

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Monday, 10 February 2025 at 10.00 am
Council Chamber - South Kesteven House, St. Peter's Hill,
Grantham. NG31 6PZ

Committee Members: Councillor Ian Selby, Vice-Chairman of the Council (Chairman)
Councillor Emma Baker (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing, Councillor Steven Cunnington, Councillor Barry Dobson, Councillor Gloria Johnson, Councillor Paul Martin, Councillor Mark Whittington and Councillor Paul Wood

Agenda

This meeting can be watched as a live stream, or at a later date, [via the SKDC Public-I Channel](#)

- 1. Public Speaking**
The Council welcomes engagement from members of the public. To speak at this meeting please register no later than 24 hours prior to the date of the meeting via democracy@southkesteven.gov.uk
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Disclosure of Interests**
Members are asked to disclose any interests in matters for consideration at the meeting.
- 4. Minutes of the meeting held 10 December 2024** (Pages 3 - 14)
- 5. Updates from the previous meeting** (Page 15)
To consider actions agreed at the meeting held on 10 December 2024.

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Karen Bradford, Chief Executive
www.southkesteven.gov.uk

6. **Announcements or updates from the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Members or the Head of Paid Service**
7. **Energy Performance Certificates (EPC's) Presentation**
8. **Flooding Q&A**
9. **Weekly Food Waste Collections Update** (Pages 17 - 23)
To provide an update on the introduction of weekly kerbside food waste collections, as mandated by the Environment Act 2021.
10. **Communal Bins Update** (Pages 25 - 29)
This report provides the Committee with an update on the work the Waste Team are undertaking to address the issues around communal bin stores.
11. **Update on Climate Reserve Fund** (To Follow)
To provide an update to the Committee on allocation of the Council's Climate Reserve Fund for agreed projects.
12. **Work Programme 2024 - 2025** (Pages 31 - 32)
To consider the Committee's Work Programme for 2024 – 2025.
13. **Any other business which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances, decides is urgent**

Meeting of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 10 December 2024, 10.00
am



SOUTH
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Committee Members present

Councillor Ian Selby (Chairman)
Councillor Emma Baker (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing
Councillor Gloria Johnson
Councillor Paul Martin
Councillor Mark Whittington
Councillor Paul Wood
Councillor Charmaine Morgan
Councillor Tim Harrison
Councillor Rhys Baker

Officers

Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer
Karen Whitfield, Assistant Director – Leisure, Culture and Place
James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager (Deputy Monitoring Officer)
Debbie Roberts, Head of Corporate Projects, Policy and Performance
Ayeisha Kirkham, Head of Public Protection
Tom Amblin-Lightowler, Environmental Health Manager – Environmental Protection & Private Sector Housing
Kay Boasman, Head of Waste Management and Market Services
Serena Brown, Sustainability and Climate Change Manager
Louise Case, Sustainability Project Support Officer
Andrew Igoea, Tree Project Officer
Joshua Mann, Democratic Services Officer
Charles James, Policy Officer
Hannah Rowe, Performance Analyst

33. Public Speaking

There were none.

34. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Barry Dobson, substituted by Councillor Charmaine Morgan, and from Councillor Steven Cunnington, substituted by Councillor Tim Harrison.

35. Disclosure of Interests

There were none.

36. Minutes from the meeting held on 7 October 2024

The minutes from the meeting held 7 October 2024 were proposed, seconded and AGREED as an accurate record.

37. Updates from the previous meeting

The Chairman noted that all actions from the previous meeting had been completed.

38. Announcements or updates from the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Members or the Head of Paid Service

The Cabinet Member for Waste & Environment noted that South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) had won the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) Most Improved Waste Service. The Cabinet Member praised the hard work and collective efforts of the Head of Waste & Markets, the Environmental Health Manager, and residents.

39. Garden and Bulky Waste Collections - Fee Proposal

The Garden and Bulky Waste Collections – Fee Proposal item was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste.

Bulky Waste Collections

At the time of the report's publication, SKDC charged £21 for the first bulky waste item and £11 for each subsequent item. Fridges and freezers were charged at £21 per item and could not be counted as the 'first item' to allow for the discounted additional item price. The service collected approximately 5,700 items per year.

The total operating costs for this service were approximately £88,160 per year and a fully subscribed service had a potential income of around £90,000 per year (based on 2023/24 figures).

The operating costs (including fuel, salaries and equipment) had tended to increase each year in-line with inflation. If a fee increase wasn't considered there was a possibility that the cost of running the service would not be covered by the income generated for the delivery of the service.

