

TITLE	Proposal to change the collection methodology and containment of waste in the Borough
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	The Executive on 21 March 2023
WARD	None Specific;
LEAD OFFICER	Director, Place and Growth - Simon Dale
LEAD MEMBER	Executive Member for Environment and Leisure - Cllr Ian Shenton

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report sets out how the Council intends to tackle financial pressures and drive forward its waste minimisation, diversion, recycling and carbon reduction commitments. Following the results of the second waste strategy consultation, it is proposed that Alternate Weekly Collections are introduced in Wokingham, with wheeled bins rolled out for containment of refuse.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive:

- i) Approve the proposed change of policy from weekly blue bag collection to Alternate Weekly Collection (general refuse collected one week, recycling collected the next week, with retained weekly food waste collection)
- ii) Approve the introduction of wheeled bins for the containment of refuse from the summer of 2024.
- iii) Approve the utilisation of funds from the Waste Equalisation Reserve Fund to support the purchase and distribution of wheeled bins.
- iv) Note the petition submitted by Cllr Norman Jorgensen which seeks the retention of weekly waste collection and notes the comments made by the O&S Management Committee at the meeting on 22 February 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report sets out a proposal for the Council to move from its current arrangements of weekly general refuse and recycling collections, to an Alternate Weekly Waste (AWC) collection model for the borough, following feedback from the Waste Strategy Consultation stating that 74% of respondents liked, accepted or had a neutral position on a move to AWC.

This proposal is in line with Wokingham Borough Council's environmental and climate commitments as a move to AWC will encourage residents to correctly dispose of recyclable material as well as minimise overall waste generation, and it presents an opportunity to assist the Council in delivering much needed financial savings at a time when financial pressures are increasing.

Across England, many council's have been successfully running AWC's for over 25 years. Nearly 85% of English council's already undertake AWC collections to boost recycling and restrict the amount of refuse produced through diversion and minimisation of recycling and general waste. Neighbouring authorities, Bracknell Forest and Reading

Borough Council's made the move to AWC some time ago. BFBC changed in 2007 increasing their recycling rate by 13% per annum. RBC changed in 2006 increasing their recycling rate by 10% per annum. Since then BFBC have now moved to three weekly collections furthering their recycling rate and environmental performance.

Officers are confident that a move to AWC in Wokingham will lead to financial and environmental benefits as analysis of Wokingham residents general waste and recycling shows that there is a significant amount of recycling incorrectly disposed of in resident blue bags which could be recycled rather than disposed of in general waste. Around 57% of material in blue bags is recyclable and could be recycled at kerbside (including food waste) or via the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs). The approximate cost of wrongly disposing recyclable material is c.£1m per annum as the cost of refuse disposal (£121 per tonne) is more expensive than the cost of both dry recycling (£45 per tonne) and food recycling (£22 per tonne). Additionally, once this material is disposed of, it will contribute to carbon emissions and ultimately it cannot be used again.

In light of the Council's financial situation and commitment to improving environmental performance (including the Climate Emergency programme) it is proposed that Wokingham borough moves from:

- A weekly collection of refuse in blue bags to a fortnightly collection in wheeled bins, ceasing the supply of blue bags.
- A weekly dry recycling collection to a fortnightly collection using the existing green reusable sacks already available to residents.

This would mean refuse and dry recycling is collected on alternate weeks. There will be no change to the existing weekly food recycling or the fortnightly paid-for garden waste collections. The proposed change will apply to kerbside properties only. Other arrangements will be made for flats and those properties without access to kerbside collection.

These changes are expected to generate a saving of more than £0.50m in 2024/25, rising to c.£1.05m to £1.50m from 2025/26. The recycling rate is expected to increase by c.10%, from 54% to 64%, and it is predicted that there will be a reduction in carbon emissions of 2,400t per annum. These expected improvements will be closely monitored and KPI's put in place to report on progress including attendance at Overview and Scrutiny.

The draft Executive report was considered at Overview and Scrutiny on 22 February 2023. The notes from this meeting are attached as per Appendix 5 with additional requested supporting information in Appendices 6 to 12.

BACKGROUND

Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) has a good track record of waste management with over 54% of rubbish being recycled in 2021/22. New initiatives have helped drive this forward including the food waste service that was introduced in 2019. Additionally, comprehensive communications and engagement campaigns have supported in capturing more recyclable material through increased environmental campaigns and waste and recycling information sharing with residents.

However, as Appendix 1 demonstrates, some of the top performing recycling authorities in the country manage to recycle well above 60% of waste collected. Following detailed analysis of the blue bag composition in Wokingham, officers established that approximately 57% of general refuse blue bag contents could be recycled but due to incorrect disposal by residents, is currently going to general waste instead. This not only costs the Council's more to dispose of, as the cost of disposing of general waste is significantly higher than the cost of recycling, but it also reduces the council's recycling and environmental performance.

The Waste Cross Party Working Group, set up in 2021, sought to review the Council's existing waste strategy, identify financial savings and improve the Council's environmental performance. Currently, WBC provides the following collections to properties:

- Weekly refuse collections in blue single use bags from kerbside and narrow access properties. Larger refuse containers for flats.
- Weekly mixed dry recycling in green reusable sacks for kerbside properties, boxes for narrow access properties and larger recycling containers for flats
- Weekly food waste in 23 litre green caddies for kerbside and narrow access properties, larger food waste containers for flats
- Fortnightly charged garden waste service in brown wheeled bins or brown paper sacks for narrow access properties.

In order to achieve financial savings and environmental improvements the Cross-Party Working Group commissioned a number of different collection scenarios to be modelled by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) consultancy. The outcomes of this extensive modelling work showed that the only way to achieve the aspirations of the Cross Party Working Group is to change the way waste is collected, specifically in relation to how and when refuse is collected.

This was supported by benchmarking that showed the top performing authorities in England have a fortnightly or less frequent refuse collections. Over 257 authorities in the country already undertake fortnightly collection (76%) and eight (2%) undertake three weekly collections. Table 1 (see Appendix 1) highlights those top performers in 2020

and their respective collection methodology. WBC's figures are provided as a comparison. It also shows that WBC recycles around 9% to 14% less than the other council's by operating a weekly refuse/recycling collection.

Wokingham Borough's nearest neighbours already successfully operate less frequent collection models. West Berkshire Council, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Reading Borough Council and Hart District Council all carry out alternate weekly collections whilst Bracknell Forest Borough Council operate a three weekly collection system. This move has supported all of these authorities to minimise their overall waste and increase their recycling performance.

Options considered

The modelling work outlined above led to the short-listing of two viable options that would enable savings and environmental performance improvements within the constraints of the existing waste collection contract, which does not end until 2026. The details of both options are listed below:

Option 1:

- Alternate weekly collections of refuse and mixed dry recycling (i.e. refuse one week, recycling the following week)
- Provision of a wheeled bin for the containment of refuse and cease provision of blue bags
- Retain weekly food collections
- Retain paid for fortnightly garden waste collections

Option 2:

- Three-weekly collections of refuse
- Provision of a wheeled bin for the containment of refuse and cease provision of blue bags
- Fortnightly collections for mixed dry recycling
- Retain weekly food collections
- Retain paid for fortnightly garden waste collections

Public consultation

Whilst WRAP and Eunomia modelling work has been ongoing, the Cross Party Working Group carried out two public consultations to seek resident views on changing the way waste is collected in the borough. In October 2021, the initial consultation was launched to understand high level views on waste collection and recycling in the borough. The results showed that:

- 86% of respondents are willing to recycle more.
- 54% of respondents felt that environmental benefits are most important.

From October 2022 to December 2022, a more detailed second consultation was undertaken to ask residents their views on the two options outlined above. Over 9,000 responses were received demonstrating that:

- 74% were neutral, accepted or liked the Alternate Weekly Collections proposal
- 78% were neutral, accepted or liked wheeled bins for refuse
- 30% were neutral, accepted or liked three weekly collections

Preferred option for approval:

As a result of the benchmarking, modelling and consultation outcome, the preferred option proposed to the Executive for approval is Option 1 - Alternate Weekly Collections (outlined above).

