-Term Liabilities	1,000,000	860,070	1,000,000
Total	19,800,000	4,967,671	19,800,000

5. Authorised Limit for External Debt

A further key prudential indicator represents a control on the maximum level of borrowing. This is the limit beyond which external debt is prohibited. It reflects the level of external debt which, while not desired, could be afforded in the short term, but is not sustainable in the longer term.

	2025/26 Approved Budget £	Position as at 30 th June 2025 £	2025/26 Revised Estimate £
Borrowing	20,800,000	4,107,601	20,800,000
Other Long-Term Liabilities	1,200,000	860,070	1,200,000
Total	22,000,000	4,967,671	22,000,000

APPENDIX D

6. Treasury Management Limits on Activity

There is a further debt related treasury activity limit. The purpose of this is to manage risk and reduce the impact of any adverse movement in interest rates. However, if it is too restrictive it will impair the opportunities to reduce costs and/or improve performance. The indicator is:

- Maturity structure of borrowing. These gross limits are set to reduce the Council's exposure to large, fixed rate sums falling due for refinancing, and are required for upper and lower limits.

	2025/26 Approved Budget £	Position as at 30 th June 2025 £	2025/26 Revised Estimate £
Maturity structure of fixed interest rate borrowing:			
Under 12 months	100%	17.65%	100%
12 months to 2 years	100%	0.00%	100%
2 years to 5 years	100%	0.00%	100%
5 years to 10 years	100%	0.00%	100%
10 years and above	100%	82.35%	100%

7. Investments Greater Than 364 Days

This limit is set with regard to the Council's liquidity requirements and to reduce the need for early sale of an investment and is based on the availability of investments after each year-end.

The Council invested £1m in the Lothbury Property Trust in December 2019. On 30th June 2023 the Net Asset Value (NAV) of this investment was £0.739m. The investment is being transferred as capital distributions to UBS (UBS Triton property fund LP). The remaining Lothbury valuation as at 30/06/25 was: £57,087, with a further £4,358 capital distribution to be undertaken in August 2025.

As at 30th June 2025 the UBS Triton Property Fund LP investment value stood at £692,394.

	2025/26 Approved Budget £	Position as at 30 th June 2025 £	2025/26 Revised Estimate £
Principal sums invested > 364 days	6,000,000	1,000,000	6,000,000

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Blaby District Council

Cabinet Executive

Date of Meeting	1 September 2025
Title of Report	Kerbside Waste Collection Policy Update This is a Key Decision and is on the Forward Plan.
Lead Member	Cllr. Nigel Grundy - Neighbourhood Services & Assets
Report Author	Neighbourhood Services Group Manager
Strategic Themes	All Themes: Enabling communities and supporting vulnerable residents; Enhancing and maintaining our natural and built environment; Growing and supporting our economy; Keeping you safe and healthy; Ambitious and well managed Council, valuing our people

1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 This report seeks to update Cabinet and approval of the implementation of the updated Kerbside Waste Collection Policy. The provision of weekly food waste collections from March 2026 and the amendment to the existing no side waste policy to include cardboard from November 2025.
- 1.2 The proposals align with national statutory requirements, operational safety priorities, and the Council's environmental objectives. They are based on the outcomes of the June–August 2025 public consultation, which received 2,273 responses from across the district, including targeted engagement with vulnerable households.

2. Recommendation(s) to Cabinet Executive

- 2.1 To approve the Kerbside Waste Collection Policy.
- 2.2 To approve the proposed food waste provision.
- 2.3 To approve the amendment to the existing no side waste policy to include excess cardboard.

3. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 To bring together the existing practices in a single policy document to set out clear expectations of what residents can expect from the service.

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 3.2 | Ensure compliance with national requirements for food waste collections to improve recycling rates and reduce residual waste. |
| 3.3 | Enhance operational safety. |
| 3.4 | Consultation results demonstrate that most residents can adapt to these changes. Mitigations have been identified, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintaining assisted collection exemptions for cardboard.• Providing lockable caddies for food waste to prevent pest access.• Promoting cost-free liner options such as reusing household bags.• Clear communication on bin use and upgrade eligibility. |

4. Matters to consider

4.1 Background

From 30 March 2026, in line with national changes under the government's Simpler Recycling reforms Blaby District Council will start separate weekly food waste collections to boost recycling.

In addition to introducing food waste collections, the Council proposes amending the no side waste policy to include cardboard, meaning from November 2025 all cardboard must be placed inside recycling bins with the lid closed.

The proposals have been considered by the Scrutiny Commission and has been subject of a public consultation.

As a result, a number of mitigations were identified and this has enabled the policy to be drafted to support our residents.

- **Support for households already on assisted collections** – Crews will continue to help manage excess cardboard for existing assisted collection customers; this will include breaking it down if needed. (Benefit: makes the change workable for those who physically cannot break down cardboard themselves).
- **Bin capacity options** – Eligible households can request a larger or additional recycling bin (a one-off fee may apply depending on eligibility) to manage extra cardboard. (Benefit: avoids excess cardboard being left out and keeps streets tidy).
- **Food waste support** – Every household will receive a lockable outdoor food caddy and an indoor kitchen caddy. A starter pack of liners will be provided, with advice on free alternatives such as bread bags or cereal liners. (Benefit: prevent pest access, keep smells down, keeps caddies clean, and reduces costs for residents).
- **Christmas period collections** – Currently, both refuse and recycling bins are collected in the week before Christmas and the week after

New Year, giving extra capacity at a busy time. This arrangement is subject to review each year. (Benefit: reduces pressure on households during peak waste periods).

- **Clear and consistent communications** – Early and repeated information through bin calendar hangers, website updates, and social media will explain how to present waste correctly. (Benefit: ensures everyone understands the changes from day one, helping achieve cleaner streets and improved safety immediately).

4.2 Proposal(s)

- Approve the updated Kerbside Waste Collection Policy:
 - Brings together long-standing operational practices into one document,
 - Contains a 'Waste Collection Commitment' setting out clear service expectations of what residents can expect from the Council and what the Council expects from residents.
 - Explains services covered including bin types and capacity
 - Provides detail on special provisions such as assisted collections and medical waste collections
 - Explains what will happen if services are disrupted
- Approve the provision for weekly food waste collections from March 2026:
 - 1 x 23 litre food waste caddy will be provided per household (regardless of number of residents residing permanently at the property) AND replacements for new, damaged, or missing containers will be provided by the Council.
 - 1 x 7 litre internal food waste caddies will be provided as a one off to each household funded through new burdens capital allocation. No replacements will be provided. Internal caddies can readily be sourced from online retailers and hardware stores.
 - A starter pack of food waste caddy liners will be provided. Ongoing supply of liners will not be provided by the Council. Liners can be sourced by residents from online retailers. DEFRA have confirmed that they will not support funding consumables such as caddy liners with new burdens funding.
- Approve the amendment to the no side waste policy to include cardboard from November 2025.
- Implement agreed mitigations for vulnerable residents as identified in the Equalities Impact Assessment and in 4.1.

4.3 Relevant Consultations

District-wide consultation (27 June – 8 August 2025)

- 2,273 responses (2.2% of district population).
- Responses from almost every village in the district.
- 800 paper surveys to assisted collection households to capture vulnerable residents' views.

Key Findings:

Food waste:

- 59% likely to use the service;
- 52% support providing a starter pack of liners
- Main concerns – pests, cost of liners, space for bins.

Cardboard:

- 81% rarely/never put out excess cardboard; 7% often or always put out excess cardboard
- 73% expect no/minor impact; 14% expect significant or major impact
- Main concerns – bin space, and access to Recycling and Household Waste Sites's (RHWS).
- Top two options preferred for managing excess cardboard were to 'ensure all cardboard fits in the bin' (97%) and 'store excess until next collection' (93.5%)
- Those on the assisted collection list expressed concerns related to breaking down cardboard.
- Paper surveys to 800 assisted collection households.
- Promotion via Council newsletters (22,000 subscribers), social media (21,000 impressions), Elected Members, and Parish Councils.
- Scrutiny Commission
- Operational staff and Trade Union safety representatives
- Customer Services, Comms, and Environmental Health Teams
- Corporate Health and Safety Adviser
- Senior Leadership Team
- Portfolio Holder

4.4 Significant Issues

Equalities Impact Assessments identify potential negative impacts on disabled residents, older people, and those without private transport. Actions to mitigate these impacts are included in section 4.1. No other significant Human Rights, Legal, or Public Health Inequalities concerns have been identified.

- 4.5 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities and there are no other areas of concern.

5. Environmental impact

- 5.1 A Net Zero and Climate Impact Assessment (NZCIA) has been carried out and no adverse impacts identified:
- Diverts food waste from landfill/incineration, reducing methane emissions.
 - Reduces recycling contamination and improves material quality.
 - Minimises street litter through closed-lid/no side waste policy.

- Additional 6 x food waste collection rounds results will result in increased fleet mileage - mitigated in part using HVO fuel and optimised routes for maximum efficiency.
- Use of plastic bags to contain food waste in caddies will be removed at the treatment facility to be incinerated. This will have a negligible net environmental effect when compared to the overall saving achieved in CO2e as a result of recycling food waste.

6. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

- 6.1
- 2025/26: Minimal cost for cardboard change (primarily communications through social media and bin hanger annual collection calendar).
 - 2026/27: Start-up costs for food waste service –Starter pack of liners: £30,000.
 - Savings: no savings identified for the waste collection authority. Reduced disposal costs are expected to be achieved by the waste disposal authority through landfill diversion, and potentially increased revenue from improved recycling quality.
 - At the time of writing new burdens funding for the collection of food waste is known for *capital* and *transitional* costs but not for *revenue* costs.

	Current year	2026/27
Revenue	n/a	£30,000*

*this report refers only to the decision to provide a starter pack of liners from transitional funding. Whilst Defra have confirmed they will not support the ongoing cost of consumables it is expected there is sufficient budget within the initial *transitional* funding provided by Defra.

7. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

- 7.1 These changes will improve safety for crews, reduce street litter, and increase recycling. The main risks and actions are:

Current Risk	Actions to reduce the risks
Higher-than-expected food waste participation – 59% of residents said they are likely to use the service, above current modelling, which could stretch collection resources.	Monitor participation from launch, adjust collection rounds and staffing if required, and maintain contingency capacity.
Cardboard change not clearly understood early on – risk of residents continuing to leave side waste, delaying improvements in safety and cleanliness.	Deliver early and repeated communications using digital channels, including message on annual waste calendar bin hangers prior to launch.

8. Other options considered

- 8.1
 - Do nothing – discounted; would breach statutory requirements for food waste collections.
 - Continue collecting cardboard side waste – discounted; operational safety risks, littering, and reduced recycling quality.

9. Appendix

9.1 Appendix A – Updated Kerbside Waste Collection Policy

9.2 Appendix B – Food Waste and Cardboard Collection Consultation Results

10. Background paper(s)

10.1 [Equalities Impact Assessment – change in relation to the rule on no excess cardboard to be taken](#)

10.2 [Equalities Impact Assessment – change in relation to new mandated food waste service](#)

11. Report author's contact details

Paul Coates	Neighbourhood Services Group Manager
paul.coates@blaby.gov.uk	0116 2727615

Blaby District Council **Policy**

Blaby District Council – Kerbside Waste Collection Policy

Original Publish Date	[01/07/2017]	Review Frequency	Choose an item.	Current Version Publish Date	[00/00/00]
Approved By*	Choose an item.	Approval Date*	[00/00/00]	Version Number	[000]
Author Job Title	Neighbourhood Services Group Manager	Service Area	Neighbourhood Services	Document Register Reference	Request from iPlan Team

*Approved by and 'approval date' are in relation to the most recent version.

Review History			
Version*	Reviewed By (Job Title)	Review Completion Date	Brief Description of Changes (add 'no changes required' if applicable)
1.0	Neighbourhood Services Group Manager	11 June 2025	Equalities Impact Assessment included Consideration of environmental impacts considered

*Version number remains the same if no significant changes are made upon review.

Document Definition / Approval & Review

Defining the document type and how it is approved and reviewed

Blaby District Council policies ‘**outline a set of rules or principles that determine how the council (or services within the council) will operate**’.

Key published documents are approved for publication in line with the approval matrix illustrated in the [Key Published Document Procedure](#).

Unless agreed by exception, key published documents must be reviewed at least **every 3 years** from the date of approval.

Significant updates/changes must also seek reapproval in line with the approval matrix.

Scope

To what and to whom this policy applies

This Kerbside Waste Collections policy applies to all residents district wide.

Terms & Definitions

Definition of any acronyms, jargon, or terms that might have multiple meanings.

Term	Definition
Waste Collection Authority (WCA)	Local authority that is responsible for collecting household waste from residential premises and for providing a commercial waste collection service to businesses.
Waste Disposal Authority (WDA)	Authority that is responsible for managing the disposal and treatment of household waste, often through contracted arrangements (for Leicestershire this is Leicestershire County Council)

Policy Sections

Section 1 Introduction – The purpose and reason for the policy.

A new Kerbside collection policy has been drafted which seeks to provide clarity to the following:

- 1. Brings together long standing and existing operational practices
- 2. Sets out the new arrangements for food waste collections
- 3. Clarifies cardboard to be placed inside the bin (not outside of the bin)

Section 2 – Introduction to Our Services

Blaby District Council (BDC) has a statutory duty to collect household refuse, recycling and food waste (from April 2026) material across the Blaby District.

BDC is the waste collection authority (WCA) and responsible for providing kerbside waste collections. Responsibility for the disposal, processing, and treatment of material lies with Leicestershire County Council (LCC) as the waste disposal authority (WDA).

Our Services

Waste Type	Status	Bin Type / Colour	Frequency	More Information
Refuse	Statutory	Green bin (with black lid)	Fortnightly	Website Link
Recycling	Statutory	Green Bin (with green lid)	Fortnightly	Website Link
Garden	Subscription based service	Green Bin (with brown lid)	Fortnightly – March to November (20 collections per subscription period)	Website Link
Food	Statutory	Grey Caddy	Weekly from April 2026	Website Link

Waste Collection Commitment

What the Council expects from you:

- You will put your bins out for collection on the public pavement next to your property, so they are highly visible and accessible
- You will put the correct bins out on your scheduled collection day by 6.30am
- You will put the right material in the right bin for safety and operational reasons to ensure your waste is collected
- You will take your bins back in as soon as possible after collection has been made and on the same collection day
- You will use the bins appropriately. For example, ensuring lids are fully closed to stop waste from escaping
- You will only place waste inside the bin (i.e. no waste by the side of the bin, commonly known as “side waste”)
- You will make your own arrangements to dispose of your waste if you did not present your waste on time or on the scheduled collection day.

What can you expect from the Council:

- We will collect your waste and recycling bins from the public pavement next to your property or as otherwise agreed by us
- We will return your bins to where they were collected from
- We will pick up any spillages we cause
- We will publish our waste collection calendars online
- We will adhere to our published service standards ([website link](#))

For all of ‘Our Services’ (Table 1), the following principles will apply:

- Residents should ensure all bins are put out on the public pavement next to the edge of your property (or at another point specified by the Council), with the handles facing towards the road by 6.30am on the day of collection. Bins placed on the public pavement, shouldn't cause an obstruction to pedestrians or vehicles. Lids should be fully closed and after collection bins should be promptly returned to your property.
- Bins which are deemed to be too heavy to move safely will not be emptied. It will be the responsibility of the resident to correct this to enable further collections. Blaby District Council operates a closed bin-lid policy (see point 5 for no side waste policy)
- All wheeled bins, food waste caddies, and any other containers provided by the council for waste collection remain the property of the council. They should remain with the property even if the occupancy changes.

Materials accepted for collection

Collection	Permitted Materials
Refuse	Website Link
Recycling	Website Link
Garden	Website Link
Food	Website Link

[To find out more about what happens to your waste click here](#)

Contaminated Bins

Permanent Residents in Household	Refuse		Recycling		Garden*	Food
	Standard Capacity – Free of Charge	Maximum Capacity – One Off Charge	Standard Capacity – Free of Charge	Maximum Capacity – One Off Charge	Subscription service – Charge per bin per year	Maximum Capacity – Free of Charge
Up to 3	Medium 140 litre	Large 240 litre	Medium 140 litre	Large 240 litre	No limit on capacity	1 x 7 Litre Internal Caddy 1 x 23 Litre External Caddy
4 – 6	Large 240 litre	Large 240 litre and Medium 140 litre	Large 240 litre	Large 240 litre and Medium 140 litre	No limit on capacity	1 x 7 Litre Internal Caddy 1 x 23 Litre External Caddy
7+	Large 240 litre and Medium 140 litre	2x Large 240 litre	Large 240 litre and Medium 140 litre	2x Large 240 litre	No limit on capacity	1 x 7 Litre Internal Caddy 1 x 23 Litre External Caddy

Bins which contain non-permitted material will not be collected and a note put on the bin by the collection team explaining why.

It will be the resident's responsibility to remove this material before collections can resume. The bin will then be emptied on the next scheduled collection day.

Replacement Bins

We will replace bin(s) damaged through normal wear and tear and bins that are missing or stolen. The bin will be replaced 'like for like' with the same capacity.

Replacement bins are currently provided to residents at no cost. Charges for providing replacement bins may apply in the future; this will be subject to Cabinet approval and publicised before implementation.

The internal 7 litre food waste caddy will not be replaced by the Council, and will be the responsibility of the resident.

Assisted Collections

In cases where **all** residents in the household are not physically able to put their bins at the collection point, due to infirmity or disability, applications can be made for an Assisted Collection. This means that Council operatives will

collect and return bins and containers directly from a property, from a place jointly agreed by the resident and the Waste Team.

A strict eligibility criteria applies and supporting evidence such as GP letter may be required and this will be reviewed periodically. Requests for assisted collections can be made by contacting the Council or visiting the website.

[Find out more information or you can arrange an assisted collection by clicking on this link or visiting our webpage](#)

Communal Bins

Where bins are required on a communal basis, as is often the case for apartment blocks or houses of multiple occupancy, BDC will determine the number and size of bins to provide based on maximum occupancy of the site. This is to be obtained from the developer or managing agent of the site. As a general rule BDC will aim to provide 70 litres of household waste per person per fortnight, although the number of bins provided may be restricted by the availability of space within the communal bin store.

Communal bins that contain non permitted materials will not be emptied. The removal of these materials will be the responsibility of the residents of the site, the managing agent, or the landowner. The council may collect contaminated recycling material as household waste (refuse) and such collections would be chargeable to the landowner or managing agent.

Bulky Items

If you are looking to dispose of unwanted household items that do not fit in the bin BDC offer a chargeable collection service from domestic properties within the district.

[To arrange a bulky waste collection and find out more information click here or visit our webpage](#)

Bulky Item collections are not available for businesses.

[To arrange a trade or business waste collection and find out more information click here or visit our webpage](#)

Clinical and Sharps Waste Disposal

Collection of yellow-bagged clinical waste can only be booked through a Doctor's Surgery, Health Centre or District Nurse

[To find out more information about clinical waste collections click here or visit our webpage](#)

Sharps (needles) waste collection service is available for residents who have yellow-lidded sharps boxes to be safely disposed of.

[To find out more information or arrange a sharps waste collection click here or visit our webpage](#)

Section 4 – Exemptions and Service Disruption

Exemptions to the standard service

In rare circumstances it may be that wheeled bins are unsuitable for some properties. For these properties the following services will be provided:

- a weekly food collection in a 23-litre caddy
- a fortnightly mixed recycling collection in clear sacks, and
- a fortnightly refuse collection in purple sacks. Sacks are delivered twice a year equivalent to the standard capacity wheelie bins.

In rare or exceptional circumstances the Council reserve the right to provide a variation to the normal service: for example, safety reasons or efficiency.

Service disruption

Where there are day changes caused by public holidays the Council will notify residents either by the online collection calendar, website, and/or social media of any planned day changes - [Waste and Recycling – Blaby District Council](#). The Refuse and Recycling calendars are made available online and updated annually.

For disruption that is caused by such events as severe weather, industrial action, force majeure the Council will endeavour to maintain scheduled waste collections. However, there may be circumstances where the Council has no option other than to suspend collections. In such circumstances the Council will communicate any suspensions or alternative collection arrangements that may be possible via email, the Council's website, social media channels, and digital notifications where possible, etc.