Following analysis of the bulky waste collection data the report suggested that if there was a £1 increase on all bulky waste charges, an additional £6,100 in income could be raised.

Garden Waste Collection

The garden waste collection service charged participating residents £51 per year to empty their first bin and £42 per additional bin. In the first year, new customers paid £79 for the service (an additional £28 for the bin and £12 for delivery).

The service was very popular and, at the time of the report's publication, there were approximately 36,000 subscriptions. The service generated an income of approximately £1.8million and this income was used to fund the operational costs of running the service as well as contributing towards the provision of new freighters.

Based on the current customer base, the report suggested that an increase of £1 would generate an additional £38,000 per year.

It was noted by the Cabinet Member for Environment & Waste that the suggested price increase may lead to a slight decrease in uptake of the Garden Waste Collection service. However, the Cabinet Member was positive about this, suggesting that this would likely lead to an uptake in home composting which was a more eco-friendly method of disposal.

During discussions, members commented on the following:

- It was noted by the Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer that contrary to the recommendation within the report, any recommendation made during the item would be considered by the Budget Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 14 January 2025, before the Cabinet.
- The Vice-Chairman suggested considering the suggested price increase for Garden Waste Collections and Bulky Waste Collections as separate proposals. This was proposed, seconded and AGREED by Members.
- Several Members commented that they supported the proposals to increase the prices of the service, roughly in line with inflation, as it was necessary to cover the increasing costs of the service.
- In this respect, Members queried whether the suggested £1 price increase was not only sufficient for the service, but also accounted an appropriate margin for contingency planning. This was confirmed to be sufficient and include an appropriate margin by the Cabinet Member for Environment & Waste and by the Head of Waste & Markets.

Councillor Philip Knowles arrived at the Chamber.

- Given that Members had agreed to consider separate price increase proposals for the two services, it was queried whether one service could cross subsidise another. It was confirmed that this was possible.
- The Cabinet Member noted that whilst there were figures within the report for the prices charged by other neighboring authorities, it was

difficult to compare given the different challenges faced by each authority. The example given was that SKDC was a large and sparsely populated rural area. Therefore, Waste Collection drivers faced different challenges to their counterparts in more urban areas such as Lincoln.

- It was queried whether the costs of the service outlined within the report included the costs of the call operators. This was confirmed.
- An **ACTION** was taken away by the Head of Waste & Markets to establish the average amount of bulky waste items collected following a Members query.
- Confirmation was given by the Head of Waste & Markets that the costs of fly tipping were under a different waste classification and therefore dealt with by a different team. Consequently, the costs of the Bulky Waste Collection Service did not need to account for this.
- Following a Member's query, it was confirmed that 45% of SKDC residents had a Garden Waste bin and 5% had two Garden Waste bins.
- The Leader of the Council expressed the view that individuals that had opted in to the Garden Waste Collection Service tended to be able to afford it. Another Member suggested this to be the case as if they required a garden waste bin then this suggested their garden to be a substantial size, implying sufficient wealth to afford the suggested price increase.

A Member proposed recommending to the Budget Overview and Scrutiny Committee, for the period 2025/26, a £2 increase on the Green Waste Collections but freezing the price of the Bulky Waste Collections. This was seconded and following a vote the proposal was **AGREED**.

Councillor Mark Whittington requested that his vote against the proposal be recorded.

40. Corporate Plan 2024-27 Key Performance Indicators: 2024/25 Mid-Year (Q2) Report

The Corporate Plan 2024-27 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs): 2024/25 Mid-Year (Q2) Report was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Licensing. This reported covered the period July to September 2024 (Quarter 2 2024/25).

To break this down, the report presented the overall performance against ten actions using a RAG rating (Red, Amber, Green) system. The results were as follows:

- Eight of the actions were rated Green overall. These were actions which were on, or above target as planned.

- Two actions were rated as Amber, these were off target by less than 10% or where milestone achievement was delayed but with a resolution in place to be achieved within a reasonable timeframe.
- Zero actions were rated as Red. These were actions that were significantly below target.

The KPIs were developed in close consultation with the relevant officers for each service.