The benefits that are expected to be achieved as a result of a move to AWC include:

- Savings upwards of c.£0.50m in 2024/25 and c.£1.05m to £1.50m in 2025/26 onwards due to waste minimisation, diversion and contractual efficiencies.
- An increased recycling rate of c.64%, up from c.54%, significantly improving the Council's recycling performance, in line with some of the highest performing council's in the country.
- A carbon saving of 2,400t of CO₂ per annum, in line with the Council's commitments to the Climate Emergency Agenda.

The collection frequency under the proposed changes will look as follows:

	Container	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Refuse (Changed collection frequency and container)	*New* wheeled bin	✓		✓	
Recycling (Changed collection frequency)	Existing green recycling bags		✓		✓
Food waste (Unchanged)	Existing kitchen caddy	✓	✓	✓	✓
Garden waste (Unchanged)	Existing wheeled bins or paper sacks	✓		✓	

It should be noted that there are approximately 64,000 kerbside properties in the borough; around 99% percent of these can accommodate a wheeled bin. The c.1% percent of remaining properties will remain on a bag collection. The rest of the housing stock in Wokingham is made up of flats and narrow access properties and these properties are excluded from this proposed change.

Waste and Recycling Operational Policy

To support the proposed changes and in response to the public consultations, a review of the existing operational policy will be undertaken. Many authorities operating an AWC model have specific policies in place to support their commitments to reducing the impact of waste on the environment and the amount of waste that is sent to expensive energy from waste treatment and landfill. The policies explain the actions and responsibilities of the Council and householders to participate fully in the service and to recycle and dispose of their waste, so as to avoid any uncertainty for residents, officers, and elected members. The Council intends to review its existing policy covering matters such as extra waste at the side of the bin, missed collections, contaminated recycling, larger households, assisted collections and exemptions. This will ensure the implementation and delivery of service will be consistent and equitable.

Mobilisation & Delivery

There are a number of key works streams required to successfully mobilise and deliver this project. A robust governance structure, including a project board and individual workstreams reporting into the project board, has been set up to ensure successful delivery and to manage any risks arising throughout the duration of the project. The workstreams include:

- Communication and public engagement including direct 'face-to-face' roadshows/events, leaflets/letters to properties and social media campaigns
- Customer Experience – including Customer Services support i.e. visits to residents, Website updates and Customer Relation Management (CRM) functionality
- Procurement – including contract variation, wheelie bin purchase and delivery of bins
- Operational implementation – including storage and roll out of wheelie bins, recruitment and onboarding of temporary staff, and rerouting of collections including day changes

It is expected that mobilisation will take approximately 12 months (see appendix 2) for more detailed timeline proposal). This includes for contract variation, identification and review of bin storage locations, procurement of bins, bin delivery, implementation of the communication and engagement plan, development of the back-office IT system,

recruitment of temporary staff to support the customer contact centre as well as outreach staff to support residents, and rerouting of the collection service based on a new AWC model. Each work stream will have its own critical paths and associated risk, which can impact on the timely delivery of that work stream and the overall programme of works. Therefore, the project board meets on a monthly basis, with fortnightly workstream meetings and regular risk register reviews to ensure that there is oversight of any developing risks and they are mitigated as soon as possible.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe funding pressures, particularly in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial 2022/23 (Year 1)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Next Financial Year 2023/24 (Year 2)	Cost of £1.50m for purchase a delivery of wheeled bins (Capital) £0.46m one off implementation costs (Revenue) Total - £1.96m	Proposal to fund all costs including implementation costs and wheeled bins from the Waste Equalisation Fund.	Capital Revenue <i>See appendix 3 for breakdown</i>
Following Financial Year 2024/25 (Year 3)	(£0.50m) est. £0.06m Loss of investment income (see text below)	This is £0.55m short of the MTFP income expectation due to the proposed timeframe of delivery. Impact will be on treasury budgets	Revenue Revenue
Following Financial Year 2025/26 (Year 4)	(£1.05m - £1.50m) est. £0.05m Loss of investment income (see text below)	It is forecast that budgeted saving will be achieved and possibly exceeded. Impact will be on treasury budgets	Revenue Revenue

The implementation requires one off funding of £1.96m in 2023/24, which comprises of £1.50m for wheeled bins purchase and delivery, and £0.46m for operational delivery costs. It is proposed to utilise funds from the existing waste equalisation fund to finance all implementation costs. There is currently £4.16m in the waste equalisation fund, utilising £1.96m would leave balance of £2.20m. The £1.96m will be returned to the fund over 13 years at c.£0.15m per year. Further information can be found in Appendix 4.

As a result of utilising the funds from the Waste Equalisation Fund there is a loss of investment income to the authority that would have been realised had these fund been available to invest as was the case in 2022/23. The impact will be within the Treasury department and is forecast to total £0.29m over the thirteen years of repayment.

The savings have been projected through detailed data analysis and there are assumptions associated with these. The following table outlines the expected diversion from 'blue bag' residual waste to recycling and waste minimisation. It is predicted, through the benchmarking/model analysis that overall 'blue bag' residual waste will reduce by 20%. 12% of this residual waste will go to dry recycling (green bags), 5% will go to food waste and 3% will be minimised by residents not generating the waste.

Waste type/activity	Current Service (tonnes)	New Service (tonnes)	Difference (tonnes)	Increase (+) or decrease (-)
Residual waste	28,142	22,596	-5,546	-20% decrease
Dry recycling	27,045	30,505	3,460	+13% increase (12% of current service)
Food waste	6,054	7,366	1,312	+22% increase (5% of current service)
Waste Minimisation	0	-774	-774	(3% of current service)
Total	61,241	60,467	-774	

However, if the diversion rates are not realised or the contractual efficiencies are not achieved then the savings will be less than expected. To mitigate this risk, the project will be carefully managed and it will be supported by a robust communications campaign which will drive the waste minimisation and recycling elements. The communication costs form part of the implementation funding mentioned above.

The MTFP proposed budget includes income expectations of £1.05m in each year from 2024/25 onward. Due to not all the savings being able to be realised in year one and the proposed timing of implementation being part way through the year, the £1.05m income is unlikely to be achieved in 2024/25, with income in the region of £0.50m forecast. It is

however anticipated that the £1.05m saving in 2025/26 will be achieved and possibly exceeded by up to £0.50m.

The financial position included in this report are up to 2025/26. The current contract with Veolia expires in 2026 and a retendering exercise will be undertaken. This is likely to result in further financial implications, but these are not yet known.

Other Financial Information

- Currently around 57% of the waste included as general waste is recyclable. This is significant financially because it is up to 6 times more expensive to dispose of general waste than recyclable waste. AWC combined with the communications message is forecast to encourage more recycling and reduce the percentage of recyclable waste in general waste. The figures included in this report take into account this assumption.

Stakeholder Considerations and Consultation

Stakeholder consultation and consideration has been fully assessed as part of this report. In 2021 and subsequently in 2022, WBC undertook two waste and recycling consultations which set out to gain insight into resident's waste and recycling opinions.

The first consultation showed:

- 86% of respondents are willing to recycle more.
- 54% of respondents felt that the environmental benefits are most important.

The second consultation showed:

- 74% were neutral, accepting or liked Alternate Weekly Collections
- 78% were neutral, accepting or liked wheeled bins for refuse
- 30% were neutral, accepting or liked three weekly collections

It is clear from these surveys that there is a desire to improve our recycling and minimise waste as much as possible in the borough which is possible through Alternate Weekly Collections.

Public Sector Equality Duty

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken.

Climate Emergency – *This Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to playing as full a role as possible – leading by example as well as by exhortation – in achieving a carbon neutral Wokingham Borough by 2030*

This Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to playing as full a role as possible through leading by example as well as by encouragement. This proposal will help reduce carbon and single use plastic and support the goal of the Borough reaching carbon neutral by 2030.

