

Cardboard Collection Policy Change - Equality Impact Assessment

Section	Details
1. Name of Service/Policy	Change to cardboard collection policy – 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.
2. Officer Completing Form	Paul Coates
3. New or Revised?	Revised
4. Potential Effect on Protected Characteristics?	Yes
5. Aim of Proposal	Improve safety for collection crews, reduce street litter, and improve recycling quality by ensuring cardboard is contained within bins.
6. Affected Groups & Intended Outcome	All residents of Blaby District using kerbside recycling. Potential impacts on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disabled residents - Older people - Residents without transport Assisted collection users will receive support if needed.
7. Protected Characteristics Likely to Be Negatively Impacted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disability - Age - Socio-economic factors
8. Risk of Widening Gap?	Potentially, if no mitigations are in place. Mobility and transport limitations may create barriers.
9. Existing Data/Monitoring	<p>Consultation (June–Aug 2025): 2,273 responses</p> <p>13.9% expect significant impact</p> <p>Concerns highest among assisted collection users and disabled respondents</p> <p>42% (1–3 person households) and 77% (4–6 person households) eligible for bin upgrade</p>
10. Impact on Deprivation/Health Inequalities	Potential impact on low-income households lacking space or vehicles. May reduce recycling participation.
11. Mitigations	Support for households already on assisted collections – Crews will

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	<p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p>

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12. Human Rights Implications	No direct breach identified.
13. Monitoring & Review Process	Annual review of complaints, contamination rates, and recycling volumes. Monitor requests for assistance or bin upgrades.
14. Monitoring Barriers & Impacts	Track service requests from assisted collection list, complaints related to cardboard, and requests for additional capacity.
15. Reviewed and addressed any concerns	Yes – discussion held between EDI Lead and Group Manager. Mitigations in place are adequate and address any potential gaps that were identified.