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**To: Communities & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4)**

**Date: 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Subject: Food Waste Collections**

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**1 Purpose of the Note**

- 1.1 To provide the Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) with an update on the requirement for the Council to provide a separate collection of food waste.

**2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board are recommended to:
- 1) Note the actions taken so far to facilitate the requirement for the Council to provide a separate collection of food waste to all residents of the city in 2026.
  - 2) Identify any further requirements or recommendations.

**3 Information and Background**

- 3.1 In October 2023 the Government announced the new Simpler Recycling Reforms under Section 45a of the Environment Act 2021. These reforms are intended to make the national recycling system simpler removing confusion over what can and cannot be recycled in different parts of the country. They introduce a new default requirement for households and workplaces to have containers to allow for the separate collection of:
- Non-recyclable waste
  - Paper, card, plastic, metal and glass
  - Food waste (weekly)
- 3.2 Non-household municipal premises such as businesses, hospitals and schools are required to implement the requirements of the reforms by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 (where they have more than 10 full-time employees). Local Authorities are required to implement the collections of these materials from households by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 with micro businesses with fewer than 10 full-time employees required to comply by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027.

3.3 It was confirmed that local authorities would receive capital funding to cover the costs of additional bins and vehicles required to implement food waste collections alongside ongoing revenue funding from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 to cover the additional costs related to the delivery of the service.

#### 4 Food Waste Collections in Coventry – Progress to date

- 4.1 A board containing officers from across the council meet regularly to identify and prepare requirements for the new service.
- 4.2 Following the receipt of £1,869,505 of capital funding in April 2024 contracts for the provision of vehicles and containers were put in place immediately to reduce the risks associated with the likelihood of manufacturer delays considering the requirement for all authorities across the country to meet the deadlines specified.
- 4.3 In addition, a procurement process was undertaken to secure a treatment / disposal facility to enable the food waste collected to be processed.
- 4.4 Contracts secured to date –

|                           | <b>Contract Details</b>  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Vehicles</b>           | 10 x 12t Micro XHD food waste collection vehicles ordered in June 2024– Delivery expected from May / June 2025                       |
| <b>Food Waste Caddies</b> | 141,000 x 23l food waste caddies ordered – Delivery commenced in January 2025<br>Contract includes delivery of caddies to households |
| <b>Waste Treatment</b>    | Biogen – Anaerobic Digestion Facility  |

#### 5 Next Steps

- 5.1 An exact date for the commencement of the new service is being discussed with contractors to ensure availability and a smooth introduction for residents.
- 5.2 The new service will require the recruitment of a number of additional employees who will be recruited prior to service commencement.
- 5.3 The technical and operational teams will develop routes for the new service around existing collection days and predicted participation.
- 5.4 A review of communal living areas is being undertaken to identify how a separate food waste service will work in these areas.
- 5.5 A communications plan will be developed to ensure that all residents are aware of the new requirements and to make participation as simple and easy as possible.

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