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2
No Part 2

List of Background Papers
<p>Appendix 1: Top recycling authorities 2020</p> <p>Appendix 2: Proposed timeline for mobilisation and delivery</p> <p>Appendix 3: Delivery costs</p> <p>Appendix 4: Costs and savings</p> <p>Appendix 5: Notes from Overview and Scrutiny 22 February 2023</p> <p>Appendix 6: Full Equality Impact Assessment</p> <p>Appendix 7: Demographic responses to the consultation</p> <p>Appendix 8: Full initial options analysis for alternate weekly collections</p> <p>Appendix 9: Modelling the increased volumes from kerbside properties required to compensate for the flats and other properties not adopting the new arrangements</p> <p>Appendix 10: Food waste collection performance against targets</p> <p>Appendix 11: Confirmation that the costs and savings included in the Executive report are consistent with the costs and savings in the Medium Term Financial Plan;</p> <p>Appendix 12: A breakdown of the reported 2,400t CO₂ saving arising from the proposed new waste collection arrangements.</p>

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Appendix 1:

Top recycling authorities 2020/2021 Based on DEFRA Statistics for English Collection and Unitary Authorities (note the release of 2021/2022 data has been delayed by DEFRA until Spring 2023)

Rank	Local Authority	Household Waste Sent for Reuse, Recycling or Composting (%)	Residual Waste Per Household (kg)	Residual Waste Frequency	Residual Waste Bin Size (litres)	Food Waste Frequency	Dry Recycling Frequency	Dry Recycling Bin Size (litres)	Dry Recycling Scheme Type
1	St Albans City and DC	64.2%	389	Fortnightly	180	Weekly	Fortnightly	240 + Box	Twin Stream: Containers/Fibres
2	South Oxfordshire DC	63.6%	406	Fortnightly	180	Weekly	Fortnightly	240	Fully Comingled
3	Three Rivers DC	63.1%	369	Fortnightly	140	Weekly	Weekly	240	Fully Comingled
4	Vale of White Horse DC	62.6%	376	Fortnightly	180	Weekly	Fortnightly	240	Fully Comingled
5	Surrey Heath BC	61.3%	397	Fortnightly	180	Weekly	Fortnightly	240	Fully Comingled
6	East Riding of Yorkshire	60.8%	532	Fortnightly	180	Fortnightly	Fortnightly	240	Fully Comingled
7	North Somerset	60.4%	466	Fortnightly	180	Weekly	Weekly	Boxes	Multi Stream: All Materials
8	Dorset Council	60.1%	468	Fortnightly	180	Weekly	Fortnightly	240	Fully Comingled
9	East Devon DC	60.0%	326	3 Weekly	240	Weekly	Weekly	Boxes	Multi Stream: All Materials
10	Tandridge DC	59.9%	398	Fortnightly	180	Weekly	Fortnightly	240	Fully Comingled
11	South Northants DC	59.6%	469	Fortnightly	180	Weekly	Fortnightly	240	Fully Comingled
12	Stratford-on-Avon DC	59.4%	471	Fortnightly	240	Fortnightly	Fortnightly	240	Fully Comingled
13	Stroud DC	59.4%	332	Fortnightly	140	Weekly	Fortnightly	240+ Box	Twin Stream: Containers/Fibres
14	Bath and NE Somerset	59.2%	383	Fortnightly	140	Weekly	Weekly	Boxes	Multi Stream: All Materials
15	Cotswold DC	58.9%	449	Fortnightly	180	Weekly	Fortnightly	Boxes and Sacks	Multi Stream: All Materials
80	Wokingham BC	49.5%	411	Weekly	Sacks	Weekly	Weekly	Reusable Sacks	Comingled – No Glass

Appendix 2

Proposed timeline for mobilisation and delivery

Work Area	Date
Executive Decision Agreed	March 2023
Variation discussion with Veolia	March 2023
Procure wheeled bins	March 2023
Finalise communications campaign	March 2023
Website and CRM	January 2023 to March 2024
Additional WBC temporary staff	Spring 2024 to Autumn 2024
Wheeled bin distribution	Summer 2024
Go Live	Summer 2024

Appendix 3

Mobilisation costs:

Item (From Waste Equalisation Fund)	Total one-off cost
Wheeled bins purchase and distribution	£1.5m
WBC additional staff costs (3 x Outreach offers, 4 x Customer Service officers - Six months)	£140k
Communications – Design, production and distribution	£100k
IT and Web design	£100k
Site rental and security for Wheeled bins	£70k
Contingency	£30k
Property Survey	£15k
TOTAL	£1.955m

Appendix 4: Costs and savings:

Item (From Waste Equalisation Fund)	Total one-off cost
Wheeled bins purchase and distribution	£1.5m
WBC additional staff costs (3 x Outreach offers, 4 x Customer Service officers - Six months)	£140k
Communications – Design, production and distribution	£100k
IT and Web design	£100k
Site rental and security for Wheeled bins	£70k
Contingency	£30k
Property Survey	£15k
TOTAL	£1.955m

Item	Total Saving (Realised from 2025/26)
Contract Efficiencies	£290k
Re3 – Diversion of refuse to recycling inc waste minimisation	£485k
Ceasing Blue bags	£335k
Repayment of Equalisation Fund per annum	-£150k
TOTAL	c.£1m

Proposed Changes to the Waste Collection Service

The Committee considered a report on proposed changes to the Waste Collection Service, set out at Agenda pages 13 to 26. The Committee also received two supplementary presentations providing more detail on specific issues raised by Members prior to the meeting.

Ian Shenton (Executive Member for Environment, Sport and Leisure) attended the meeting supported by officers – Rebecca Bird, Richard Bisset, Oliver Burt (re3), Simon Dale, Fran Hobson and Emma Tilbrook (Eunomia).

Ian Shenton introduced the item, referring to the aims of the proposed changes – driving forward its commitment to waste minimisation, diversion, recycling and carbon reduction whilst helping to tackle the financial challenges facing the Council.

The report gave details of the proposal for the Council to move from its current arrangements of weekly refuse and recycling collections to an Alternate Weekly Waste (AWC) collection model for the Borough. The proposal was in line with WBC's environmental and climate commitments as a move to AWC would encourage residents to dispose of recyclable material more effectively as well as minimising overall waste generation. In summary, the proposal was that WBC would:

- move to a fortnightly collection of refuse in wheeled bins, ceasing the supply of blue bags;
- move to a fortnightly collection of dry recycling using the existing green reusable sacks, already available to residents;
- maintain the existing weekly food recycling collections and the paid-for garden waste collections.

The proposed changes would apply to kerbside properties only. Other arrangements would be put in place for flats and those properties without access to kerbside collection.

The report stated that, across England, many councils had been running AWC's for over 25 years. Nearly 85% of English councils already carried out AWC collections to boost recycling and restrict the amount of refuse produced. Neighbouring councils, Bracknell Forest and Reading moved to AWC some time ago. Bracknell Forest changed in 2007, increasing their recycling rate by 13% per annum. Reading changed in 2006, increasing their recycling rate by 10% per annum. Bracknell Forest had subsequently moved to three weekly collections.

The future of the Council's waste collection service had been considered initially by a cross-party working group. The working group had commissioned work on potential options from specialist organisations – WRAP and Eunomia. The modelling work had reduced 12 initial options down to four. Two options were then subject to public consultation. The report stated that the two options would deliver savings and environmental improvements within the constraints of the existing waste collection contract. Option 1 would implement AWC for refuse and mixed dry recycling. Option 2

would implement three weekly collection of refuse with fortnightly collections for mixed dry recycling.

As a result of the modelling, benchmarking and two consultation exercises, the proposal was for Option 1, which would be submitted to the Executive in March 2023. The benefits of moving to AWC were summarised as:

- Savings upwards of circa £0.5m in 2024/25 rising to circa £1.5m in 2025/26;
- An increased recycling rate of circa 64%, up from 54% currently;
- A carbon saving of 2,400t CO₂ per annum – from reduced waste disposal, transport and fuel.

Officers gave details of the two consultation exercises used to inform the development of the proposed service changes. In October 2021, an initial consultation was launched to gain residents' high-level views on waste collection and recycling in the Borough. A more detailed consultation then followed between October and December 2022. The second consultation sought residents' views on the two final options outlined in the report. The key findings of the second consultation were:

- 74% of respondents liked, could accept or were neutral about fortnightly, refuse and recycling collections;
- 30% of respondents liked, could accept or were neutral about three weekly refuse and recycling collections;
- 78% of respondents liked, could accept or were neutral about wheeled bins for general rubbish.

Officers also confirmed that a full Equality Impact Assessment had been carried out in relation to the proposed changes. As a result, mitigations had been introduced for specific groups. For example, larger households would receive a larger wheeled bin and the assisted collection service would continue for residents who could not bring containers to the edge of the property.