During discussions, Members commented on the following:

- Whether any remaining budget in the Climate Reserve could be carried over at the end of the financial year. The Sustainability & Climate Change Officer confirmed that reserve could be carried over but there were plans to fund additional solar panels prior to the conclusion of the financial year. It was noted that there would be an update on the Climate Reserve at the next meeting.
- The status of the Home Upgrade Grant Scheme was queried. It was confirmed that terms had to be met to qualify for the funding, such as an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of D or below, or the household income falling below a certain level.
- Whether there was any update on the Alexander Road Depot. The Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer confirmed that a feasibility study of the existing site was being undertaken in conjunction with the construction of the new depot site. The hope being that the Alexander Road site could then be decommissioned following the transition to the Turnpike Close site. However, this would not be before November 2025.
- Clarification was sought whether the Alexandra Road site could be considered for social housing. It was confirmed that this was an option, however, the site's significant historical industrial use needed to be considered which would likely lead to significant contamination issues..
- It was queried why the construction time for the 'Enviro13' project had increased by 50% from eight months to twelve months with the value engineering included. The Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer didn't recognise March 2025 as ever being a realistic completion date and noted this timeline as being inserted early in the process rather than running live alongside the project. Furthermore, the expenditure had only been approved in September 2023, meaning that bids had not been received from the market until April 2024. Given that two bids had been received over the allocated budget, this resulted in time spent allowing for the value engineering. The Deputy Chief Executive believed November 2025 to be a realistic target, and this was under regular review by the Finance & Economic Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

The Corporate Plan 2024-27 Key Performance Indicators: 2024/25 Mid-Year (Q2) Report was noted by the Committee.

41. Green Fleet Strategy Update

The Green Fleet Strategy Update was presented by the Cabinet Member for Environment & Waste.

At the time of the report's publication, the fleet was made up of over 150 vehicles which were used across multiple service areas including Housing, Waste and Street Scene. Varied in size and type, the vehicles covered everything from basic cars through to refuse collection vehicles. These vehicles were vital to the delivery of effective and efficient services in a district which was both large and predominantly rural.

In 2022, SKDC commissioned a 'Transport Decarbonisation Report'. The report was written by the Energy Saving Trust, and it provided a benchmark for the greenhouse gas emissions and the energy consumption associated with the SKDC's road transport fleet.

This strategy envisioned that by the end of the 3-year period, the fleet was considerably less dependent upon fossil fuels. This was a facilitating strategy; green technology was still in its infancy and there was much debate over the best way forward within the industry. It was because of this inertia that this three-year Strategy focused on how the carbon emissions of the current fleet could be reduced without a full switch to one solution.

The Strategy focused on the following areas:

- Adopting cleaner technologies and fuels – embedding green criteria (for example choosing electric vehicles where feasible) within SKDC's procurement process to encourage the exploration of alternative vehicles.
- Encouraging efficient vehicle use – introduce a system for monitoring and analysing vehicle usage across all service areas to explore how to reduce overall fuel use.
- Managing demand – reducing mileage, encouraging efficient journey planning and optimising routes. This included rationalising the fleet to reduce the number of vehicles required where possible and ascertaining where vehicle life cycles could be extended. Current practices would be examined and improved to ensure demand was managed to maximise resource efficiency.
- Improving supporting infrastructure – the new depot project (due to complete in late 2025) offered the opportunity to increase the number of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points. This increase could influence the vehicle replacement schedule moving forward.

During discussions, Members commented on the following:

- Members were encouraged that SKDC was being proactive in this field and welcomed the consideration of alternative fuel sources.
- It was queried whether taxis were covered within the strategy. This was confirmed not to be the case.
- Establishing a fuel reduction target was suggested. The Cabinet Member noted to Members that the technology was not sufficient for a solely electric fleet yet.
- It was suggested that lessons were undertaken from other council's approaches.

Following discussions, it was proposed, seconded, and AGREED to recommend the Green Fleet Strategy Update to Cabinet for approval.

42. Waste Policy Update

The Waste Policy Update was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Environment & Waste.

The Cabinet Member explained that the purpose of the report was to codify operational changes within the service area that had been implemented over the previous year. The policies outlined within the report were all agreed and existing working practices.

The key areas of change within the document were:

- Section 10: Missed Bin/Sack Collections – this section outlined when the service would and would not return for a missed bin. It covered the Council's policy on rejected bins (this included for contamination). The Cabinet Member clarified that the amendments to Section 10 would outline greater consistency within the service.
- Section 13: Battery Collections – this section outlined the Council's approach to collecting batteries at the curbside.
- Section 14: Clinical sharps – the reference to direct deliver to the depot had been removed and collection of sharps bins was referenced as the only option. This was due to health and safety restrictions at the current and new depot; SKDC continued to accept direct delivery, and residents would not be turned away with sharps bins, however, SKDC sought to educate and encourage those delivering to the depot to arrange a collection.

