



Coventry City Council

## Briefing note

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

**Date: 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**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 plans for the introduction of a separate food waste collection service across the City.

### **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board are recommended to:
  - 1) Note the actions undertaken to date and the further activities scheduled for completion prior to the implementation of the new service.
  - 2) Identify any further requirements or recommendations.

### **3 Information and Background**

- 3.1 In October 2023 the Government announced the new Simpler Recycling Reforms introducing a requirement for all households to receive a weekly separate collection of food waste from April 2026.
- 3.2 The council received funding of £2,691,322 to cover the costs of vehicles, containers and other expenses related to the implementation of the service.
- 3.3 Ongoing revenue funding to cover the additional costs of delivering the service was received as part of the overall budget settlement for 2026/2027.
- 3.4 The new service will commence for all Coventry residents from September 2026.

## 4 Procurement

4.1 The following procurement activities have been undertaken to date:

	<b>Details</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Vehicles</b>	10 x 12t Micro XHD food waste collection vehicles	<b>Received</b>
<b>23l Food Waste Caddies</b>	141,000 x 23l food waste caddies	<b>Received</b>
<b>Waste Treatment</b>	Biogen – Anaerobic Digestion Facility	<b>Completed</b>

## 5 Next Steps

- 5.1 The first formal communication to residents regarding the new service will go out via the Your Coventry magazine from March 2nd with further information to follow with Council Tax bills.
- 5.2 From June 2026, the distribution of 23-litre food waste containers, accompanied by an information leaflet outlining the new service, will commence. All household containers are scheduled to be delivered by early August 2026.
- 5.3 The separate food waste collection service will be available to all residents, including those living in flats and communal accommodation. Container requirements for these properties are being assessed on an individual basis to ensure that provision reflects the layout and needs of each location. Communal food waste containers will be distributed from July.
- 5.4 Residents living in flats and communal properties will be required to dispose of their food waste in designated communal food waste bins. To support participation, 5-litre kitchen caddies will be provided to these households as part of the roll out, as they did not receive them during the previous distribution.
- 5.5 A stock of 5l kitchen caddies will also be available for all residents to collect from central locations across the city to encourage participation.
- 5.6 A comprehensive staff recruitment programme will be initiated in July to ensure that all required personnel are appointed and receive full training in advance of the commencement of the service.
- 5.7 The service will commence from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026.

## 6 Collection Arrangements

- 6.1 Food waste collections will be undertaken over a five-day period, Monday to Friday, to enhance service provision and operational efficiency.

- 6.2 Implementing this operational model will reduce round sizes and walking distances, supporting improved staff wellbeing and overall workforce sustainability.
- 6.3 This model also provides increased flexibility in managing service requirements during bank holidays.
- 6.4 Rounds are currently being developed to determine operational requirements, and all resident communications will be tailored accordingly to cover the different collection arrangement.

## 7 Communication

- 7.1 A comprehensive communication plan is being developed to accompany the implementation of the new service. This plan will ensure that residents are fully informed about the service changes and are equipped with the necessary information to participate effectively.
- 7.2 Recent national coverage of food waste collection services has prompted media enquiries regarding Coventry’s plan for implementation which we have responded to accordingly advising them of our intention to implement from September 2026.
- 7.3 Full communication regarding the new service will commence from mid-May aligned with the delivery of the caddies to ensure that residents receive timely, clear and consistent information to support effective participation.

## 8 Timeline for implementation of Service

Activity	Date
First formal communication (Your Coventry)	March 2026
Full communication plan implementation	May 2026
23l Caddy delivered to households	June 2026 to August 2026
Communal containers and caddies delivered to flats and communal properties	July 2026 to September 2026
Staff recruitment process	July 2026 to September 2026
<b>Service Commences</b>	<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September</b>

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