In the ensuing discussion, Members raised the following points:

If wheeled bins were being introduced for refuse, why were they not being introduced for recycling as well? It was confirmed that the Government's position was not clear on the separation of recycling at the moment, so it was proposed to retaining the existing green sacks until the Government's position became clearer.

Operationally, would the proposed new arrangements be cheaper for Veolia? It was confirmed that contract efficiencies totalling £290k were included in the proposals (realised from 2025/26). The waste contract was due to be re-let in 2026. This would be a separate process. Discussions had already been held with Veolia about the proposed AWC arrangements. Negotiations about changes to the Waste contract to reflect the new arrangements had not yet commenced.

The cost of implementing the proposed option was estimated at £1.955m (funded from the Waste Equalisation Fund). Was there an additional cost to the Council in terms of lost interest on this money? Officers confirmed that there would be a loss of interest earned estimated at circa £300k over a 13 year period.

Why was it proposed to start buying the new bins in 2023 – there would be additional costs re storage, etc.? It was confirmed that the procurement process would start in 2023, with a long lead in time. The bins would be delivered in batches. Work was ongoing to identify potential storage/security options within the Council's own facilities in order to minimise any additional costs.

A key element of the proposed savings was behaviour change amongst residents. What evidence was there that the suggested 10% increase in recycling could be achieved? Officers commented that the projected increase was based on the experience of other councils. Benchmarking had taken place using similar councils to WBC who had implemented a similar change. The proposed service changes would be highlighted in an extensive communications campaign across the Borough. It was likely that Government targets for recycling would increase, so it was important that the Council made progress on this issue.

The consultation information indicated that there were three under-represented groups. Did the Council hear the views of all sections of the community? It was confirmed that a postcard with details of the proposals was sent to every household in the Borough. A wide range of communication tools was used including social media and contact with specific community groups. It was suggested that a demographic analysis of the consultation responses be circulated to Members. It was also suggested that the communications plan supporting the new arrangements include the provision of information for people moving into the Borough – perhaps via the new WBC website.

Was the collection of glass a specific issue which needed to be addressed in the new arrangements? It was confirmed that the current arrangements worked well – residents were able and willing to use the Bring Banks. Collecting glass from the kerbside would have a significant financial impact.

In relation to the cross-party working group, what were the full range of options explored before the final two options were identified? Officers confirmed that there were originally 12 options which were assessed in terms of savings delivered, environmental benefits and carbon reductions. There was also an analysis of the "future proofing" of the service in relation to potential changes of Government policy and recycling targets. It was suggested that details of the original 12 options be circulated to Members for information.

If the new arrangements were approved and implemented, how would the impacts and savings be measured, monitored and reported? Officers commented that there were currently two KPIs which were reported as part of the quarterly performance reporting to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the Executive. Further KPIs could be developed in order to measure specific aspects of the service. Progress would also be reported to this Committee as required by Members.

The report stated that the new arrangements would apply to properties with access to the kerbside. Of the 64,000 kerbside properties in the Borough, around 99% could accommodate a wheeled bin. Survey work would identify the number of properties that could not accommodate wheeled bins. It was suggested that details of the modelling be circulated to inform Members on the increased recycling performance required from kerbside properties to compensate for the properties which did not adopt the new arrangements. It was noted that specific measures would be introduced for residents in flats, such as the use of recycling champions and targeted campaigns for individual blocks.

In 2022, an increased target for food recycling was announced in order to save £350k. This was to be supported by a communications campaign. How successful had the campaign been and was there data available to demonstrate the increased levels of food recycling? It was suggested that evidence be circulated to Members to confirm the increased levels of food recycling and the impact of the communications campaign.

There was concern that the financial data in the Overview and Scrutiny report was not consistent with the data submitted to the Budget Council meeting on 16 February 2023. For example there was a difference of £200k in the assumed savings for 2024/25. There was also a difference in the residual amount of the Waste Equalisation Reserve following the proposed changes and a difference in the waste disposal costs set out in the Medium Term Financial Plan. It was confirmed that the report to the Executive in March 2023 would contain accurate data on costs and savings and would be consistent with the Medium Term Financial Plan.

The report stated that the proposed new arrangements would deliver a carbon saving of 2,400t CO₂. How was this carbon saving calculated? Officers confirmed that the carbon saving was made up of reduced levels of waste disposal, transport and fuel costs. The projected carbon saving had been agreed with the Council's Climate Emergency officer team. It was suggested that a detailed breakdown of the carbon saving be circulated to Members and included in the report to the Executive.

It was confirmed that the report being considered by the Management Committee would form the basis of the report being submitted to the Executive in March 2023. Consequently the Recommendations box contained two sets of recommendations, one recommendation for the Management Committee and three recommendations for the Executive. The section headed "Recommendations to the Executive" did not apply to the Management Committee. The Management Committee was not being asked to recommend approval of the proposed changes set out in the report.

It was proposed by Pauline Jorgensen and seconded by Jim Frewin that a summary of the Committee's discussion be submitted to the Executive, alongside the officer report, together with the additional information and/or clarification requested by Members at the meeting.

Upon being put to the vote, the proposal was agreed.

RESOLVED That:

- 1) Ian Shenton and the relevant officers be thanked for attending the meeting to give the presentation and answer Member questions;
- 2) a summary of the Committee's discussion be submitted to the Executive at its March 2023 meeting in order to inform its consideration and decisions on the proposed changes to the waste collection service;
- 3) the Executive also receive copies of the additional information requested by the Committee, viz:
 - the full Equality Impact Assessment; Appendix 6
 - a demographic analysis of the consultation responses; Appendix 7
 - details of the original 12 waste options reported to the cross-party working group; Appendix 8

- details of the modelling on the increased volumes from kerbside properties required to compensate for the flats and other properties not adopting the new arrangements; Appendix 9
- data showing the increased levels of food recycling in 2022/23 against targets and an assessment of the impact of the underpinning communications campaign; Appendix 10
- confirmation that the costs and savings included in the Executive report are consistent with the costs and savings in the Medium Term Financial Plan; Appendix 11
- a breakdown of the reported 2,400t CO₂ saving arising from the proposed new waste collection arrangements. Appendix 12

Appendix 6: Full Equality Impact Assessment

1. Process and guidance

Date started:	December 2022
Completed by:	Richard Bisset
Service:	Place Clienting
Project or policy EqIA relates to:	Alternate Weekly Collection
Date EqIA discussed at service team meeting:	December 2022
Equality Improvement Plan approved:	
Signed off by (AD):	Fran Hobson
Sign off date:	January 2023

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2. Consultation

During the initial impact review, it was found that some protected equality groups might be negatively impacted by the proposal. To further understand the potential impacts and decide what actions might be needed, the relevant equality groups should be consulted.

Please complete the table below.

Equality group	Date of consultation	Potential negative impacts identified	Changes or actions based on feedback from consultation
Age	Mitigation in place for this group	The proposal to introduce Alternate Weekly Collections which would change the collection frequency of current weekly to fortnightly for refuse and recycling. There could be adverse impact for those with age	There is already an 'assisted collection' service in place which will be able to collect, empty and return refuse/recycling/food waste containers from a specified location. This service will continue.

		related disabilities moving the wheeled bin.	
Disability	Mitigation in place for this group	<p>The proposal to introduce Alternate Weekly Collections which would change the collection frequency of current weekly to fortnightly for refuse and recycling. There could be adverse impact for those with disabilities moving the wheeled bin.</p> <p>There could also be an impact for those residents that have a medical issue and generate 'clinical' waste i.e. incontinence pads</p>	<p>There is already an 'assisted collection' service in place which will be able to collect, empty and return refuse/recycling/food waste containers from a specified location. This service will continue.</p> <p>Residents can use the wheeled bin for containment of any clinical waste i.e. incontinence pads. If too much waste is generated then a larger bin could be provided. There is also a weekly clinical collection in operation.</p>
Gender reassignment	N/A		
Marriage and Civil Partnership	N/A		
Pregnancy/Maternity	N/A		
Religious belief	N/A		
Race	N/A		
Sex	N/A		
Sexual Orientation	N/A		
Socio-economic disadvantage	N/A		

3. Equality improvement plan

The project owner must complete an Equality Improvement Plan. This improvement plan sets out the actions to minimise or remove negative impacts. It should also be used to action any opportunities to promote equality and understanding between communities that have been identified throughout the assessment.