During discussions, Members commented on the following:

- Clarification was sought whether the set of three 240 litre bins issued to new residential properties was chargeable. This was confirmed but it was noted that SKDC encouraged developers to deal with this prior to residents moving into the property.

- Whilst noting there were challenges around this, it was queried whether officers were progressing with a sack suitable for the sole collection of paper and card rather than mixed recycling.
- Under circumstances where a resident's bin collection had been missed due to an SKDC error, it was queried whether this was rectified within five days. This was confirmed to be the case.
- It was queried whether consideration was being given to collections taking place on a monthly basis. This was confirmed not to be the case by the Head of Waste & Markets.
- Regarding the charges outlined in section 8.3 of the report, liability was queried in instances where damages had been caused by exceptional circumstances such as a rodent damaging the bin. The Cabinet Member for Environment & Waste backed the Waste Team to be reasonable in the flexibility of interpreting and enforcing the policy. This could be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.
- Concern was given to the issue caused by bins and waste sacks being left unattended on the narrow pavements in some areas of the district.
- Clarification was sought regarding the reference to fixed penalty payments within the report. It was confirmed that the implementation of a fixed penalty notice would only occur in extreme circumstances where a resident is continuously failing to adhere to the legislative standards of bin use. The rare nature of these notices was highlighted by the Head of Waste & Markets who noted that the last notice to be issued prior to the meeting had been in 2023.
- It was queried whether residents with waste sacks would miss a week of collections. The Cabinet Member for Waste and Environment confirmed this to be a misconception, clarifying that dry mixed recycling sacks would still be collected on purple-lidded bin week.
- Clarification was sought about the disposal of batteries for residents with waste sacks rather than bins. It was confirmed that the smaller battery bag could be tied to the waste sack for collection.
- The Vice-Chairman drew attention to section 9.1 of the report, highlighting SKDC's assisted collection service. Members were encouraged to raise awareness of this service via their social media profiles.

Following a proposal, it was seconded and AGREED to recommend the updated version of the Waste Policy to Cabinet.

43. Air Quality Annual Update

The Air Quality Annual Update report was introduced by the Environmental Health Manager.

SKDC declared an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in 2013 encompassing the main roads in the town centre of Grantham, with the main pollutant of concern being Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂). Given the imposition of the

AQMA, an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) was required to be produced every five years.

Implementation of the actions contained within the existing AQAP were monitored as part of an Annual Air Quality Status Report (ASR) which the Council was required to produce.

The 2024 ASR identified that during 2023 there were no exceedances of the one hour mean objective when using annual mean as a proxy for hourly mean. This was positive and supported the overall improvement in air quality.

The ASR reported that there was compliance with the annual mean objective for NO₂ at all fifty-eight passive monitoring tubes across the thirty-five monitoring locations. This was a continuing trend since 2019.

The highest reported concentration of NO₂ was at diffusion tube monitoring location SK33,34, located on A607 Manthorpe Road, Grantham, which was within 10% of exceedance. It had shown an overall decline in concentrations between 2022- 2023 at this site in comparison to the previous year's data.

Within the 'conclusions and priorities' section of the 2024 ASR report, the recommendation was made that SKDC continues to use the passive monitoring network to monitor air quality levels, and to ensure that compliance was maintained throughout the District.

The report recommended two key priorities (in order to comply with the Air Quality Strategy (AQS) objectives) -

- Continue passive monitoring within the AQMA to ensure the NO₂ concentration remains below 40 µg/m³.
- Continue to consider amending AQMA No.6 to remove the pollution declaration of 1- hour NO₂ mean exceedances and potential revocation of the AQMA'.

During discussions, Members commented on the following:

- Whether there were consequential costs of removing the pollution declaration of 1- hour NO₂ mean exceedances, as recommended by the report. It was confirmed that this had been recommended by the Department for Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and there was no additional cost for actioning this.
- Why there was no data set recorded for October. It was confirmed this was because the data set had been lost in transit. The November data set was currently being reviewed.
- Whether an additional testing tube could be explored at monitoring location SK33,34 given that this site produced the highest concentration of NO₂. The Environmental Health Manager confirmed this could be considered.