Section 5 – New Developments and Planning

It is required that residential developers and planning officers consult with the Council's waste collection department to ensure the inclusion of appropriate waste and recycling storage and collection point facilities in all new developments.

The provisions of the existing guidance on waste collection arrangements for new developments should be applied to all planning consultations and should be adhered to fully. At time of writing the policy on waste and new developments is being developed and the existing guidance will continue in the interim.

Section 6 – Policy Updates

This policy will be reviewed annually in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder. Any operational changes to this policy will need to be approved by the Portfolio Holder. Any large-scale changes to policy affecting all of the District's residents will require Cabinet Executive approval.

Section 5 – Equalities Impact Assessment

Website link

Section 6 – Carbon Neutral / Net Zero Benefits

This policy contributes to achieving the Council's net zero objectives in the following ways:

- Diverting dry recyclable and organic waste including food waste from landfill and increasing recycling performance
- Controlling and reducing contamination in material sent for recycling
- Supporting a culture shift towards lower carbon lifestyles.

The addition of food waste in April 2026 will result in increased vehicle journeys from expanded fleet and by food waste be collected in plastic liners; the environmental impacts of new vehicles are mitigated in part by using Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) fuel, optimised route modelling; and are likely to outweighed by the tonnage of organic food waste diverted from landfill or incineration.

The Council will continue to monitor recycling and waste data annually and seek to identify opportunities to further reduce the carbon footprint of waste services.

Food Waste and Cardboard Collection Consultation Results Report – August 2025

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1. Executive Summary

1.1. Introduction

From 31 March 2026, all Councils in England must introduce a separate weekly food waste collection service. This means that food waste will be collected separately in a designated food waste caddy, in addition to existing recycling and rubbish collections.

Additionally, from 1 November 2025, excess cardboard must be placed inside the recycling bin with the lid closed. Cardboard left beside bins will no longer be collected.

To understand public views on these changes, Blaby District Council ran a 6-week consultation from 27 June to 8 August 2025.

1.2. Survey responses

The consultation generated strong public engagement with 2,423 responses received from across Blaby District. This represents 2.3% of the district's estimated population of 103,300 (2025).

Responses were received from nearly every village in the district, ensuring comprehensive geographical representation across all areas. It successfully captured input from various household types, multiple age demographics and different categories of service users.

The substantial response rate demonstrates strong public engagement and offers meaningful indicators of resident sentiment.

1.2.1. Demographic highlights

- Responses received from every village except Foston
- Most common household size: **2 people (42.5%** of respondents)
- Among households receiving help with their bin collection, **68.8%** live on their own
- **53.9%** of respondents were **female**
- **54.6%** of respondents were **aged 55 or over**

1.3. Food waste

- **59.6%** of respondents are **very or fairly likely to use** the new service
- **51.9%** of respondents **support** providing a starter pack of liners
- **19.1%** of respondents **currently compost** at home
- **55.4%** of comments **opposed** the introduction of the service
- The **top three concerns** of those who left comments were:
 - Pests – residents worried about attracting vermin
 - Cost of liners
 - Lack of storage space for additional bins

1.4. Cardboard collection changes

- **79.0%** of respondents **rarely or never put out excess cardboard**
- **7.1%** of respondents **often or always put out excess cardboard**
- **71.5%** of respondents expect **no or minor impact** from the changes

- **13.3%** of respondents expect **major or significant impact** from the changes
- **49.6%** of respondents would be **eligible for an upgrade to their bin capacity** (42.9% of respondents in households with 1 to 3 occupants, and 76.2% of those in households with 4 to 6 occupants)
- The two options respondents are most likely to use for disposing of excess cardboard (ranked in the top 3 by **over 90%** of respondents) were:
 - Fit all cardboard in the bin
 - Store excess cardboard until next collection
- The **top concerns** of those who felt it would have a significant or major impact were lack of bin space and needing more trips to the tip
- Respondents who already receive help with their bin collection were more likely to be concerned about breaking down cardboard than those who do not receive help.
- Some of the 13.3% who anticipated a significant or major impact were also concerned about insufficient space in their bin. Of those, 59.5% (99 people) would be eligible for a bin capacity upgrade – highlighting the potential value of targeted communication to address and alleviate these concerns.

2. Consultation methodology and number of responses

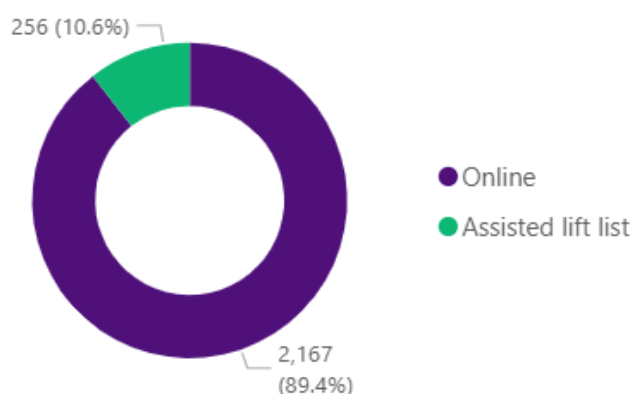
The survey was mainly hosted online, although paper copies were posted to 800 randomly-selected households currently receiving help with their bin collections (the 'assisted lift list'), to ensure we gathered responses from more vulnerable customers.

It was promoted to:

- Residents of Blaby District
- Elected Members
- Town and Parish Councils

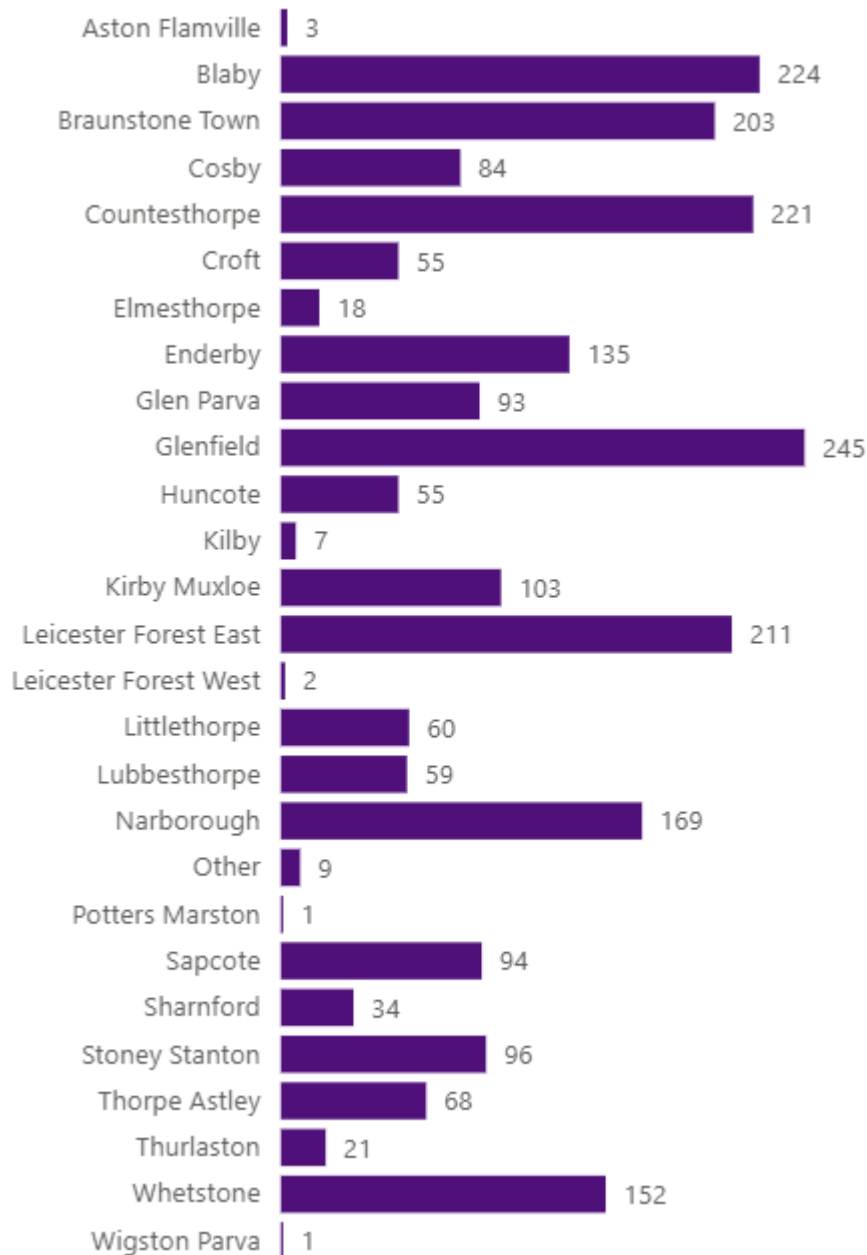
It was circulated to over 22,000 individuals subscribed to our eNewsletters under the 'general' category and the 'refuse and recycling' category. In addition, there were over 21,000 unique impressions on social media.

In total, 2,423 total responses were received during the consultation, including 256 paper copy returns.