The improvement plan should be a 'live document' and be updated and reviewed throughout the delivery of the proposal.

The improvement plan comprises:

- A. an assessment table
- B. an implementation table

Please complete Table A now and keep Table B up to date throughout delivery of the proposal.

Table A: Assessment table

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Equality group	Actions required	Expected outcome from actions	Responsible owner	How will the delivery of your actions be monitored	Review date (s)
Disability	If the Alternate Weekly Collection proposal is approved then additional information/support will be given to those residents that require it.	Residents that are unable to move the waste/recycling containers can opt for the 'assisted collection' service which collects, empties and returns the containers on day of collection by the contractor. Residents that have clinical waste can put their pads etc in the wheeled bin. If too much	Richard Bisset	Review of assisted collections and support to residents. Assessment of requests and support to residents via phone/visit.	January 2024

		waste is generated then a larger bin could be provided. There is also a weekly clinical collection in operation.			
Larger households	Those with 5 or more people in the household currently may not be able to fit all their refuse within the wheeled bin. However, over 57% of the blue bags comprises of material which is recyclable. If this material is diverted from the wheeled bin to the recycling services, there should be sufficient space in the wheeled bin.	If larger households do have difficulty containing all their refuse, then a larger wheeled bin can be provided.	Richard Bisset	Assessment of requests and support to residents via phone/visit.	January 2024

Table B: Implementation table

Notes from implementation	Actions completed	Impacts eliminated or mitigated

4. Conclusion, sign-off & Publication

Date of executive paper publication:	March 2023
How do you intend to communicate any changes to the affected groups?	Policy on website and general communications across the borough. Targeted communications to groups will be undertaken
Date of communication:	Expected early 2024

Consultation on potential changes to waste collections

Survey report



Wokingham Borough Council held an eight week consultation, hosted on the council's engagement website, [Engage Wokingham Borough](#), between 10 October and 6 December 2022. More than 9,000 people responded.

Key findings

Fortnightly rubbish and recycling collections

74% like, can accept or are neutral

The survey overwhelmingly showed that residents are willing to accept a change from the current collection system where everything is collected every week, to a system where general rubbish and recycling are collected every other week but food waste continues to be collected weekly.

Three-weekly rubbish and recycling collections

30% like, can accept or are neutral

The survey showed that the vast majority of residents are opposed to having rubbish collected every three weeks, recycling every two weeks and food waste collected weekly.

Wheeled bins for general rubbish

78% like, can accept or are neutral

Respondents were strongly in favour of wheeled bins for rubbish, with 43% saying they would like it and 26% saying they could accept it.

Mitigations

When asked if there were issues we should consider mitigations for, respondents' key concerns were about storing the extra waste and recycling, storing the wheeled bin, whether the wheeled bin would be big enough and the impact on the elderly and people with disabilities.

Summary of consultation

Consultation key stats:

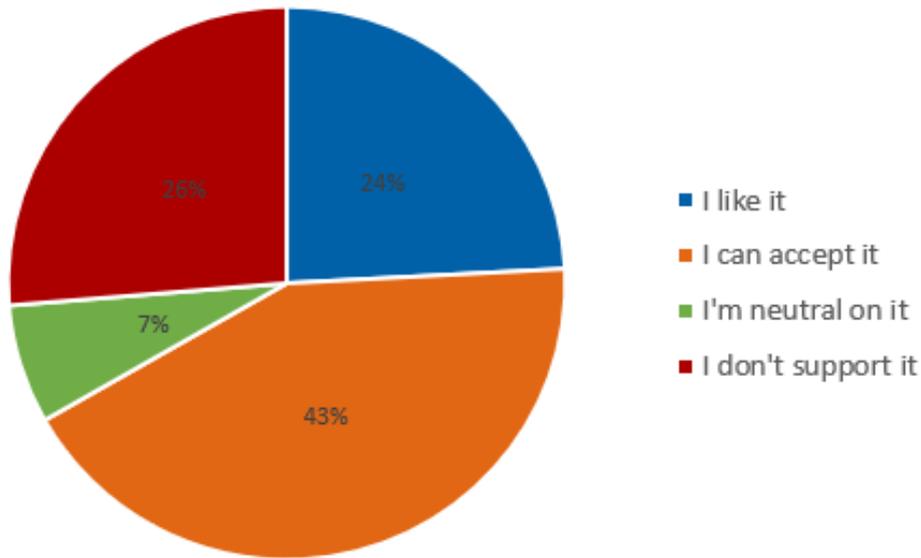
- 29,317 views of the waste consultation page, with 41% completing the survey
- 30,000 saw the survey being promoted in WBCConnect email newsletters
- Of the 8,986 responses, the respondents found out about the survey from:
 - Leaflets – 2,779 (92 QR code scans)
 - WBCConnect email newsletters – 3,626
 - WBC social media – 998
 - Other social media – 1,380
 - Friend/family/neighbour - 552
 - Local media (newspaper, TV, radio) – 172
- Of all responses, 82 paper or telephone assisted surveys were completed (0.9%)
- Halfway through the consultation period, we analysed the demographic data and identified three under-represented groups and used paid for social media promotion to target the groups, reaching 1,232 people in the target groups

Survey promotion

The survey was promoted in the following ways:

- 21 September Media release announcing upcoming consultation
- 10 October Media release launching consultation, with articles in a variety of email newsletters including Residents' Round Up, Climate Emergency and Rubbish & Recycling, and social posts on Facebook, Twitter, NextDoor. The social posts were shared by numerous community groups and town/parish councils. The information was also on the WBC website and WBC news website.
- 17 October Postcard to all households in the borough, via Royal Mail
- 26 October Launch WBC Facebook and CitizenLab Facebook and Instagram paid campaigns targeting under-represented groups
- 1 November Engagement session with CLASP, using an EasyRead version of the survey
- 14 November Media release announcing the halfway point in the survey period, with articles in email newsletters and social posts.
- 23 November Social media 'Less than two weeks left' and 'Final chance to respond' campaigns
- 29 November Media release for last chance to respond, with articles in email newsletters

1. What do you think of changing our waste and recycling collections so that we continue to have weekly food waste collections, but general rubbish and recycling are each collected fortnightly?

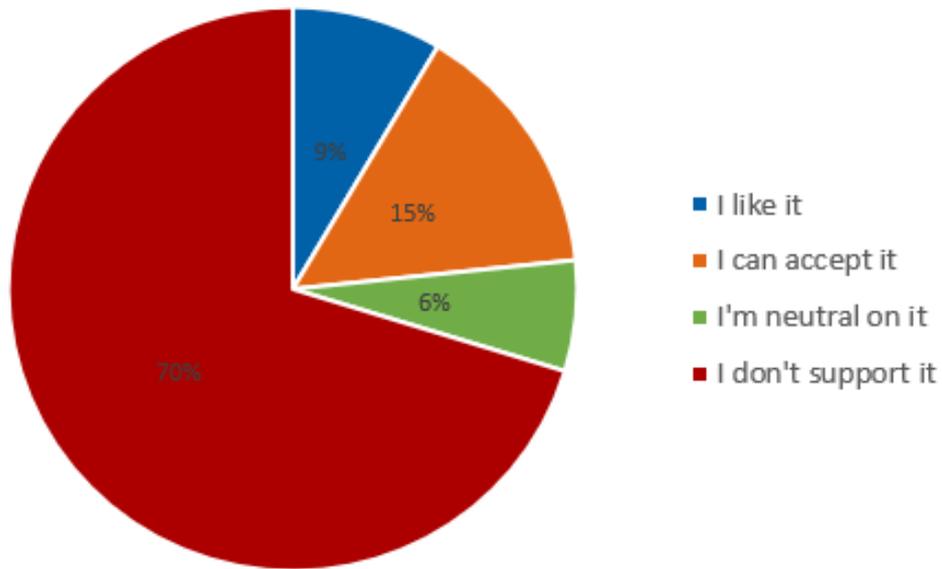


Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	I like it		24.17%	2184
2	I can accept it		42.59%	3849
3	I'm neutral on it		6.96%	629
4	I don't support it		26.28%	2375
			answered	9037
			skipped	31

For respondents who would like changing collections to fortnightly, the primary reasons were that it would provide environmental and economic benefits with a simple to use collection system. Many respondents said they currently do not put out a full blue bag every week and the change to fortnightly would be a simple one to make and would encourage those who are currently putting food waste in their general rubbish to use the food waste collection service, which is both environmentally and economically beneficial. Respondents also pointed out that the many local authorities have already moved to fortnightly collections, with some going three weekly for rubbish.