- Confirmation was sought regarding the sensitivity of the test equipment used. A Member feared whether seasonal, atmospheric changes could impact the test results. It was confirmed that the methodology of using the annual mean accounted for seasonal, atmospheric changes, however, the equipment would not have been sensitive enough to pick this up anyway.
- A Member queried whether the test areas could be expanded within their Ward. It was confirmed that the test areas had previously undertaken a review and there were not currently plans to extend further.
- Methods of enforcement to tackle significant polluters was queried within the AQAP. The Head of Public Protection confirmed that targeted approaches for localized issues could be made without the AQAP.
- With this in mind, it was identified that a significant polluter was stationary taxis with their engine's running. It was queried whether it could be included within taxi licenses issued by SKDC for the engines to be turned off when the taxis are stationary. It was suggested that this was a matter for the Licensing Committee process.
- The process for raising concerns relating to the A1 air pollution. It was advised to approach Environmental Health.
- It was queried why the report focuses on the pollution level of NO₂, rather than other pollutants such as Sulfur Dioxide, PM₁₀, or PM_{2.5}. It was confirmed that this was because there were no areas within the district where there were exceeding levels of those pollutants.
- The Leader of the Council highlighted quarries within SKDC to be of relevance and the Head of Public Protection clarified that such quarries were subject to regulation and required permits.
- Attention was drawn to the Clean Air Lincolnshire Website.

The Air Quality Annual Update report was noted by the Committee.

44. Tree and Woodland Strategy Work Programme 2025 - 2034

Councillor Gloria Johnson left the Chamber at 12:50 PM.

The Tree and Woodland Strategy Work Programme 2025 – 2034 was presented by the Cabinet Member for Environment & Waste.

The Strategy aimed to increase tree canopy cover, enhance biodiversity, and engage communities in sustainable tree management practices across South Kesteven, contributing to a greener, more climate resilient district. With this in mind, a Tree Project Officer was appointed to implement the strategy.

The following were key aspects of the wider Strategy Work Programme 2025 – 2034 presented:

- Reviewing the Council's 'Tree Guidelines' document.

- Introducing a new tree record management system.
- Analysis of the existing inventory data to obtain baseline population statistics.
- Assessing planting opportunities and constraints on land in South Kesteven to allow realistic targets to be set for new planting.
- Undertaking consultation with Councillors, Parish Councillors and local community groups on planting proposals.
- Expansion of the tree planting programme on Council owned land.
- Production of a guidance document for parish/town councils and community groups, introducing a system for recording and monitoring newly planted trees.
- Formation of a 'Tree Board' to oversee the delivery of the current and future work programmes.
- Oversight of tree-related training courses for relevant Council officers to raise awareness within the organisation of arboriculture issues.
- Production of promotional content that highlighted the key elements and objectives of the Council's Tree and Woodland Strategy.

During discussions, Members commented on the following:

- A suggestion was made that following the approval of the new local plan, trees on land zoned for development should be assessed for their suitability to be protected by new Tree Preservation Orders.
- A Member requested closer working with Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) given they believed 200 trees had been lost in their ward. The Member requested that the trees on Barrowby Road, Grantham were protected. The Tree Project Officer confirmed that a statutory consultation period for the removal of trees had been introduced in 2024.
- The Chairman requested the engagement of LCC to remove the fallen trees on Green Lane, Grantham.
- Partnership working was encouraged with the Woodland Trust. It was confirmed by the Tree Project Officer that SKDC was already working with the Woodland Trust and a formal Stakeholder Engagement Plan would be developed within the next 18 months.
- A Member encouraged engagement between the new Tree Project Officer and Members who have local knowledge of suitable places within the wards for trees to be planted. The Tree Project Officer welcomed the engagement of Members but noted that the initial focus would be on the potential of SKDC-owned land.
- The Cabinet Member for Environment & Waste confirmed that 68 trees would be planted following the festive period.

The Committee noted the Tree and Woodland Strategy Work Programme 2025 – 2034.

45. Work Programme 2024-25

It was noted by a Member that they wished for attention to be given to the unscheduled Quality of the District's Rivers and Canals item.

A Member requested attention was drawn to the efficiency of Solar Panels within the district. Advice was given for the Member to engage with Democratic Services to identify exactly the context and scope that they wished for the item to take.

46. Any other business which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances, decides is urgent

There was none.

The meeting concluded at 13:10 PM.

