

REPORT TO: CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 29 FEBRUARY 2024

REPORT ON: REVISED FREQUENCY OF COLLECTION FOR KERBSIDE FOOD WASTE

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

REPORT NO: 90-2024

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for the introduction of a revised frequency for kerbside food waste collections during the financial year 2024/25.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Committee is asked to note the content of this report and approve an amendment to the collection frequency for kerbside food waste collections from weekly to two-weekly, during 2024/25.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 It is estimated that amending the frequency of food waste collections from weekly to two-weekly will generate a part year saving of £94,500 in 2024/2025, with net annual revenue savings of £126,000 yearly, thereafter from 2025/26 onwards. There would also be one-off transformation costs of up to an estimated £75,000 which would be met through the council's Change Fund. This is required to cover costs associated with the purchase of food waste caddies, as well as the revision and re-issue of collection calendars and supporting communications.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Following the introduction of the national Charter for Household Recycling and the accompanying Code of Practice in 2016, the roll out of the revised waste and recycling service provision was completed within Dundee in 2018. This included a separate food waste collection being introduced, alongside twin stream collections of dry recycling (paper/card & mixed plastics) and metals/plastic/cartons.
- 4.2 These changes were implemented to meet Dundee City Council's wider obligations, in terms of the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012.
- 4.3 Kerbside properties currently receive a weekly food waste collection across the city. Householders are issued with a kitchen caddy and a 23-litre kerbside caddy. Residents within flatted properties receive regular collections from either communal on street units or individual wheelie bins sited in storage areas/rear yards.

5.0 LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

- 5.1 Collection of food waste is a statutory requirement under the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012. The Code of Practice for Household Recycling as a minimum recommends providing 20 litres per week capacity to each household and this guidance currently advises that weekly collections are desirable not essential.

- 5.2 There are potential organisational and operational implications of the [Circular Economy Bill](#) and corresponding Waste Route Map that are currently progressing through the parliamentary approval system. Reference is made to Article V of the Minute of Meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Committee of 22 August 2022 (Report No 199-2022 refers) which updated Committee on Dundee City Council's response to the consultation on this pending legislation.
- 5.3 The dates of implementation for this legislation remain unclear at this stage.

6.0 REVISIONS TO COLLECTIONS AND ASSOCIATED SAVINGS

- 6.1 Currently standard practice for local authorities who carry out a separate food waste collection in Scotland is to provide this service on a weekly basis. This report is seeking approval to change the frequency of kerbside food waste collections from weekly to two-weekly.
- 6.2 Staffing and vehicle provision are currently resource intensive for food waste collection and this recycling tonnage contributes overall to the lowest of any of the main recycling household waste streams. This is illustrated in the table below;

Household waste stream	Collection frequency	Annual tonnage (tonnes)	% of recycling rate
Food	Weekly	1,709	8.3%
Plastic, Metals and Cartons	3-weekly	2,233	10.9%
Paper & Card	4-weekly	4,056	19.8%
Garden Waste	*2-weekly	8,235	40.2%

*2022 household waste data as officially verified by SEPA
fortnightly February to December

- 6.3 An assessment has shown that most properties have sufficient capacity within their kerbside food waste caddy to allow two-weekly collections to be implemented as they are currently underutilised. It is assumed that a greater number of caddies will be placed out for collection on a two-weekly basis, so an adjustment to route resource management will be organised to support the additional resource loading involved in the proposed change in frequency.
- 6.4 Additional arrangements will be made to provide an additional 23-litre food waste caddy to kerbside residents requiring supplementary capacity. This would be communicated to residents in advance of the service change being implemented. Residents living within flatted properties citywide, will continue to receive uplifts from their communal food waste bins at the current collection frequency.
- 6.5 Through the change to kerbside food waste collections to a fortnightly uplift frequency, it is estimated there would be a reduction of 3 employees, equating to an annual revenue saving of £126,000. These staff savings would be achieved through a combination of non-filling of vacant posts and a reduction in the number of temporary staff employed.

- 6.6 There would also be one-off transformation costs of up to an estimated £75,000 which would be met through the council's Change Fund. This would cover purchase of food waste caddies, revision and re-issue of collection calendars and communications.
- 6.7 It is recommended that the changes are introduced from the second quarter of financial year 2024/25.

7.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This report has been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment to identify impacts on Equality & Diversity, Fairness & Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk. An impact, positive or negative, on one or more of these issues was identified. An appropriate senior manager has checked and agreed with this assessment. A copy of the Integrated Impact Assessment showing the impacts and accompanying benefits of/mitigating factors for them is included as an Appendix to this report.

8.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 The Council Leadership Team have been consulted on the preparation of this report and agree with its contents.