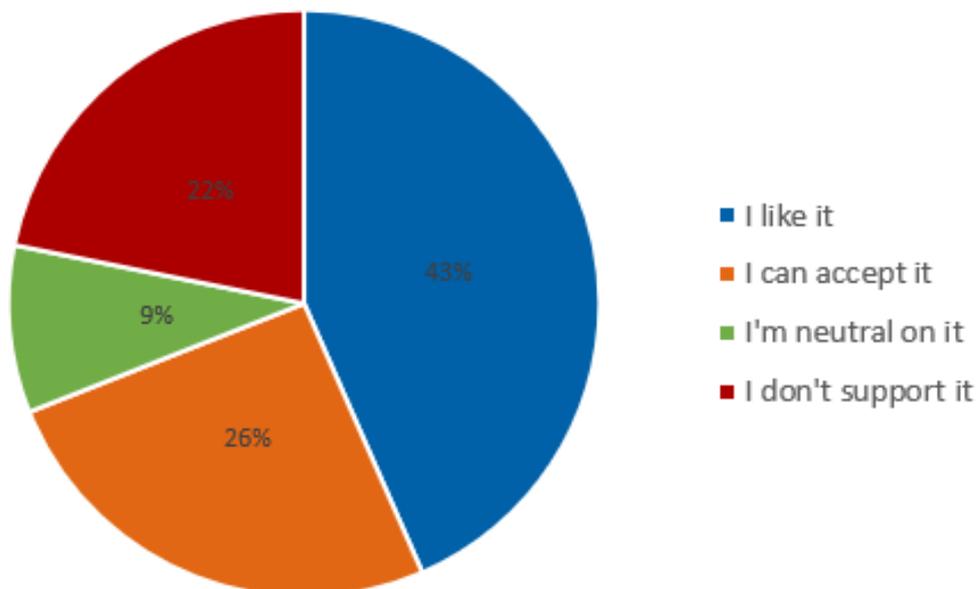
For respondents who said they did not support changing collections to fortnightly, the primary concerns were around storing the additional rubbish/recycling, as well as the cleanliness of having to store waste for two weeks and whether this would cause issues with rats, foxes, birds, etc. Additional concerns were whether the changes would cause additional fly-tipping, that it would be unsightly to store more than one week's worth of waste and wheeled bins outside, and capacity issues. Additionally, some respondents felt that weekly collections should be considered a basic service due to the amount they pay in council tax.

2. What do you think of changing our general rubbish collection to every three weeks, recycling every two weeks and food waste weekly?



Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	I like it		8.52%	769
2	I can accept it		14.84%	1339
3	I'm neutral about it		6.34%	572
4	I don't support it		70.23%	6343
			answered	9023
			skipped	45

3. What do you think of having a wheeled bin for your rubbish?



Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	I would like it		43.45%	3924
2	I can accept it		25.53%	2306
3	I'm neutral about it		9.21%	832
4	I don't support it		21.81%	1970
			answered	9032
			skipped	36

For respondents who said they would like to have a wheeled bin, the primary reasons were that it would help to reduce mess caused by animals and the weather, that it would be better for the environment as we would no longer use the single use blue bags, and that they have been asking for wheeled bins for years and they would be an improvement to the current system. Respondents pointed out that Wokingham Borough was in the minority by not using wheeled bins and if they were in most other places, they should work here. Some respondents thought having rubbish collected every three weeks would be acceptable as long as wheeled bins were provided.

For respondents who don't support having a wheeled bin for their rubbish, the primary concerns were around having enough storage space for it, the unsightliness of wheeled bins being stored in front of houses, difficulties with access to the rear of the property, difficulties with getting the wheeled bin to the kerbside, the potential hazards of wheeled bins not being returned to the collection point by the crews, and concerns that the bins would be too small.

4. Are there any other issues you would want to see mitigated to make fortnightly or three-weekly general rubbish collections acceptable to you?

We know that there will be some households who would really struggle with fortnightly or three-weekly general rubbish collections. We would make special arrangements for the following: terraced and other properties where access is restricted, households that produce a lot of waste from things like nappies, adult incontinence products and medical waste, larger families, elderly people or people with disabilities.

Just over 3,800 respondents answered this question. The most common concern was around storing twice the amount of recycling at their property if recycling changes to fortnightly collections, followed closely by concerns around having enough capacity if rubbish collections change away from weekly due to large families, children in nappies and personal hygiene waste.

The next most common concern was about having enough room to store the additional rubbish and recycling that would accumulate and having room outdoors to store a wheeled bin. There were also concerns about whether people with disabilities and the elderly would find a new system difficult and issues with the cleanliness and tidiness of changing away from weekly collections. Some residents felt that the borough's high council tax rate should allow us to keep weekly collections, while others raised issues about rats, foxes, birds and insects.

Some residents were concerned about hazards and access connected to fortnightly collections, and others about whether the new system would be confusing, particularly around three weekly rubbish collections. There were also concerns about an increase in fly-tipping and whether the changes would discourage recycling.

Summary of key themes	Response Total	
Storing recycling -- Issues about having enough room to store twice the amount of recycling as they currently need to	378	
Capacity -- Concerns about having enough capacity for non-weekly collections due to large families, children in nappies and personal hygiene waste	365	
Storing rubbish and / or wheeled bins -- Issues about having enough room to store additional rubbish and having room to store a wheeled bin	255	
Disability / difficulty -- Concerns for people with disabilities and the elderly	213	
Cleanliness -- Concerns about smells, hygiene, nappies (re cleanliness)	150	
Untidy -- Issues with wheeled bins being stored at the front of properties	139	
Council tax -- Concerns about paying a high council tax rate and not getting value for money, and whether we could make savings elsewhere to keep weekly collections	119	
Animals -- Concerns about animals such as rats, foxes, birds and insects	88	
Hazards / Access -- Issues with creating hazards by storing rubbish/recycling or wheeled bins outside and the difficulty getting a wheeled bin to the kerbside	67	
Confusing / calendar -- Concerns with an alternating collection system being confusing	60	
Fly-tipping -- Issues about whether fly-tipping would increase	54	
Discourages recycling -- Concerns about if the change would discourage recycling	34	
	answered	3802
	skipped	5184

5. How often do you usually put out general rubbish (in the blue bags)?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Every week		86.01%	7765
2	Every two weeks		9.80%	885
3	Less than every two weeks		4.19%	378
			answered	9028
			skipped	40

6. How many blue bags do you put out in a typical week?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	I don't always put one out		13.81%	1244
2	1		66.74%	6013
3	2		16.67%	1502
4	3		2.22%	200
5	4+		0.56%	50
			answered	9009
			skipped	59

7. How full are the rubbish bags you put out in a typical week?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Very full -- about 80 to 100% full		44.93%	4043
2	Somewhat full -- about 50 to 80%		34.46%	3101
3	Not very full -- less than 50% full		20.60%	1854
			answered	8998
			skipped	70

8. How often do you usually put out recycling (in the green re-useable waterproof bags)?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Every week		96.45%	8712
2	Every two weeks		2.40%	217
3	Less than every two weeks		0.61%	55
4	Never or rarely		0.54%	49
			answered	9033
			skipped	35

9. How many green recycling bags do you put out in a typical week?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	1		43.72%	3925
2	2		44.41%	3987
3	3		9.00%	808
4	4+		2.87%	258
			answered	8978
			skipped	90

10. How full are the green recycling bags you put out in a typical week?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Very full -- about 80 to 100% full		75.62%	6795
2	Somewhat full -- about 50 to 80%		21.98%	1975
3	Not very full -- less than 50% full		2.40%	216
			answered	8986
			skipped	82

11. Can you tell us why you don't put out recycling every week?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	It's too much work		5.19%	16