Action Sheet

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Actions from meeting of 10 December 2024

Min no	Agenda item	Action	Assigned to	Comments/Status	Deadline
39	GARDEN AND BULKY WASTE COLLECTIONS - FEE PROPOSAL	Establishing the average amount of bulky waste items collected	Kayleigh Boasman	Most of the bookings are for one item only, giving an average wouldn't make sense so we thought providing the most common number of items booked would be a more accurate indicator of this.	

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**SOUTH
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Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 10 February 2025

Report of Councillor Rhys Baker
Cabinet Member for Environment and
Waste

Weekly Food Waste Collections Update

Report Author

Kay Boasman, Head of Waste Management and Market Services

 kayleigh.boasman@southkesteven.gov.uk

Purpose of Report

This report provides an update on the Council's planned approach for introducing weekly kerbside food waste collections from 31st March 2026, as mandated by the Environment Act 2021.

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1. Note the contents of the report and the proposed timeline for implementation of the domestic food waste collection service.**

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Sustainable South Kesteven
Which wards are impacted?	All Wards

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 There are substantial capital and revenue costs associated with the roll out of the weekly food waste collection service. Although the Government has agreed to provide new burden funding to support the new service, the level of revenue funding has not yet been released. The funds received for initial capital purchases is confirmed at £1.371m but this is unlikely to fully meet the total cost of purchasing vehicles and caddies. At this stage, it is anticipated that the Council will need to fund any shortfall in funding.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 There are no significant legal or governance implications arising from this report which are not already referenced in the body of the report. Key legislation relating to domestic food waste collection is the Environment Act 2021.

Completed by: Graham Watts, Monitoring Officer

Climate Change

- 1.3 Food waste makes up around one third of residual waste bins, it is also a major contributor to carbon emissions via its current disposal route. The new food waste collection service will ensure that food waste is taken out of the residual waste stream and disposed of through anaerobic digestion, which is a more environmentally friendly way of disposing of this waste stream.
- 1.4. Introduction of a new way of separating and disposing of food waste will reduce carbon emissions associated with their current disposal route, as well as improving the recycling and reuse opportunities of other materials in the waste stream. Nevertheless, the operation of an additional 12 vehicles will increase fuel consumption and therefore carbon emissions associated with the operation of the Council's vehicle fleet.

Completed by: Serena Brown, Climate Change Manager

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1. On the 29th November 2024 the Government announced the new default requirements for business and household waste collections under the Simpler Recycling collection reforms. These reforms form part of the updated Environment Act 2021.
- 2.2. The reforms are designed to simplify the rules and make recycling easier for people in England; they enable consistent, more streamlined collections from all households and businesses. The approach is designed to ensure the same set of materials are collected everywhere in England. The reforms aim to reduce confusion, end the postcode lottery of bin collections and ensure the correct materials are captured for recycling.
- 2.3. The new default requirements include four containers for:
 1. Residual (non-recyclable) waste,
 2. Food waste (mixed with garden waste if required),
 3. Paper and card,
 4. All other dry recyclable materials (plastic, metal and glass).
- 2.4. It is because of these new requirements that the Council will be required to introduce weekly kerbside collections, from the 31st March 2026.
- 2.5. To facilitate the introduction of the service, the Council is working with the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership to seek out joint procurement opportunities which achieve economies of scale. In addition, we are working with Lincolnshire County Council to ensure adequate disposal facilities are available.

3. Key Considerations

Costs

- 3.1. The service roll out is made up of two aspects – one off capital purchases (vehicles, caddies) and ongoing revenue costs (fuel, salaries, vehicle maintenance etc.)

Capital Purchases

- 3.2. The capital purchases are split into two forms – vehicles and caddies. The Council has received £ 1,371,150 in capital funding from central Government to establish the food waste collections.
- 3.3. This service requires two caddies for each household – a 5-litre indoor caddy and a 23 litre outdoor caddy. SKDC is a member of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership (LWP) and it was agreed that a joint caddy procurement would be an opportunity to ensure all Lincolnshire residents received the same caddies (minimising confusion) and to achieve a better price per item due to the large quantities required.

- 3.4. The procurement was completed through the ESPO framework and approval for the purchase was granted through an Officer Delegated Decision which was finalised on 16th December 2024.
- 3.5. The food waste collection vehicles will also need to be purchased. Route estimates indicate that 12 vehicles will be needed to deliver the service, and the vehicles cost around £95,000 per vehicle; the forecast cost for 12 7.5tonne food waste collection vehicles is £1,140,000. This is substantially more than the £920,700 in capital funding granted by DEFRA. This figure has been challenged, however, to date no response has been received. A breakdown of estimated capital costs can be found in Table 1.