Elaine Zwirlein
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

Tony Boyle
Head of Environment

27 February 2024

Integrated Impact Assessment

Committee Report Number: 90-2024

Document Title: Revised frequency of collection for kerbside food waste

Document Type: Service

Description:

To seek approval for the introduction of a revised frequency for kerbside food waste collections during the financial year 2024/25.

Intended Outcome:

It is intended that committee note the content of this report and approve an amendment to the collection frequency for kerbside food waste collections from weekly to two-weekly, during 2024/25.

Period Covered: 01/04/2024 to 31/03/2025

Monitoring:

Ongoing monitoring by the in-house team will gauge overall impacts, such as pre/post caddy presentation rates and the volumes of food waste collected.

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Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

Impacts & Implications

Age: No Impact

Disability: No Impact

Gender Reassignment: No Impact

Marriage & Civil Partnership: No Impact

Pregenancy & Maternity: No Impact

Race / Ethnicity: No Impact

Religion or Belief: No Impact

Sex: No Impact

Sexual Orientation: No Impact

Are any Human Rights not covered by the Equalities questions above impacted by this report?

No

Fairness & Poverty

Geographic Impacts & Implications

Strathmartine:	Not Known
Lochee:	Not Known
Coldside:	Not Known
Maryfield:	Not Known
North East:	Not Known
East End:	Not Known
The Ferry:	Not Known
West End:	Not Known

Household Group Impacts and Implications

Looked After Children & Care Leavers: No Impact

Carers: No Impact

Lone Parent Families: No Impact

Household Group Impacts and Implications

Single Female Households with Children: No Impact

Greater number of children and/or young children: No Impact

Pensioners - single / couple: No Impact

Unskilled workers or unemployed: No Impact

Serious & enduring mental health problems: No Impact

Homeless: No Impact

Drug and/or alcohol problems: No Impact

Offenders & Ex-offenders: No Impact

Socio Economic Disadvantage Impacts & Implications

Employment Status: No Impact

Education & Skills: No Impact

Income: No Impact

Caring Responsibilities (including Childcare): No Impact

Affordability and accessibility of services: No Impact

Fuel Poverty: No Impact

Cost of Living / Poverty Premium: No Impact

Connectivity / Internet Access: No Impact

Income / Benefit Advice / Income Maximisation: No Impact

Employment Opportunities: No Impact

Education: No Impact

Health: No Impact

Life Expectancy: No Impact

Mental Health: No Impact

Overweight / Obesity: No Impact

Child Health: No Impact

Neighbourhood Satisfaction: No Impact

Transport: Positive

There will be a reduction in waste collection vehicle journeys across the city.

Environment

Climate Change Impacts

Mitigating Greenhouse Gases: Positive

There will be a reduction in waste collection vehicle journeys across the city.

Adapting to the effects of climate change: Positive

There will be a reduction in waste collection vehicle journeys across the city.

Resource Use Impacts

Energy efficiency & consumption: No Impact

Prevention, reduction, re-use, recovery or recycling of waste: Not Known

Whilst the service change would allow an operational efficiency to be introduced, it may impact on the amount of recyclable food waste collected and the overall recycling rate.

Sustainable Procurement: No Impact

Transport Impacts

Accessible transport provision: No Impact

Sustainable modes of transport: No Impact

Natural Environment Impacts

Air, land & water quality: Positive

There will be a reduction in waste collection vehicle journeys across the city.

Biodiversity: No Impact

Open & green spaces: No Impact

Built Environment Impacts

Built Heritage: No Impact

Housing: No Impact

Is the proposal subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)?

No further action is required as it does not qualify as a Plan, Programme or Strategy as defined by the Environment Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Corporate Risk

Corporate Risk Impacts

Political Reputational Risk: Not Known

Currently all other local authorities who carry out a separate food waste collection are providing the service on a weekly basis. This proposal involves changing Dundee's frequency of kerbside food waste collections from weekly to two-weekly. This would mean that Dundee would become the only authority undertaking food waste collections on a two-weekly frequency rather than a weekly cycle.

Economic/Financial Sustainability / Security & Equipment: Positive

The service change will allow operational efficiencies to be introduced.

Social Impact / Safety of Staff & Clients: No Impact

Technological / Business or Service Interruption: No Impact

Environmental: Positive

There will be a reduction in waste collection vehicle journeys across the city.

Legal / Statutory Obligations: Not Known

There are potential organisational and operational implications of the Circular Economy Bill and corresponding Waste Route Map that are currently progressing through the parliamentary approval system. The dates of implementation for this legislation remain unclear at this stage.

Organisational / Staffing & Competence: No Impact

Corporate Risk Implications & Mitigation:

The risk implications associated with the subject matter of this report are "business as normal" risks and any increase to the level of risk to the Council is minimal. This is due either to the risk being inherently low or as a result of the risk being transferred in full or in part to another party on a fair and equitable basis. The subject matter is routine and has happened many times before without significant impact.