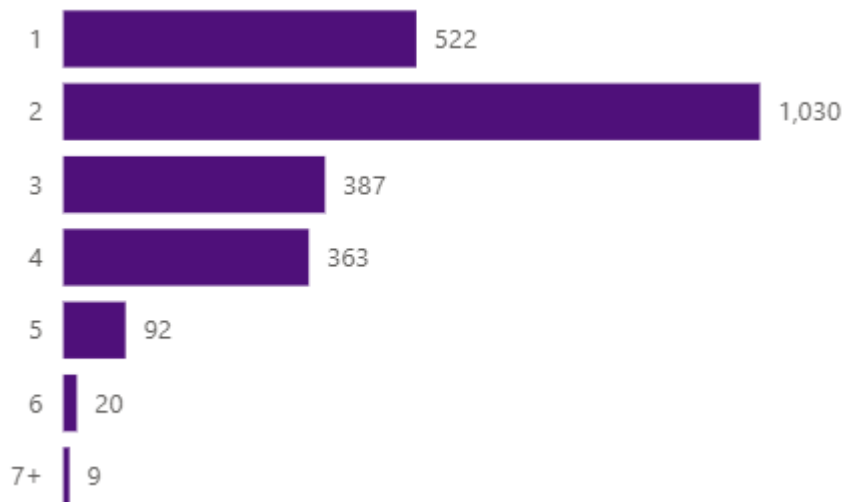
2.1. Villages

We received responses from every village in the district apart from Foston:

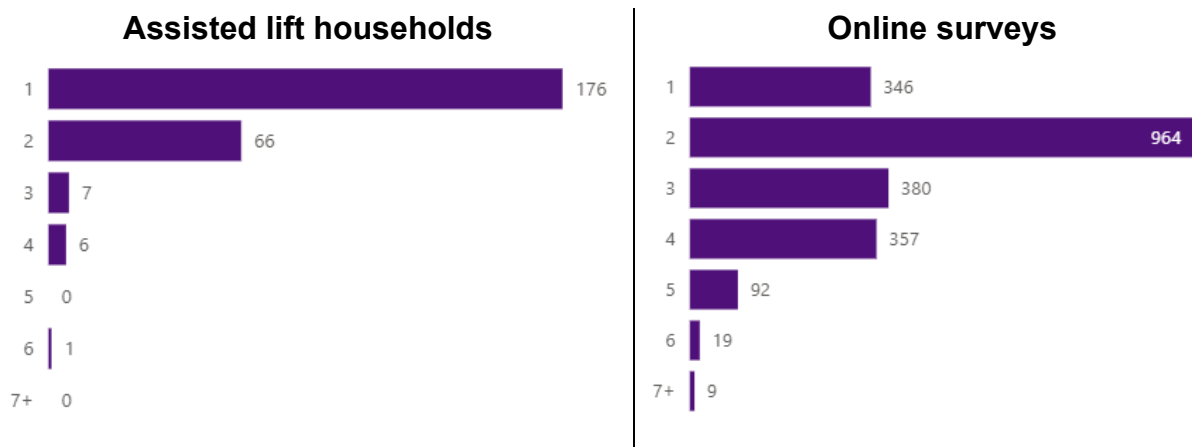


2.2. Household size

The most common household size was 2 residents (42.5% of respondents), although there were several hundred responses from households containing 1, 3, or 4 residents. Households with 5 or more residents made up less than 6% of the responses.



However, this proportion was dramatically different for households on the assisted lift list, with the majority being in households with only one resident. The table below shows the household sizes for assisted lift properties on the left, and household sizes for surveys completed online on the right:

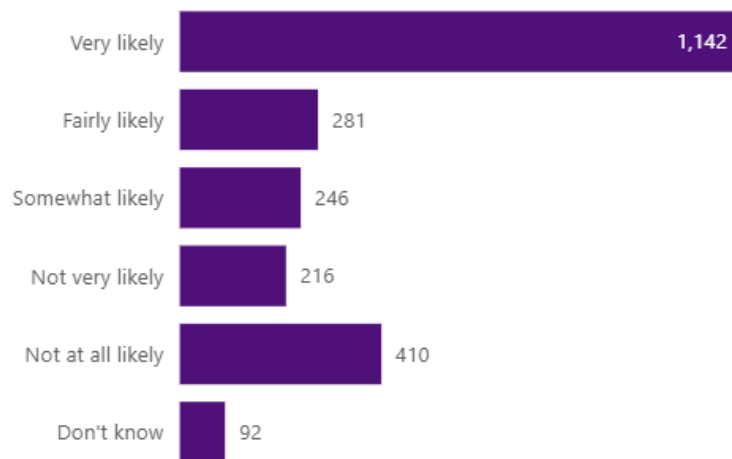


68.8% of respondents in assisted lift households live on their own, compared to just 16.0% of respondents who completed the survey online.

3. Respondents' views on food waste

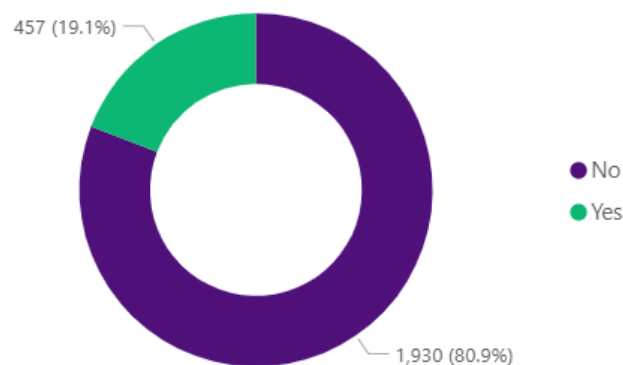
3.1. How likely are you to use the food waste collection service?

The majority of respondents (59.6%) said that they were either very likely or fairly likely to use the food waste collection service, although 26.2% said that they were not very likely or not at all likely to use it:



3.2. Do you currently compost your food waste at home?

The majority of respondents do not currently compost their food at home, with only 19.1% saying that they do:

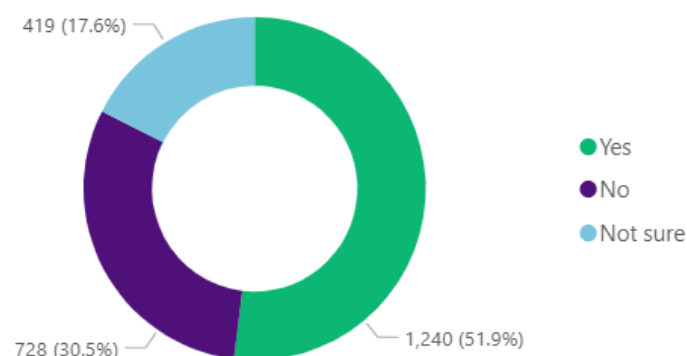


Whether a respondent already composts their food waste does not seem to have a strong influence on whether they will use the new food waste collection service or not.

3.3. Do you think it's a good idea for us to provide a starter pack of caddy liners?

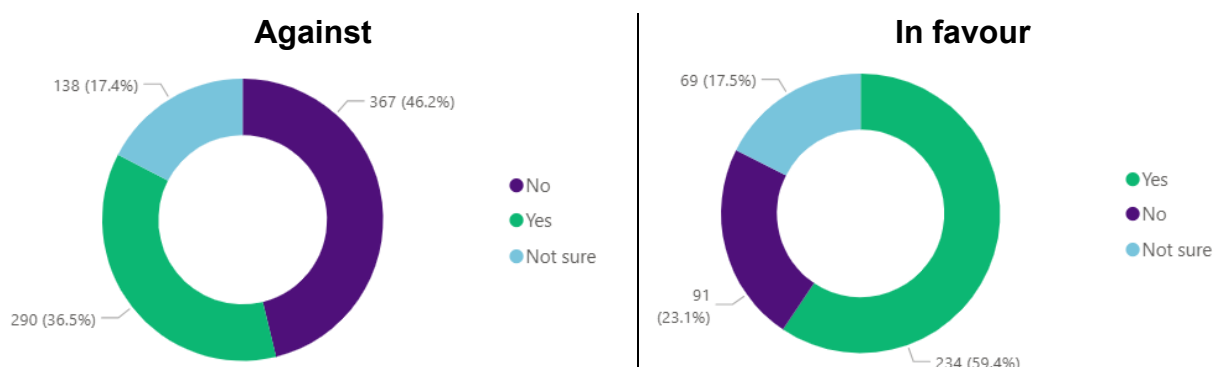
The survey asked whether it would be a good idea to provide a starter pack of caddy liners when the food waste collection service starts, despite the overall cost to the council of £30,000.

Overall, 51.9% of respondents said they thought this was a good idea, although 30.5% were against it:



3.3.1. Difference between those in favour of and against the service

Supporters of the food waste collection service (see the analysis of comments below) are significantly more likely to think a starter pack of liners is a good idea. However, even among those who oppose the service, 36.5% still believe liners should be provided:



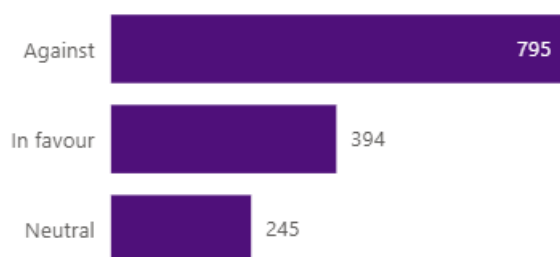
This suggests an opportunity: by offering liners, we may be able to positively influence perceptions and potentially convert some of those not in favour of the service into users of the service.

3.4. Comments on the introduction of the food waste service

Respondents had the opportunity to let us know if they had any comments about the introduction of the food waste collection service. In total 1,434 respondents (59.2%) chose to leave a comment.

