

Blaby District Council
Scrutiny Commission

Date of Meeting 11 June 2025
Title of Report **Kerbside Waste Collection Policy**
Report Author Neighbourhood Services Group Manager

1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 This report presents the new Kerbside Waste Collection policy which brings together the long standing existing waste collection practices and sets out the new arrangements for food waste collections.
- 1.2 The report also explains an operational change to the service vis-à-vis cardboard collection in that all cardboard must be contained within the recycling bin.

2. Recommendation(s) to Scrutiny Commission

- 2.1 For Scrutiny Commission to be fully informed of current waste collection practice; to note the contents of the report and endorse the policy.

3. Reason for Decision(s) Recommended

- 3.1 To bring together the existing practices in a single policy document
- 3.2 To set out clear expectations of what residents can expect from the service
- 3.3 To set out the new arrangements for food waste collections from 2026

4. Matters to consider

4.1 Background

The document provides a single policy document with appropriate links to capture the key activities of the entire waste service offer providing clarity on what residents can expect from the kerbside waste collection service and how it operates.

In addition to capturing long standing current practice the policy sets out the household provision for food waste collection following the simpler recycling reforms which reflects the current funding position and guidance from central government.

At the current time funding has been received for capital and transitional funding but the decision on revenue funding is still pending.

In January 2023 a loader from a nearby authority suffered a fatal injury after becoming entangled in the bin lifting mechanism at the rear of the vehicle prompting a thorough review of the practice of collecting cardboard presented next to the bin resulting in the proposal to insist on cardboard being presented wholly within the recycling bin.

4.2 Proposal(s)

For scrutiny to be fully informed of current waste collection practice; and to note the contents of the report and endorse the policy.

Key points to note from the policy:

- 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 new they will not support funding consumables such as caddy liners with new burdens funding.
- Change to the existing practice of permitting cardboard to be presented at the side of the recycling bin is being implemented as a non-negotiable control measure to eliminate the risk of loaders becoming entangled in bin lifting machinery — a risk highlighted by a fatal incident involving a waste operative. All cardboard must now be fully contained within the recycling bin to ensure safe, consistent handling.

4.3 Relevant Consultations

- Customer Services
- Environmental Services
- Communications
- Corporate Health and Safety Adviser
- Trade Unions
- Finance
- SLT
- Portfolio Holder
- Cabinet Executive

4.4 Significant Issues

All impacts are addressed within the Kerbside Waste Collection Policy attached at Appendix A.

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 areas of concern.

Please note that the EDI impact assessment is yet to be completed and any issues highlighted through this process will be given full consideration.

5. Environmental impact

5.1 No significant impacts

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

6.1 This report does not focus on costs of the service.

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

7.1

Current Risk	Actions to reduce the risks
That food waste service is not delivered	Solid governance at programme board with dedicated project manager and clearly defined workstreams contributing to key milestones and objectives with frequent review through Portfolio Holder meetings, project working group, project board, and programme board meetings.
Risk of fatal injury to loaders using bin hoists	Review of risk assessment to eliminate handling and loading of cardboard manually.

8. Other options considered

8.1 Food waste – this is a statutory legal function from April 2026. Cardboard side waste – to continue to take side cardboard waste was considered and discounted due to crew safety concerns, blight on amenity, and poor quality recycling.

10. Background paper(s)

10.1 Appendix A – Kerbside Waste Collections Policy

11. Report author's contact details

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