Table 1: Anticipated capital costs for weekly food waste collections

	24/25 (£)	25/26 (£)	26/27 (£)
Indoor Caddies	77,000	-	22,000
Outdoor Caddies	231,000	-	22,000
Food Waste Collection Vehicles	1,140,000	-	-
Total	1,448,000		44,000

Revenue Costs

- 3.6. Table 2 outlines the anticipated revenue costs associated with the weekly food waste collection service. The Government have promised to provide financial assistance to cover the costs of running this service, however, this has not yet been released and we do not know if it will be enough to cover the costs outlined in Table 2.
- 3.7. The total revenue costs for year 1 (26/27) are £1,814,882; Table 2 shows a full breakdown of these figures.

Table 2: Anticipated revenue costs for weekly food waste collections

Revenue Budget Required (£)	26/27
Transport revenue costs	
Road Tax	2,184
Tyres	6,816
Maintenance	66,000
Fuel Usage	55,200
Vehicle Insurance increase	22,000
Vehicle hire	2,000
Total Transport Revenue Costs (a)	154,200
Other Revenue Costs	
Training	3,000
Protective clothing	11,400
Communications Strategy	10,000
Total Other Revenue Costs (b)	24,400
Additional Staff Revenue Costs	
12 HGV Drivers - SK6MS Grade	505,260
24 Operatives/Loaders SK3MS Grade	820,560
Business Support Officer/Admin Project Lead SK9 Grade	42,787
Refuse Supervisor SK9MS Grade	44,591
Additional Mechanic (37 hours)	52,053
Casual Workers	124,627
Overtime	46,404
Additional Staff Total Costs (c)	1,636,282
Total Revenue Costs (a + b + c)	1,814,882

Proposed Timeline

- 3.8. The Environment Act 2021 states that services should be live by 31st March 2026, however, there is a small amount of flexibility within this deadline as it lands mid-week. Therefore, SKDC propose to start their food waste collection service on the first Monday after this deadline (Monday 6th April 2026). There is no penalty for starting the service after the 31st March deadline.
- 3.9. Table 3 outlines the key dates for the delivery of the project.

Table 3: Key Project Dates

Programme Summary		
Action	Start	End
Project Commencement	Aug-24	Apr-25
Vehicle Procurement Stage	Jan-25	Feb-25
Vehicle Order Date	Feb-25	Mar-25
Vehicle Delivery		Oct-25
Food Caddy Procurement Stage	Aug-24	Dec-24
Food Caddy Order Date	01/12/2024	20/12/2024
Food Caddy Delivery		Aug-25
Recruitment Drive	Jul-25	Nov-25
Training New Staff	Nov-25	Dec-25
Food Caddy Deliveries	Dec-25	Mar-26
Food Waste Go Live		Apr-26

Caddy Sizes

- 3.10. There has been some concern over the additional space households will require for the caddies. This service requires a small indoor caddy which is 5 litres in size and a larger, 23 litre outdoor caddy. A standard SKDC wheeled bin is 240 litres and therefore the caddies are much smaller than the wheeled bins. Figure 1 shows an outdoor and indoor caddy next to a full-sized wheelie bin for some indication of size.

Figure 1: Food Waste Caddy Examples



4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1. No other options have been considered, the roll out of a weekly food waste collection service has been mandated by the Environment Act 2021 with an implementation deadline of 31st March 2026. The timelines suggested in this report will enable the Council to deliver the service from the Monday following the 31st March deadline.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1. The recommendation is that the Committee note the contents of the report and the proposed timeline for the implementation of the domestic food waste collection service. The timeline proposed will allow the Council to deliver the new service in line with the legislative requirements of the Environment Act 2021.

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**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 10 February 2025

Report of Councillor Rhys Baker
Cabinet Member for Environment and
Waste

Communal Bins Update

Report Author

Kay Boasman, Head of Waste Management and Market Services

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Purpose of Report

This report provides the Committee with progress update on the work the Waste Team is undertaking to address the issues around communal bin stores.

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1. Note the actions currently being undertaken to improve the issues around communal bin stores.**

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Sustainable South Kesteven
Which wards are impacted?	All Wards

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 The financial implications of carrying out this work has been absorbed into the established operational budgets. Should further targeted intervention be required then additional funding may be needed, and this would require a separate business case to be considered.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 There are no significant legal or governance implications arising from the report.