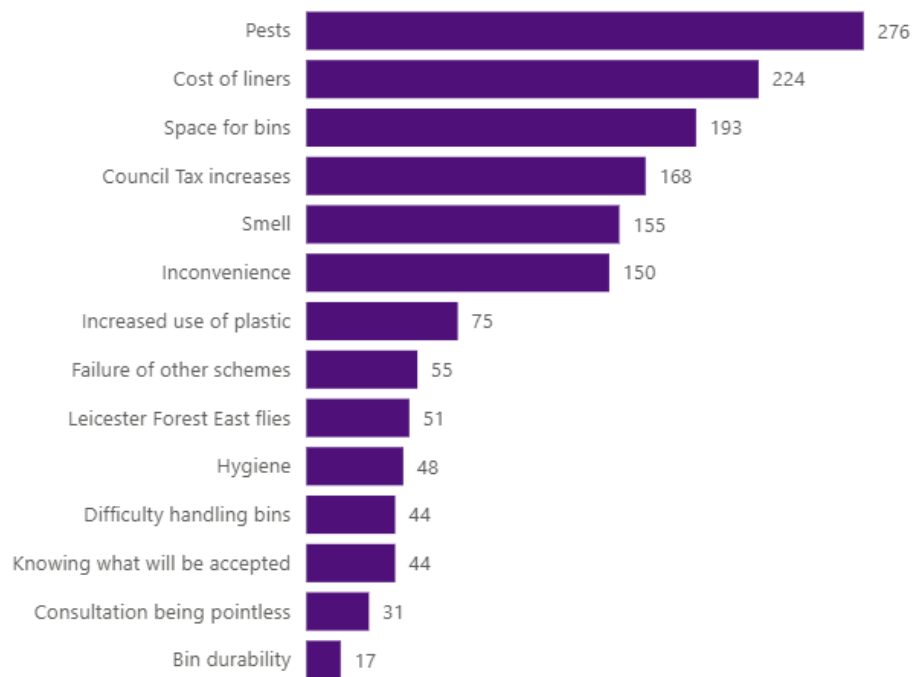
3.4.1. Attitude towards the food waste collection service

Of those respondents who chose to leave a comment, 55.4% were against the introduction of the food service, with 27.5% being in favour of it:



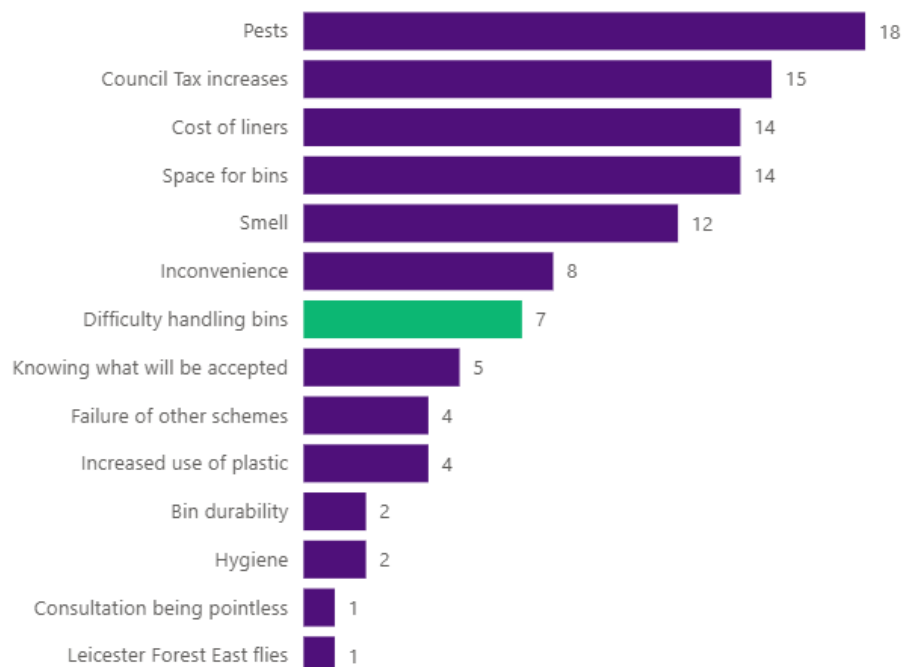
3.4.2. Concerns about the food waste collection service

556 comments out of the 1,434 did not express any specific concern. 878 comments did express at least one concern with the new service, shown in the chart below. Note that because one comment could express more than one concern the total adds up to more than 878.



3.4.3. Concerns of vulnerable respondents

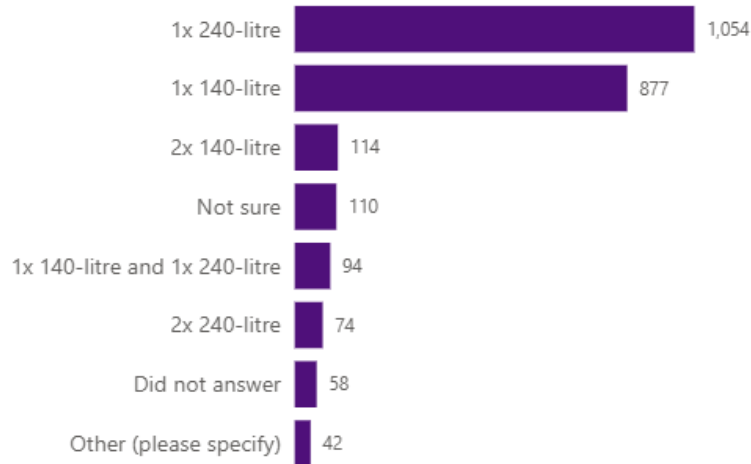
117 respondents on the assisted lift list who returned a paper survey left a comment. 66 of those expressed at least one specific concern, shown in the chart below. The top 5 concerns were the same, although in a slightly different order, with Council Tax increases being slightly more common. Difficulty handling the bins was a more common concern for those on the assisted lift list, although the overall numbers were fairly low:



4. Respondents' views on cardboard collection changes

4.1. Which recycling bins do you currently have at your property?

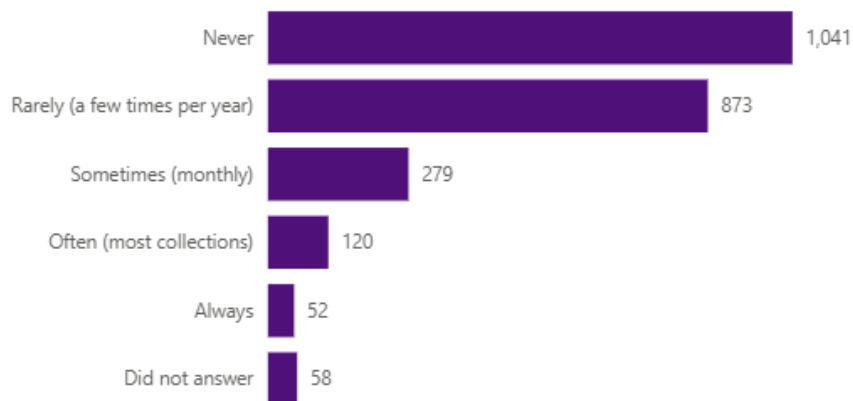
The majority of respondents (43.5%) have one 240-litre bin, although one 140-litre bin is also very common (36.2%):



Responses of 'Other' included people who weren't sure, with a few who were on communal bins if they lived in a flat, for example.

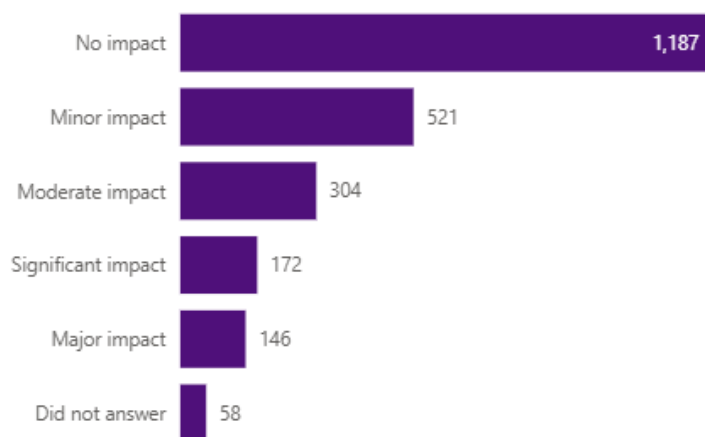
4.2. How often do you put excess cardboard out as side waste?

Most respondents (79.0%) never or rarely put out excess cardboard. A minority of respondents (7.1%) often or always put excess cardboard out as side waste:



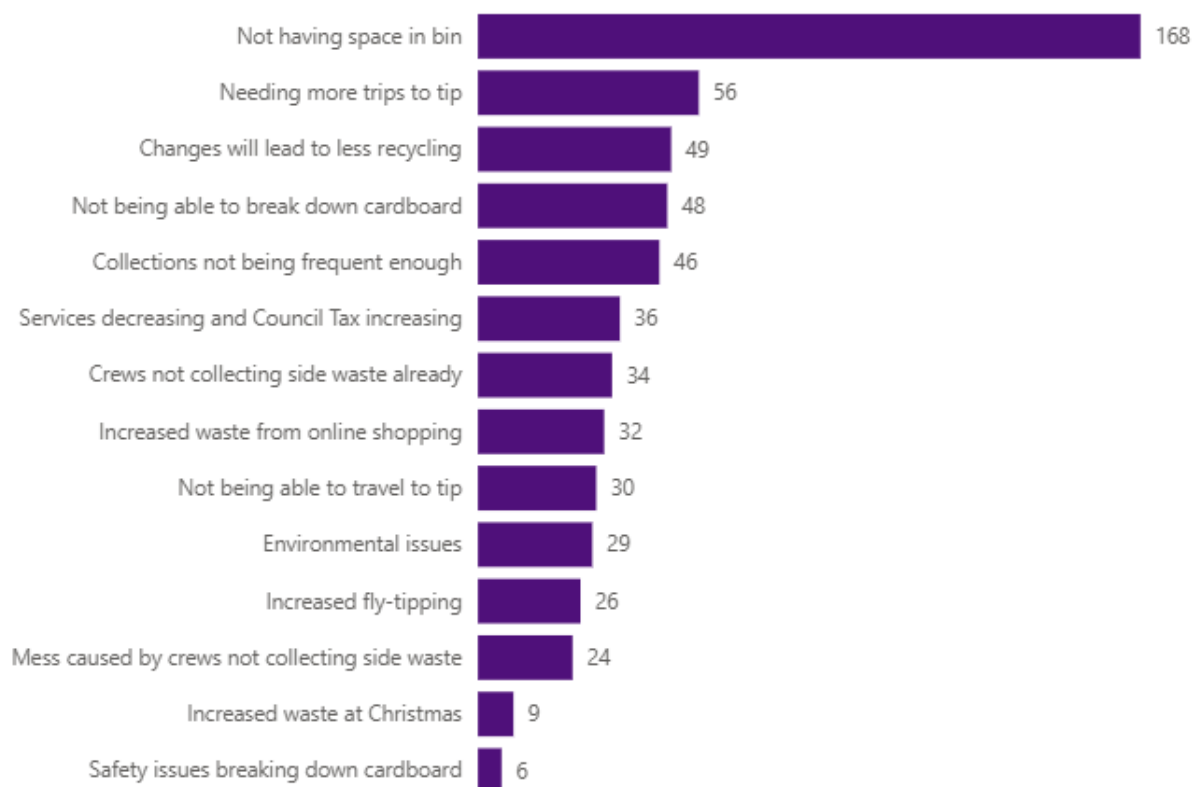
4.3. How will the change affect your household?

