



**Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council**

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Executive 26 March 2025

Wards affected: All wards

Waste changes announced by government 29/11/24

Report of Director Corporate and Street Scene Services

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To update Executive on recent changes to waste collections announced by DEFRA.

2. Recommendation

2.1 Executive notes the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) payment that will be received by HBBC in 2025/26, and notes the potential impact on future funding settlements from government. (3.3-3.4).

2.2 Executive agrees that the dry recycling collection system remains a fully co-mingled collection (no change), that a TEEP assessment be completed, and that the TEEP assessment be agreed by SLT.

2.3 Executive agrees no change to the residual waste collections given proposals for local government reorganisation.

2.4 Following agreement of this report an update be issued to all Councillors.

3. Background to the report

3.1 As part of the Environment Act 2021 DEFRA have been implementing a series of reforms to waste collections to support the circular economy and the target of 65% recycling by 2035.

3.2 On 29 November 2024 further changes and funding were announced.

Packaging EPR payments

- 3.3 Packaging extended producer responsibility (pEPR) payments were announced for local authorities. In short, this scheme collects payments from all producers of packaging waste which is then redistributed back to local authorities to cover the costs of managing this type of waste.
- 3.4 Defra have advised the payment to HBBC for 2025/26 will be £1.063 million. Payments are staged, are based on modelled costs, and for this year are guaranteed by government. For 25/26 this payment is “new money” but it may be netted off in the finance settlement in future years. It is included in the 2025/26 budgets and the MTFs.

Dry recycling

- 3.5 A new default minimum collection service was announced requiring the separate collection of :
- Paper and card
 - Glass, plastics and cans
- 3.6 A fully co-mingled dry recycling collection can continue providing this is technically, economically and environmentally practical. A written TEEP assessment must be completed, following new guidance that has been issued. There is no requirement to submit this assessment, but a written record must be retained.
- 3.7 Given HBBC already has a TEEP assessment in place, the waste collection fleet is ordered and cannot co-collect 2 streams of recycling, and the capital cost (approximately £1.1 million) for new wheeled bins, it is anticipated that a fully co-mingled collection can continue. However, this may limit the opportunity to receive a higher pEPR payment for separate paper and card collections, so it is recommended that this is kept under review.

Residual waste (refuse)

- 3.8 Government announced no minimum refuse collection frequency meaning local authorities can now choose to collect refuse every 3 or 4 weeks but that collections should prevent the build-up of odorous waste and fly tipping.
- 3.9 3 weekly refuse collections were modelled by WRAP in 2023 and achieved a saving of at least £150,000 per year, saved 1000 tonnes of carbon per year (relative to a 2-weekly collection), and would increase the recycling rate by up to 7%.
- 3.10 Given the proposals for local government reorganisation it would appear sensible to review residual waste collection frequencies once the new unitary authority is established so both waste collection and disposal costs and benefits can be fully reviewed.

Food waste

- 3.11 No change. The separate weekly collection is still required from April 2026.

- 3.12 Transitional funding for financial year 2024/25 and for financial year 2025/26 will be announced by DEFRA early in 2025. On going revenue funding from April 2026 onwards will be announced once current government spending review is completed.

Garden waste

- 3.13 No change. A charge can still be made, and food waste can be combined with garden waste collections but HBBC have previously ruled this out as it would require all garden bins to be emptied every week significantly increasing costs.

Trade waste

- 3.14 Businesses with 10 or more employees are required to implement simpler recycling from April 2025 and this includes
- the new requirement to separate their paper and card from glass, plastic and cans
 - a separate weekly food waste collection
 - waste must be presented in accordance with the instructions from their waste collector
- 3.15 Assuming the TEEP assessment determines co-mingled dry recycling collections are the most appropriate for HBBC as a waste collector then HBBC trade waste customers can continue to co-mingle their dry recycling.
- 3.16 These new rules will apply to businesses with 9 or less FTE's from 1 April 2027. Those with 10 or more employees will need to comply from 2027.
- 3.17 HBBC are currently advising our trade waste customers, and have shared government business guidance via the business newsletter.

Deposit return scheme

- 3.18 No change. Still planned for introduction from October 2027 for plastic and metal drinks containers. Glass still excluded.

Recycling banks

- 3.19 HBBC will receive an EPR payment of £7,804 for the material collected in the banks which is small compared to the costs of maintaining the recycling banks. Executive had previously agreed to remove the banks when the food waste collections commence and this decision should stand.

4. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules

- 4.1 To be taken in open session.

5. Financial implications [IB]

- 5.1 The EPR funding of £1.063m will be allowed for in the 2025/26 budget. For future years, MHCLG have indicated that will form part of the local government finance settlement and has been allowed for within the MTFs.

For food waste the overall revenue grant funding has yet to be confirmed. Excluding costs of vehicles, costs are expected to be around £1.05m per year. A net £0.124m has been allowed for within the MTFs for potential costs that will not be recovered.

5.2 Capital costs for food waste of circa £1.1m have been allowed for and committed within the capital programme.

6. Legal implications [ST]

6.1 None

7. Corporate Plan implications

7.1 The places priority includes a commitment to increase recycling including the introduction of a new weekly food waste collection; and also the commitment to introduce initiatives to reduce the carbon footprint of the Borough.

8. Consultation

8.1 None at this stage. These changes are statutory and legislation is currently being adopted meaning HBBC must introduce a separate food waste collection.

9. Risk implications

9.1 It is the council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

9.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

9.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) risks

Risk description	Mitigating actions	Owner
TEEP assessment fails to provide concrete evidence fully comingled collection of dry recycling is most appropriate system	Ensure comprehensive assessment completed following new guidance. If necessary review other collection system options utilising expert consultancy support.	Darren Moore/ Caroline Roffey
Reduction in EPR payments – a fully comingled dry recycling collection may be deemed to be	Monitor payments and government announcements. Review	Caroline Roffey

less effective / efficient in future and payments may reduce	collection system if necessary	
Reduction in EPR payments – failure to minimise refuse and maximise recycling tonnages	Monitor payments and review collection system regularly	Caroline Roffey
Opportunity missed – Failure to realise saving in collection costs by reducing frequency of collections	Consider as part of MTFS annually	Ashley Wilson

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

10.1 A full equalities impact assessment will need to be written if there are significant changes to the waste collection system.

11. Climate implications

11.1 Restricting residual waste through a 3 weekly collection gives the greatest carbon benefit saving 1000 tonnes of carbon per year (HBBC's emissions are approximately 2300 tonnes per year).

12. Corporate implications

12.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset management implications
- Procurement implications
- Human resources implications
- Planning implications
- Data protection implications
- Voluntary sector

Background papers: None

Contact officer: Caroline Roffey 5782

Executive member: Councillor L Hodgkins