Completed by: Graham Watts, Monitoring Officer

Community Safety

- 1.3 The Community Safety team are working closely with the Waste and Street Cleansing teams to ensure this project is delivered successfully.

Completed by: Ayeisha Kirkham, Head of Service (Public Protection)

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1. Over the last 12 months there have been several changes to the waste and recycling services provided by the Council. These changes include the introduction of a paper and card collection and the introduction of a battery collection.
- 2.2. The changes to collections caused by the switch to twin stream recycling highlighted some issues with communal bins and the collection of the waste from these sites.
- 2.3. The issue with communal bins and bin stores extends beyond the boundaries of the district and the same issues experienced by our residents are also experienced nationally. Due to the lack of ownership within commercial bin stores, residents are more likely misuse the waste facilities.
- 2.4. The main issues experienced in the districts communal waste stores are:
- Lack of bin capacity – not enough bins per waste stream for the number of residents,
 - Improper use of bins – residents putting their waste in the wrong bins and contaminating the recycling bins,
 - Attracting fly tipping – the bin stores are unmonitored and therefore both residents and non-residents used the space to dispose of large household items including sofas and beds, and
 - Confusion around collection schedules, especially if residents use bags.
- 2.5. The key locations were collated and bespoke action plans agreed for each area. The plans included a multi-team approach which included Waste, Street Scene and Environmental Health and Community Safety. Table 1 shows the key locations that were identified and outlines the high-level actions undertaken to improve the situation.

Table 1: Key areas of concern and high-level actions agreed for improvement

Area	Actions
Churchfield Close, Bourne	Educational materials produced for bin store areas, recycling and paper and card bins have been delivered, monitoring in place
The Grange, Greyfriars, Grantham	Adjustment to general waste and recycling provision, continued monitoring of storage areas in partnership with housing

Great Northern Court, Grantham	Communal bins removed from archway, adjustment to general waste/recycling provision, educational materials sent in partnership with housing, larger capacity bins (660L) to be delivered
Agnes Street, Riverside Place, Grantham	Full clearance of non-recyclable waste, additional 1100L general waste delivered to decrease amount of mispresented waste stored outside of containers
New Beacon Road, Grantham	Full clearance of fly tipped items and waste loading, educational materials sent to residents
Blashfields, Riverside Stamford	Engagement with management company, 240L bins exchanged for 1100L wheelie bins, educational posters supplied for bin store areas
New Street, Grantham	Full clearance of fly tipped and additional waste, additional general waste bins provided
Kinoulton Court, Larch Close, Sycamore Court, Hawthorn Court, Chestnut Grove, Grantham	Action plan for exchanging 240L containers for larger capacity bins (660L and 1100L) in communal areas that have the access to facilitate

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1. The current actions have been undertaken using established resources and revenue funds. The actions have reduced the issues and enabled better waste services within the affected areas.
- 3.2. If additional work is required, a project plan and business case will be required to ascertain the feasibility of the project. Whilst there is established good practice within this area, it is resource intensive, and the project would require a bespoke plan and financial consideration.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1. This paper provides an update on the current communal bins programme and no other options are being considered at this time.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1. This report highlights the work being undertaken to improve the issues with communal bins throughout the district. Members are recommended to note the work being undertaken.

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Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2024/25

WORK PROGRAMME

REPORT TITLE	LEAD OFFICER	PURPOSE	ORIGINATED/COMMITTEE HISTORY DATE(S)	CORPORATE/PRIORITY
18 March 2025				
Update on the Climate Action Plan	Serena Brown (Sustainability and Climate Change Manager)			
Quality of the District's Rivers and Canals				

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Unscheduled future items				
Communal Recycling				
National Hedge Laying Association				
Biodiversity Update	Serena Brown			

Agenda Item 12

Weekly Food Waste Collections Update	Kay Boasman			
Progress Update on Upgrade of District Council Streetlights to LED Units	Serena Brown (Sustainability and Climate Change Manager)			

The Committee's Remit

The remit of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be to work alongside Cabinet Members to assist with the development of policy and to scrutinise decisions in respect of, but not limited to:

- Air quality
- Animal welfare licensing (Policy)
 - Commercial, industrial, and clinical waste collection and management
- Dog breeding and control orders
- Domestic waste and recycling management
- Energy efficiency
- Environment SK Ltd
- Environment SK Commercial Services Ltd
- Estate and grounds maintenance
- Flooding
- Food hygiene and safety
- Health and safety
- Noise
- Renewable energy
- Scrap metal dealers
- Green open space management