The majority of respondents (71.5%) think the changes to cardboard collection will have no impact or a minor impact on their household. A minority of respondents think it will have a significant or major impact (13.3%):



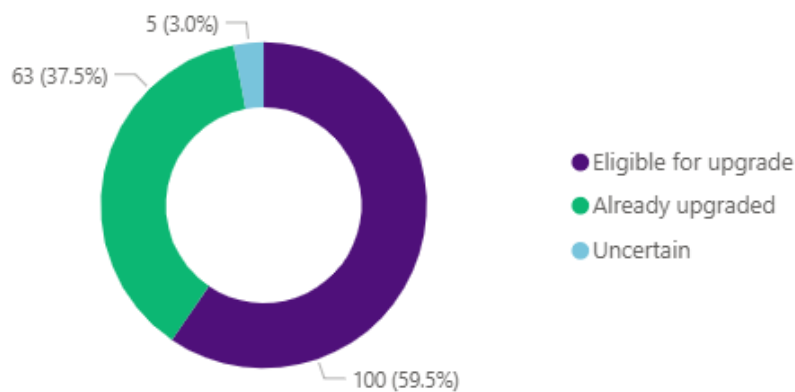
4.4. If you selected significant or major, please explain why

Of the 318 respondents who said the change would have a significant or major impact, 296 left a comment about the impact the change would have on them. 285 of those comments expressed one or more concerns that the respondent had about the change, shown below. Note that because a comment could express more than one concern the total adds up to more than 285.



4.4.1. Top concern: insufficient bin space

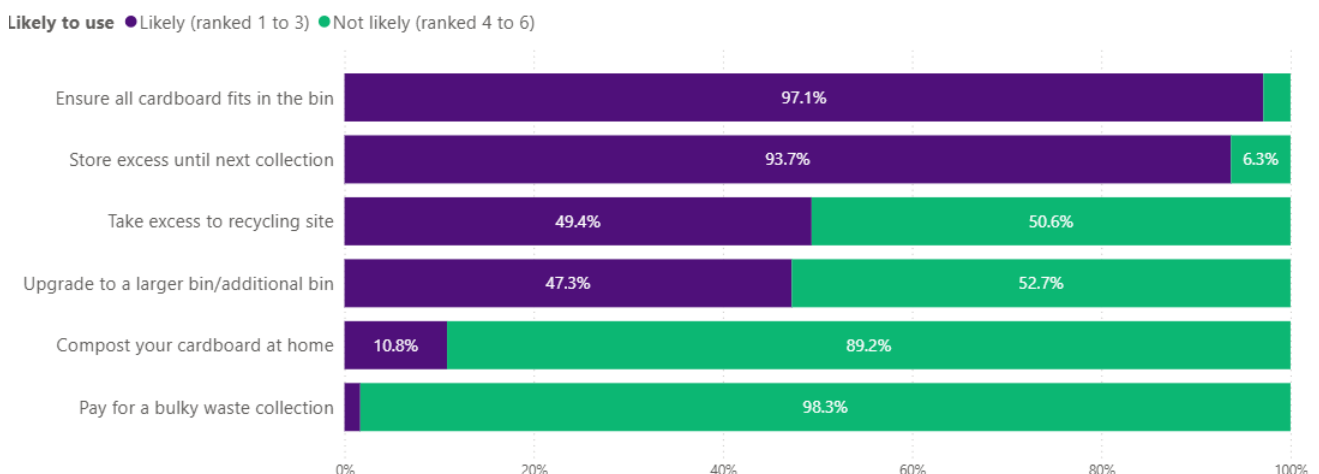
The most common concern from this group of respondents was that they would not have enough space in their bin, expressed by 168 respondents (58.9% of those expressing at least one concern). However, 59.5% of that group would be eligible for an upgrade to their bin capacity:



4.5. Which alternative options for excess cardboard are you most likely to use?

The survey gave respondents 6 alternatives to leaving excess cardboard at the side of their bin and asked them to rank them in order of which they were most likely to use.

2,333 respondents gave an answer. This chart shows the proportion of those respondents who ranked each option as one they would be likely to use (ranked 1 to 3) or not likely to use (ranked 4 to 6):

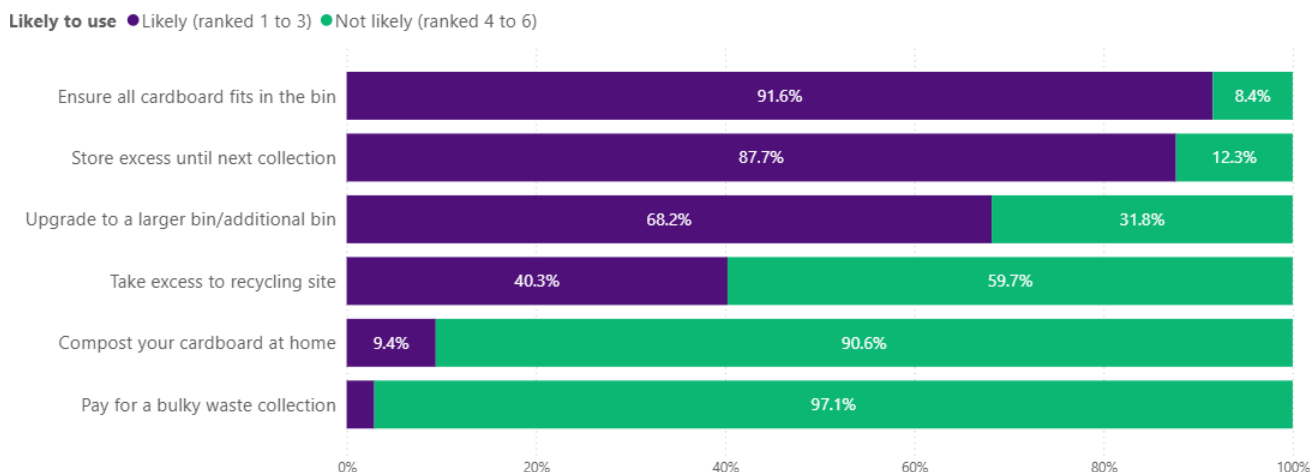


4.5.1. Top two preferred options

97.1% of respondents (2,266) were likely to ensure that all cardboard fits in the bin, and 93.7% (2,186) were likely to store excess cardboard until next collection.

4.5.2. Most likely alternative options if significant or major impact

Of the 318 respondents who said that the change would have a significant or major impact, 308 provided rankings for which alternative options they would use. For that group, the likelihood that they would use each alternative option was different from the overall survey results:



This group of respondents still chose the same top two options, but each was slightly less likely to be used. However, for this group the third and fourth options were reversed, with a much higher proportion (68.2%, compared to 47.3% on the whole survey) being likely to upgrade to a larger or additional bin (although not all will be eligible to do so), and only 40.3% (compared to 49.4% on the whole survey) being likely to take excess to a recycling site.

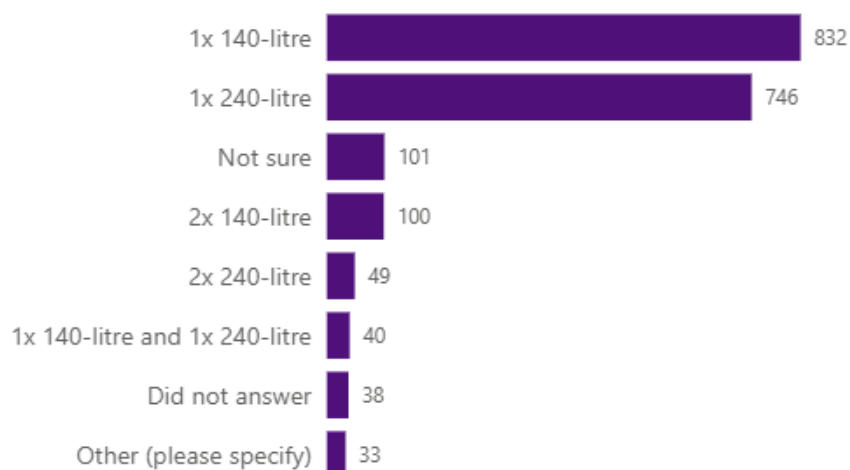
4.6. Bin upgrades

Whether a household can have larger or additional bins depends on household size:

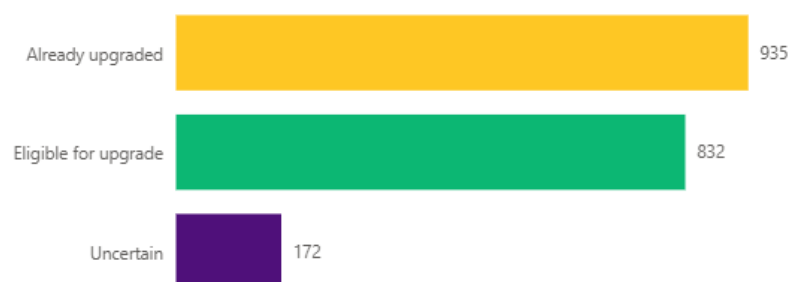
- **1 to 3 people:** Standard allocation is one 140-litre bin. Households can pay to upgrade to one 240-litre bin or two 140-litre bins
- **4 to 6 people:** Standard allocation is one 240-litre bin. Households can pay to add an extra 140-litre bin
- **7 or more people:** Standard allocation is one 140-litre bin and one 240-litre bin. Households can pay to upgrade to two 240-litre bins

4.6.1. Households with 1 to 3 occupants

Households of 1 to 3 people are almost as likely to have a 240-litre bin (42.9%) as a 140-litre bin (38.5%), and a few already have even more capacity:



Therefore 42.9% of households with 1 to 3 occupants are eligible to upgrade their bin capacity, and 48.2% have already upgraded to the maximum allowed capacity:



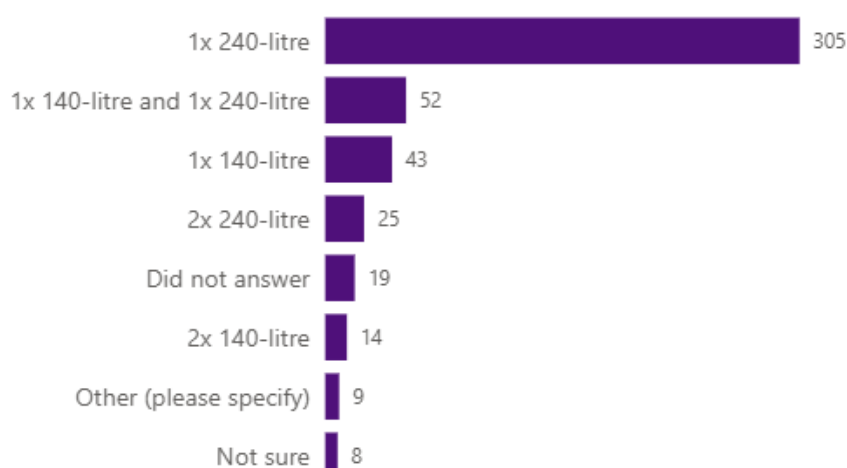
Respondents were asked what impact the changes to cardboard collection would have on their household. For those households with 1 to 3 occupants whose bin capacity has already been upgraded to the maximum allowed:

- 77.8% (727) said the changes would have a minor impact or no impact
- 10.7% (100) said the changes would have a significant or major impact

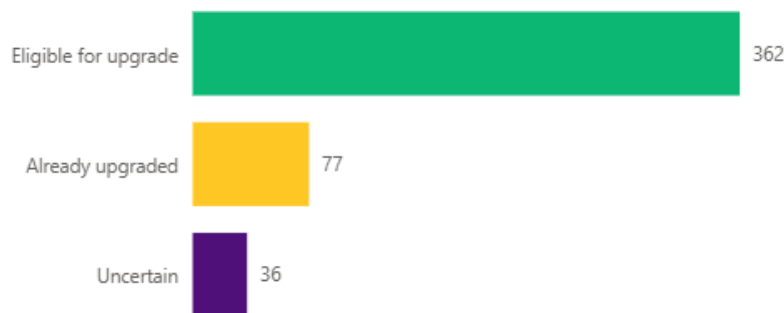
In the survey as a whole, 13.9% of respondents thought the changes would have a major or significant impact, suggesting that households with 1 to 3 occupants which have already upgraded their bin capacity will be less affected by the change.

4.6.2. Households with 4 to 6 occupants

Respondents in households of 4 to 6 people are far more likely to have one 240-litre bin (64.2%) than any other combination, and some only have one or two 140-litre bins:



Therefore 76.2% of households with 4 to 6 occupants would be eligible to upgrade their bin capacity:



For those households with 4 to 6 occupants whose bin capacity has already been upgraded to the maximum allowed:

- 58.4% (45) said the changes would have a minor impact or no impact
- 31.2% (24) said the changes would have a significant or major impact

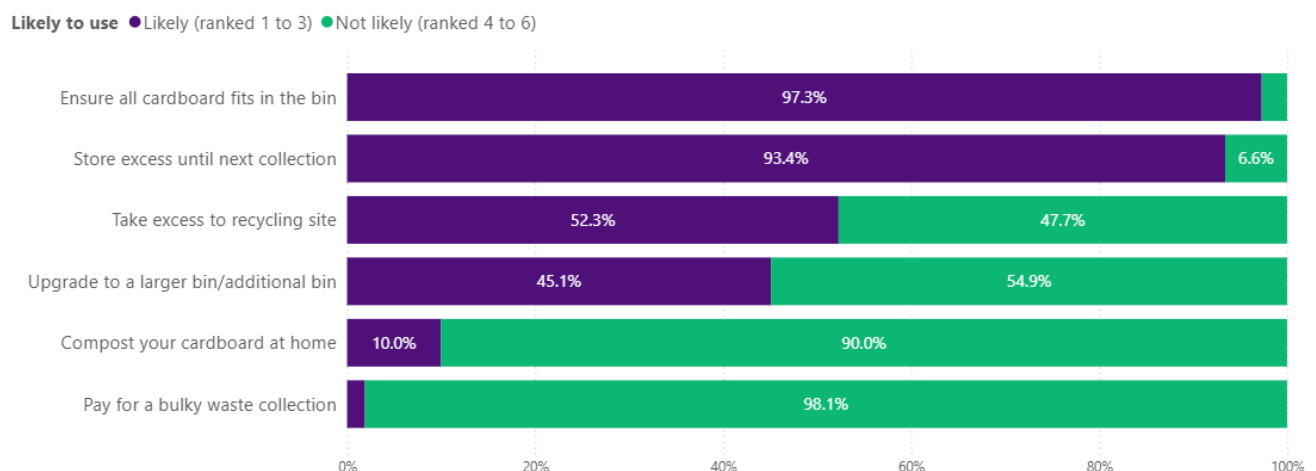
In the survey as a whole, 13.9% thought the changes would have a major or significant impact, suggesting that households with 4 to 6 occupants which have already upgraded their bin capacity will be more affected by the change.

4.6.3. Households with 7+ occupants

There were only 9 responses from people living in a household of 7 or more people, with the majority having one 240-litre bin, but all having less than the maximum capacity of two 240-litre bins. With so few responses it is difficult to draw many conclusions about how affected large households would be.

4.6.4. Other options for households not eligible for a bin capacity upgrade

This chart shows how respondents who are **not** eligible for a bin capacity upgrade answered the question asking them to rank alternative options for dealing with their excess cardboard:



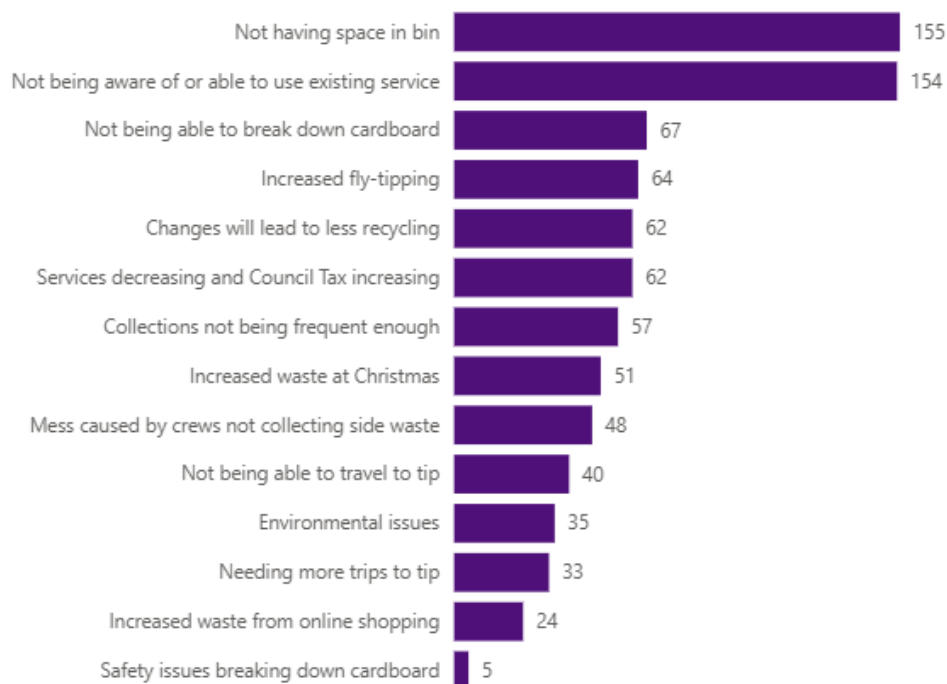
The ranking of the options was very similar to the responses on the whole survey, although it's notable that even though these respondents were not eligible for an upgrade, 45.1% (452 respondents) said that they would be likely to upgrade their bin capacity.

4.7. Comments about the cardboard collection change

Respondents were asked for comments about the cardboard collection changes. 850 respondents chose to leave a comment (35.1% of the total responses).

4.7.1. Concerns about the cardboard collection change

558 comments expressed at least one concern with the cardboard collection changes, shown below. Note that because one comment could express more than one concern the total adds up to more than the total number of comments.



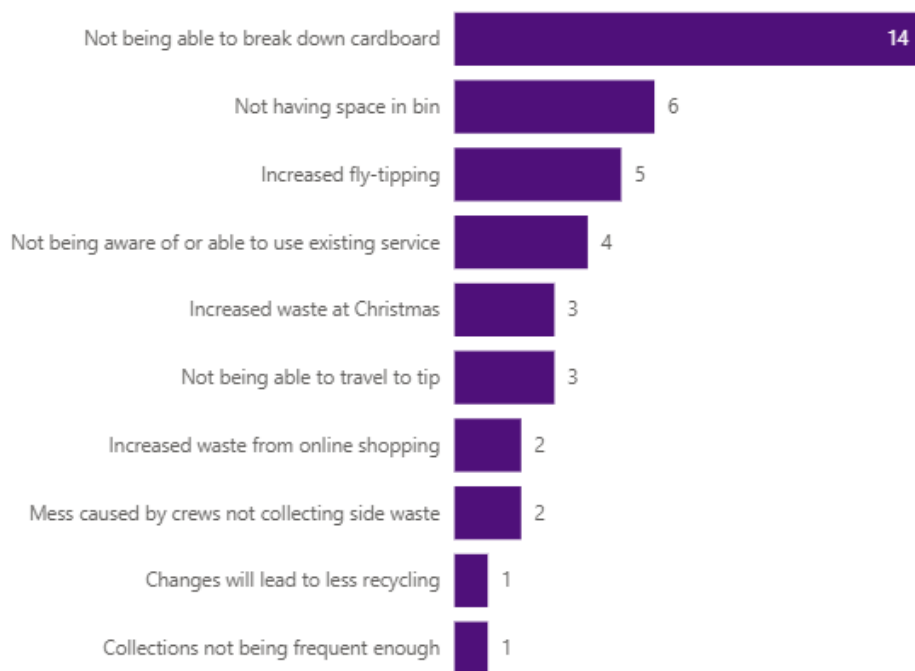
The two most common concerns (both with 27.8% of comments expressing at least one concern) were:

- Not having enough space in their bin for the excess cardboard
- Not being aware of the existing option to leave cardboard side waste, or having side waste not collected in the past

4.7.2. Concerns of vulnerable respondents

There were 49 comments left by respondents on the assisted lift list who returned a paper survey, and 29 of those indicated at least one concern about the changes.

