

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.

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| 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