11. Can you tell us why you don't put out recycling every week?

2	I don't have a green re-usable recycling bag		3.25%	10
3	I don't know what can be recycled		0.97%	3
4	I don't have anywhere to store the green recycling bag		2.92%	9
5	I recycle everything I can but have less than 1 green bag per week		72.08%	222
6	Other (please specify):		21.10%	65
			answered	308
			skipped	8760

12. How often do you put out food waste (in the black food waste caddy)?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Every week		82.45%
2	Less than every week		6.44%
3	I don't use the food waste collection service		11.11%
			answered
			9044
			skipped
			24

13. Can you tell us why you don't always separate out your food waste?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	It's too messy and/or too smelly		27.87%
2	Using the blue rubbish bags is easier		12.52%
3	I don't have a food waste caddy		8.84%
4	I put all the food waste I have in the food waste container but have less than a full container per week		23.10%
5	Other (please specify):		46.45%
			answered
			1550
			skipped
			7518

14. How many people live in your household?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	1		13.60%
2	2		43.42%

14. How many people live in your household?

3	3		16.44%	1486
4	4		20.01%	1809
5	5		4.83%	437
6	6		1.31%	118
7	7		0.27%	24
8	8		0.07%	6
9	9		0.00%	0
10	10+		0.07%	6
			answered	9040
			skipped	28

15. Do you have any children under three in your household?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	No		87.28%
2	Yes, 1 child		7.36%
3	Yes, 2 children		4.61%
4	Yes, 3+ children		0.75%
			answered
			8847
			skipped
			221

16. What sort of property do you live in?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Detached or semi-detached house with access to the rear		72.27%
2	Detached or semi-detached house with no outside access to the rear		12.20%
3	Terrace house with outside access to the rear		6.73%
4	Terrace house with no outside access to the rear		3.33%
5	Flat or apartment		2.54%
6	Room in a shared house or bedsit		0.03%
7	Supported living accommodation		0.03%
8	Caravan or mobile home		0.24%
9	Other (please specify):		2.62%
			answered
			9033
			skipped
			35

About you (optional)

1. What town or parish do you live in?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Arborfield and Newland		2.37%	181
2	Barkham		1.96%	150
3	Charvil		2.31%	177
4	Earley		15.56%	1191
5	Finchampstead		6.82%	522
6	Hurst		1.33%	102
7	Remenham		0.27%	21
8	Ruscombe		0.55%	42
9	Shinfield		6.61%	506
10	Sonning		1.03%	79
11	Swallowfield		1.65%	126
12	Twyford		5.83%	446
13	Wargrave		2.29%	169
14	Winnersh		5.66%	433
15	Wokingham		25.14%	1924
16	Wokingham Without		5.63%	431
17	Woodley		14.18%	1085
18	Don't know		0.81%	62
19	Outside Wokingham borough		0.07%	5
			answered	7652
			skipped	1416

2. What sex/gender do you identify as?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Female		53.99%	4123
2	Male		43.15%	3295
3	Transgender		0.05%	4
4	Prefer not to say		2.54%	194
5	Other (please specify):		0.27%	21
			answered	7637
			skipped	1431

29. How old are you?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	17 or younger		0.03%	2
2	18-20		0.01%	1
3	21-29		2.08%	159
4	30-39		11.04%	842
5	40-49		19.21%	1466
6	50-59		22.27%	1699
7	60 or older		44.36%	3461
			answered	7630
			skipped	1438

30. What race or ethnicity best describes you?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Arabic		0.21%	16
2	Asian/British Asian: Bangladeshi		0.05%	4
3	Asian/British Asian: Chinese		1.61%	123
4	Asian/British Asian: Indian		2.14%	163
5	Asian/British Asian: Pakistani		0.39%	30
6	Black/British Black: African		0.20%	15
7	Black/British Black: Caribbean		0.17%	13
8	White: British		84.16%	6420
9	White: Other		5.06%	386
10	Mixed race		0.68%	52
11	Gypsy/Traveller		0.01%	1
12	Prefer not to say		3.84%	293
13	Other (please specify):		1.47%	112
			answered	7628
			skipped	1440

31. What do you consider your religion to be?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Buddhism		0.26%	20
2	Christianity		49.34%	3729
3	Hinduism		1.22%	92
4	Islam		0.78%	59
5	Judaism		0.28%	21
6	Sikhism		0.46%	35
7	No religion		37.87%	2862
8	Prefer not to say		8.31%	628
9	Other (please specify):		1.47%	111
			answered	7557
			skipped	1511

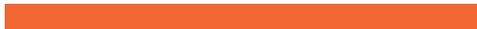
32. Which of the following terms best describes your sexual orientation?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Asexual		2.08%	154
2	Bisexual		0.85%	63
3	Gay		0.72%	53
4	Lesbian		0.32%	24
5	Heterosexual/Straight		81.63%	6043
6	Prefer not to say		12.75%	944
7	Other (please specify):		1.65%	122
			answered	7403
			skipped	1665

33. Have you undertaken any form of sex/gender reassignment?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		0.09%	7
2	No		91.37%	6734
3	Prefer not to say		8.53%	629
			answered	7370
			skipped	1698

34. Are you currently pregnant or have you given birth within the last year?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		2.32%	172
2	No		77.41%	5737
3	Not applicable		15.40%	1141
4	Prefer not to say		4.87%	361
			answered	7411
			skipped	1657

35. Do you have a disability, long-term illness or health condition?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
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35. Do you have a disability, long-term illness or health condition?

1	Yes		17.75%	1323
2	No		74.46%	5551
3	Prefer not to say		7.79%	581
			answered	7455
			skipped	1613

Appendix 8: Full initial options analysis for alternate weekly collections

There were 11 options, not 12, considered as detailed below:

	Baseline	Enhanced Baseline	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6	Option 3a	Option 3b	Option 6a	Option 6b
Dry Recycling	Weekly Comingled			Fortnightly Comingled	Fortnightly TS	Fortnightly TS + Glass	Weekly Multi-Stream	Fortnightly Comingled	Fortnightly TS	Fortnightly TS + Glass	Fortnightly TS	Fortnightly TS + Glass
Food Waste	Weekly											
Garden Waste	Fortnightly charged											
Residual	Weekly		Fortnightly (restricted)	Fortnightly				3-Weekly	Fortnightly		3-Weekly	
	Baseline	Enhanced Baseline	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6	Option 3a	Option 3b	Option 6a	Option 6b

Option	Residual waste	Dry recycling	Garden waste	Food waste
Baseline (current collection system)	Weekly via unlimited single-use sacks	Weekly mixed via reusable sacks (tins and cans, aerosols, plastic bottles & PTT, cartons, foil, paper and card)	Fortnightly chargeable via 240 litre wheeled bin	Separate weekly via 8-litre kitchen caddy and 23-litre food waste bin. Collected alongside residual waste in RCV pod.
Enhanced Baseline (taking into account the impact of DRS)	Weekly via unlimited single-use sacks	Weekly mixed via reusable sacks (tins and cans, aerosols, plastic bottles & PTT, cartons, foil, paper and card)	Fortnightly chargeable via 240 litre wheeled bin	Separate weekly via 8-litre kitchen caddy and 23-litre food waste bin. Collected alongside residual waste in RCV pod.
Option 1	Fortnightly via restricted single-use sacks	As current	As current	As current, collected with recycling
Option 2	Fortnightly via 180-litre wheeled bin	As current with fortnightly collections	As current	As current, collected with residual/recycling
Option 3	Fortnightly via 180-litre wheeled bin	Fortnightly two-stream (card and paper separate) via reusable sacks	As current	As current, food waste collected using dedicated vehicles
Option 4	Fortnightly via 180-litre wheeled bin	Fortnightly two-stream (card and paper separate) via wheeled bins and adding glass	As current	As current, food waste collected using dedicated vehicles