With so few comments it's difficult to draw too many conclusions, but this chart shows their most commonly expressed concerns. The top concern was not being able to break down cardboard:

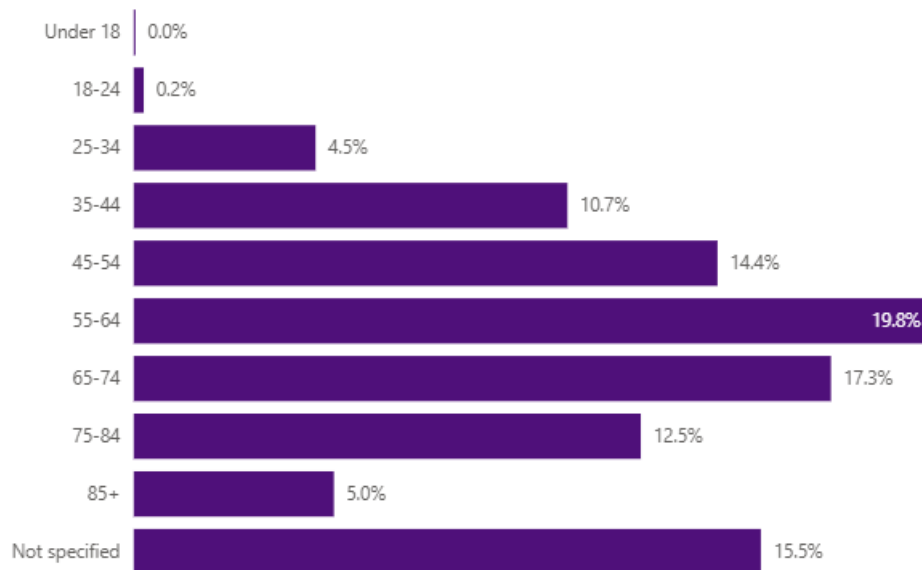


Appendix 1: Demographic breakdown

A number of demographic questions were asked at the end of the survey to ensure there was a wide range of views from across different characteristics. All the questions were optional and therefore will not add up to the total number of responses received.

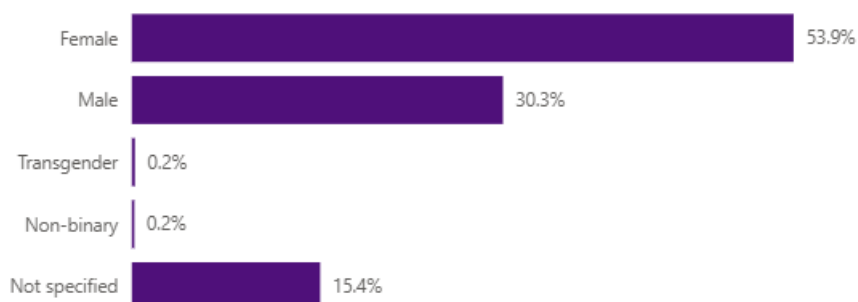
Age

Of those who did provide their age range, the responses were heavily skewed towards older people, with 54.6% of responses coming from people aged 55 or over:



Gender

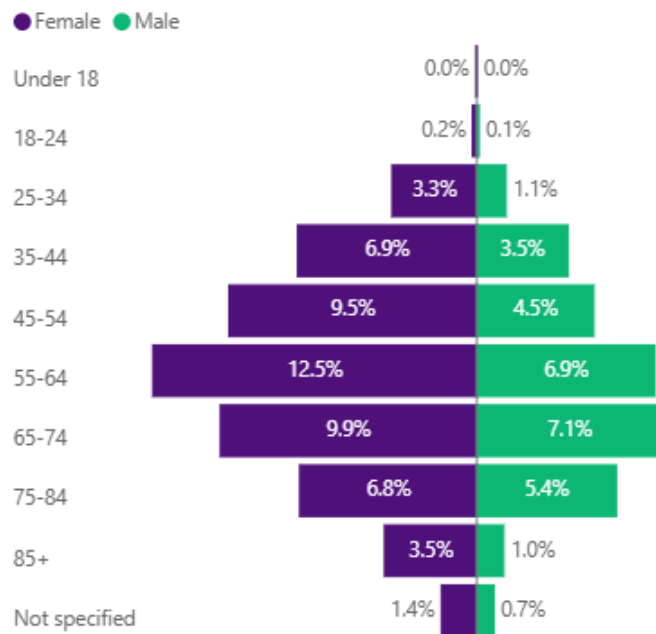
Of those who provided their gender, the majority of responses were from people identifying as female (1,307 respondents) or male (733 respondents). There were a few from people identifying as transgender (6), with ages ranging from 25 to 85+, and from people identifying as non-binary (5), with ages ranging from 35 to 54.



Age and gender distribution

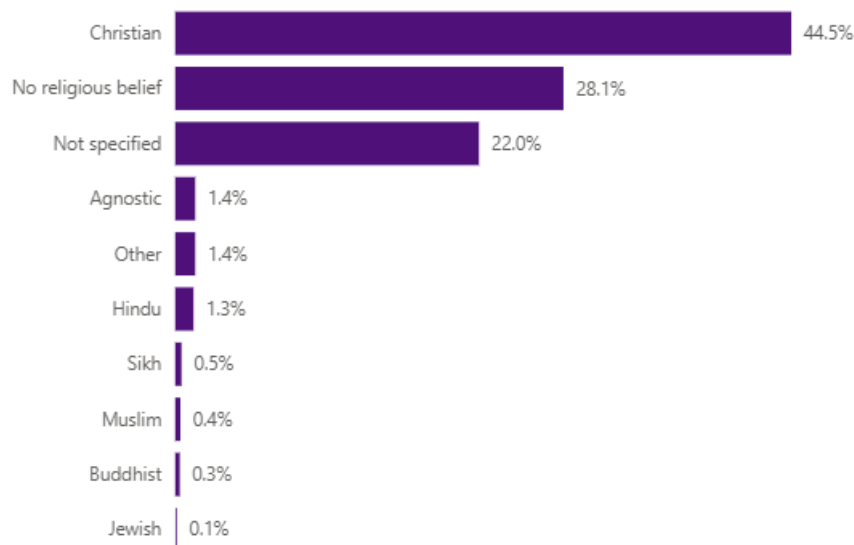
Those identifying as female tended to be slightly younger than those identifying as male: 61.5% of females were aged 64 and under, but only 54.3% of males were aged 64 and under.

This chart shows the distribution of age ranges across the two most common gender options:



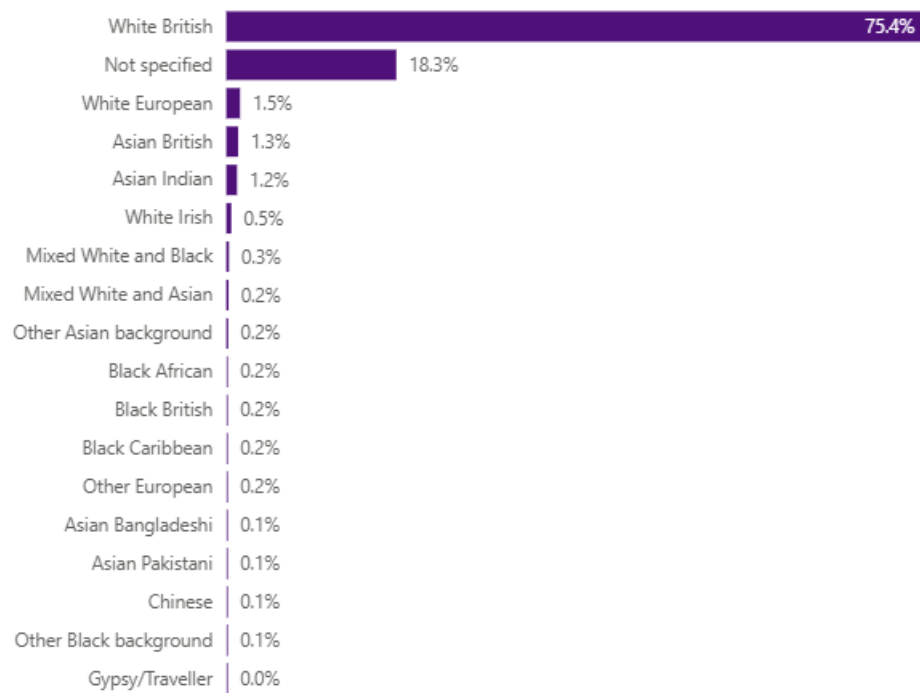
Religion

A higher proportion of respondents chose not to provide their religion. Christians and those with no religious belief were by far the largest groups:



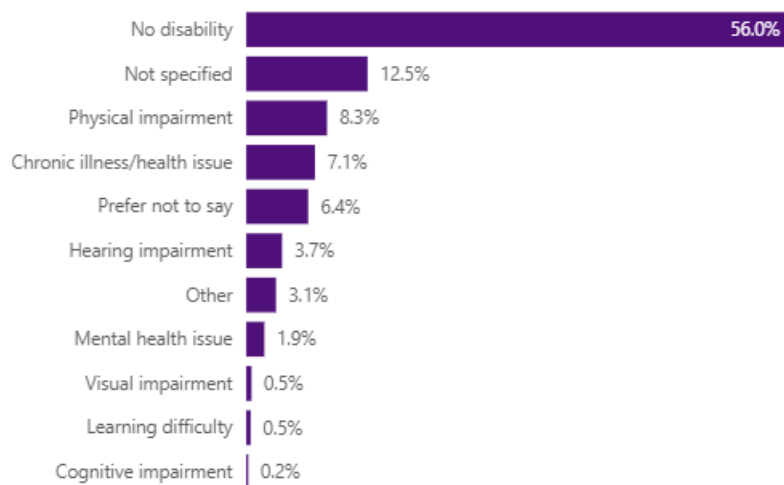
Ethnicity

White British was by far the largest ethnic group represented by those who chose to answer this question. According to the [Office for National Statistics](#), the percentage of White (English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British) in Blaby District at the 2021 census was 82.3%.



Disability

Most people who answered this question considered that they had no disability. Of those who were disabled, chronic illness and physical impairment were the most common:



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