

Summary of recommendations to the executive and executive responses
Scrutiny Committee: Environment and Sustainability
Date: 24-03-2025

Agenda item title: Waste Contract

That Herefordshire Council:

<p>Recommendation 1</p>	<p>Commission a piece of work, exploring further options for improving current reuse and recycling rates across the county, in advance of any expansion of the waste collection streams to food and garden.</p> <p>[Note: Please explain whether the recommendation is agreed, partly agreed or not agreed to and what actions will be taken, or what actions are already in place].</p>
<p>Executive Response</p>	<p>Not agreed</p> <p>On 1st May 2025, cabinet considered and approved the commencement of a new garden waste collection service and food waste (subject to new burdens funding) from 30 March 2026. The implementation of this work will require significant resources to ensure effective mobilisation, to achieve the minimum customer numbers on garden waste to meet full cost recovery and to gain the highest participation rate possible on the food collection service.</p> <p>Combined these two new services have been conservatively modelled to increase our recycling rate from 40% to 58% which would represent a 45% increase in our recycling performance.</p> <p>Whilst providing communications to residents for the introduction of the food waste service, the intention is to also provide information on the existing recycling service with the aim that this will divert some of the 7% of recycling items which our waste analysis shows are still going into the black bins, into the recycling bins.</p> <p>Subsequent to the scrutiny meeting we have introduced a small WEEE and battery collection service which has seen high levels of use from the start. This service will shortly be expanded to include the collection of vapes, we are just awaiting the fabrication of containers which will be attached to the collection vehicles. Whilst it is expected that this will make up a small percentage of waste diverted for recycling, they are very important material types due to the hazard they pose to cause fires if placed into bins for collection.</p> <p>Subsequent to the meeting, commercial recycling collections have been expanded. We are now providing 1100 litre bins for recycling instead of only 240 litre bins and we are providing a food waste collection service which received 150 requests for service within the first 4 weeks of the service launch.</p>

	<p>We plan to introduce glass recycling for properties who are unable to use a bin for their recycling. This additional service will see a box provided to place glass into and to be placed out at the same time as the recycling sacks. This is being planned for implementation by the end of March 2026. These properties will all receive new communications which will outline and promote the use of the existing recycling service which will again encourage the diversion of recycling from the black sacks into the recycling sacks.</p> <p>A review is being undertaken of the Waste Disposal Site Permits for reuse organisations. The aim of this will be to update the policy to encourage the separation of material types so that more of what they dispose of can be diverted for recycling through an additional allocation of permits for 'recycling' streams such as wood and metal.</p> <p>Once the introduction of these services has been completed we will conduct a review of the effect that they have had on our recycling and reuse performance. We will then review our strategy aims to identify and implement further options to continue to improve the reuse and recycling rates across the county.</p>			
Action –	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
N/A				