Option 5	Fortnightly via 180-litre wheeled bin	Weekly multi-stream collection using RRV via reusable sacks and boxes	As current	As current, food waste collected on RRV.
Option 6	3-weekly via 180-litre wheeled bin	Weekly mixed via reusable sacks (as baseline)	As current	As current, food waste collected using dedicated vehicles
Option 3a	Fortnightly via 140-litre wheeled bin	Fortnightly two-stream (card and paper separate) wheeled bins for containers and fibres in re-useable sack	As current	As current, food waste collected using dedicated vehicles
Option 3b	3-weekly via 180-litre wheeled bin	Fortnightly two-stream (card and paper separate) wheeled bins for containers and fibres in re-useable sack and adding glass	As current	As current, food waste collected using dedicated vehicles
Option 6a	3-weekly via 180-litre wheeled bin	Fortnightly two-stream (card and paper separate) via wheeled bins	As current	As current, food waste collected using dedicated vehicles
Option 6b	3-weekly via 180-litre wheeled bin	Fortnightly two-stream (card and paper separate) via wheeled bins and adding glass in a separate container	As current	As current, food waste collected using dedicated vehicles

Appendix 9: Modelling the increased volumes from kerbside properties required to compensate for the flats and other properties not adopting the new arrangements

	Baseline	New Service	Difference	kg/hhld/yr Difference	kg/hhld/ Collection Difference
Kerbside Refuse	21,532	15,986	-5,546	-78	-3.0
Kerbside Recycling	9,109	12,569	3,460	45.9	1.8
Kerbside Food Waste	6,054	7,366	1,312	20.3	0.4
Waste Minimisation			-774	-12.0	-0.9
Communal Refuse	3,787	3,787	0		
Communal Recycling	902	902	0		
Lanes Refuse	168	168	0		
Lanes Recycling	102	102	0		
Non- Kerbside Refuse	2,655	2,655	0		
Non-Kerbside Recycling	16,932	16,932	0		
Dry Recycling Total	27,045	30,505	3,460		
Residual Waste total	28,142	22,596	-5,546		
Total	61,241	60,467	-774		

Appendix 10: Food waste collection performance against targets:

	Wokingham Food Waste											
	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
2019/20	377	427	379	424	391	402	460	435	442	524	405	488
2020/21	553	515	522	528	458	492	474	496	541	521	477	545
2021/22	538	524	542	528	512	542	497	539	560	562	512	568
2022/23	517	536	531	489	517	510	464	517	515	525	541	541
										Prov	Fcst	Fcst

Also, as a graph, with a trendline which might be helpful in the context of the queries about whether WBC could achieve the performance improvements claimed.



In the MTFP for 2022/23 there is a financial saving of c.£350k for food waste. The calculation below outlines the saving of food waste being composted as compared to if it had been disposed of over two years. It is evident that due to the current economic factors (i.e. inflation and cost-of-living crisis) the 2022/23 collected tonnage has reduced as compared with last year. Therefore, the expected saving on food waste will not be realised as there is less being generated and collected. However, due to the minimisation of all waste, this has contributed to an expected saving in the region of £600k for 2022/23.

	2021/22	2022/23
Total tonnes of collected food waste	6,400	6,014
Cost of disposing of this material via energy from waste:	£114	£121
Cost of composting this food waste	£30	£21
Net difference	£84	£100
Total saving	£537,600	£601,400

Appendix 11: Confirmation that the costs and savings included in the Executive report are consistent with the costs and savings in the Medium Term Financial Plan

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£000	£000	£000
MTFP saving	0	(1,050)	(1,050)
Waste Exec Report	0	(500)	(1,050)
Variance	0	550*	0

*The variance is due to the timing of implementing AWC, which is later than originally forecast. Work is ongoing to find ways to cover this one off gap.

The below extract is from the MTFP paper that went to council on 16 February 2022 and confirms the saving, which is shown in two blocks under the place & growth section.

THREE YEAR BUDGET FORECAST

	2023/2024 £'000	2024/2025 £'000	2025/2026 £'000
Chief Executive			
Advertising in Libraries	(10)	(10)	(10)
Effective use of Council owned Community spaces	(150)	(150)	(150)
Organisational Foundation Project - Assets	0	(470)	(940)
Organisational Foundation Project - Contracts	(500)	(1,000)	(1,500)
Organisational Foundation Project - Customer Excellence	(200)	(513)	(513)
Organisational Foundation Project - Workforce	(2,731)	(2,731)	(2,731)
Reduce number of Borough News Editions from 3 to 1	(30)	(30)	(30)
Reduced provision of mobile phones	(56)	(56)	(56)
Reduction in Microsoft cloud server spend	(34)	(34)	(34)
Removal of telephone lines	(70)	(70)	(70)
Removal of two vacant Customer Excellence posts	(52)	(52)	(52)
Children's Services			
Alternative Delivery Model for Children's Centres	(25)	(50)	(50)
Education White Paper	(360)	(360)	(360)
Home to School Transport Review	(766)	(766)	(766)
Placements - Continuing Health Care	(300)	(300)	(300)
Placements - LAC Charging Policy	(50)	(50)	(50)
Placements - Strategy & Sufficiency	(570)	(640)	(800)
Transforming Children's Services	(259)	(734)	(1,034)
Place & Growth			
Absorb street cleansing into street cleaning regime	(13)	(13)	(13)
Cease the provision of residual waste blue bags	0	(350)	(350)
Changes to VolkerHighways contract	(397)	(547)	(547)
Highways and Transport restructuring	(150)	(150)	(150)
Income generation through commercialisation across the directorate	(68)	(68)	(68)
Increase garden waste service annual fees	(255)	(255)	(255)
Increase hourly rate for licensing team	(15)	(15)	(15)
Increase in off street parking charges	(500)	(700)	(700)
Increase the scope of MyJourney s106 expenditure to include management costs	(30)	(30)	(30)
Increased enforcement of housing standards	(12)	(12)	(12)
Introduce more naturalisation and biodiversity in the borough	(60)	(60)	(60)
Introduction of charge for garden waste bins	0	(20)	(10)
Introduction of moving traffic offence enforcement	(103)	(308)	(513)
Introduction of on-street parking zones	(280)	(560)	(560)
Night time dimming for street lights	0	(40)	(40)
Parking permits	0	(62)	(62)
Play area rationalisation	0	(15)	(15)
Proposal to move to alternate weekly or three weekly residual waste collections	0	(700)	(700)
Reduce the Community Engagement Team	(92)	(92)	(92)
Reduce Transport Planning consultants	(85)	(120)	(120)
Reduction in Drainage Maintenance (annual Grip cutting programme) to every other year	(25)	(25)	(25)
Reduction of weed spraying from 3 to 2 visits per year	0	(24)	(24)
Removal of discretionary concession funding for transport on football services	(12)	(12)	(12)
Review access to free parking at Carnival Pool multi-storey car park	(120)	(120)	(120)
School keep clear markings - roll out of parking enforcement scheme	0	(50)	(50)
Smart drainage sensors borough wide roll-out	0	(50)	(50)
Stop the annual purchase and delivery of food waste caddy liners to all households	(100)	(100)	(100)
Trading Highways Commercial Design Services to Town & Parish Councils	(20)	(50)	(50)

The Executive report shows:

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe funding pressures, particularly in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year 2022/23 (Year 1)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Next Financial Year 2023/24 (Year 2)	Cost of £1.50m for purchase a delivery of wheeled bins (Capital) £0.46m one off implementation costs (Revenue) Total - £1.96m	Proposal to fund all costs including implementation costs and wheeled bins from the Waste Equalisation Fund.	Capital Revenue <i>See appendix 3 for breakdown</i>
Following Financial Year 2024/25 (Year 3)	(£0.50m) est.	This is £0.55m short of the MTFP income expectation due to the proposed timeframe of delivery.	Revenue
Following Financial Year 2025/26 (Year 4)	(£1.05m - £1.50m) est.	It is forecast that budgeted saving will be achieved and possibly exceeded.	Revenue

Appendix 12: A breakdown of the reported 2,400t CO₂ saving arising from the proposed new waste collection arrangements.

The carbon calculation was undertaken using a methodology approved by the Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP) which focusses on waste arisings and transport.

The carbon modelling quantifies the greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) impact (expressed as CO₂e) across the collection and disposal process relative to the baseline service. Negative values indicate that there is a carbon saving compared to the baseline. Recycling has a negative overall carbon impact because recycling materials offsets more of the CO₂e of virgin production than the recycling process uses. WasteDataFlow data was used as a basis to determine the fates of WBCs residual waste.

Item	Difference From Baseline Position (tonnes CO ₂ e)
Dry Recycling	-1750
Residual Waste	-888
Organic Recycling	-193
Contamination	91
Transport	325
Total	-2,415

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