



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

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:

- 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Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?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.