

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>CABINET</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>18 NOVEMBER 2024</b>
<b>Heading:</b>	<b>SIMPLER RECYCLING – COSTED ACTION, DELIVERY PLAN</b>
<b>Executive Lead Member:</b>	<b>CLLR HELEN SMITH, DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE LEAD MEMBER FOR PARKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</b>
<b>Ward/s:</b>	<b>ALL WARDS</b>
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Subject to Call-In:</b>	<b>YES</b>

## **Purpose of Report**

This report updates Cabinet on the forecasted capital and revenue costs as a waste collection authority, in respect of implementing the requirements of 'Simpler Recycling' as part of the Environment Act 2021.

## **Recommendation(s)**

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the content of the report and the forecasted capital and revenue costs of implementing 'Simpler Recycling';
2. Authorise officers in consultation with Deputy Leader as the Executive Lead for Parks and Environmental Services to progress a project of delivering, that achieves the Council's statutory responsibilities as a waste collection authority.

## **Reasons for Recommendation(s)**

Following Cabinet meeting of the 16 September 2024, officers were authorised to develop a Costed Action & Delivery Plan (CADP) for the introduction of 'Simpler Recycling' by April 2026 and the weekly domestic food waste collection service by October 2027.

This report sets out that Costed Action & Delivery Plan for consideration and approval by Cabinet.

## **Alternative Options Considered**

The Council is the Statutory Waste Collection Authority and has a duty to implement new legislation and regulation in accordance with its statutory duty.

The Council has the option not to reconfigure the current refuse and recycling rounds, however by not undertaking the identified service remodelling work, the Council will not become:

'A more efficient, effective and value for money (VFM) Neighbourhood Services, that meets the requirement of legislative changes and local service demand'. **Not recommended.**

## **A local Waste Collection Authority**

### **Background**

Government has legislated for Councils to align their domestic waste and recycling services and on the 21 October 2023, Government announced the long-awaited plans for 'Consistent Collections' called 'Simpler Recycling' in England.

This simply means the:

- a) Collection of seven different recycling materials (glass, metal, plastic, paper, card, food and garden waste) by 31 March 2026.  
*Note: Ashfield has an exemption, that allows a delay to the start date of food waste collection until October 2027.*
- b) Collection of food waste shall be weekly.
- c) Collection of plastic film into the recovery/recycling waste stream by April 2027.
- d) Collection of the remaining residual waste at least fortnightly by March 2026.

The Council already meets many of the requirements, but will still need to provide new collection services and alter existing ones to:

- a) Maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of the waste and recycling collection operations through a series of round rebalance exercises by April 2025;
- b) Collect aluminium foil and tubes by 31 March 2026, and plastic film as part of the dry recycling service by 31 March 2027;
- c) Provide separate weekly collections of food waste by October 2027.

### **Local Authority & Local Businesses Compliance**

As a result of the Simpler Recycling announcement, local authorities, local businesses and other organisations (Schools, Colleges, not for profit organisation with ten employees or more) across England, must respond and manage their own waste arisings to comply with the future legislation by 31 March 2025.

In addition, local waste collection authorities (WCA) have a duty to collect business and industrial waste, when requested to do so by external businesses and organisations, for which a reasonable charge can be made. Ashfield District Council (ADC), along with many other waste collection authorities across the country, took the decision to actively promote and collect commercial and industrial waste from local businesses and non-profit organisations,

who have a registered head office within the district. The service can operate outside of the district; however, where it does operate outside of the district, VAT must be applied to the invoicing and service costs.

Simpler Recycling requires those businesses and organisations, that fall within the scope of the legislation (ten employees or more), to segregate and present for collection seven types of recyclate, taken out of their existing waste streams by the 31 March 2025. From 31 March 2027, plastic film will be added to the list to increase the requirement to eight different materials. The material, except for food waste, can be collected comingled and taken to a facility for separation and recycling.

## **Costed Action & Delivery Plan (CADP)**

To ensure delivery of this key statutory obligation as a waste collection authority, the Council has a project team to oversee the implementation of the requirements. In addition, Cabinet on the 16 September agreed to the establishment of a Member Working Group who would work alongside officers as the Council goes on this journey.

Set out below are the forecasted timeline and costs associated to the delivery of this statutory requirements, within the timescales set out in legislation. A more detailed Costed Action delivery plan is attached at appendix 1.

Financial Year	Capital	Revenue	Funding (Internal & External)
2024/25	£143,764	£134,000	(£143,764)
2025/26	£900,000	£110,000	(£600,000)
2026/27	£1,925,396	£232,000	(£752,266)
2027/28	£0	£1,052,000	(£0)

Note, that an 'Invest to Save' approach over the term of the project will effectively release £600,000 each year for 3 years, total of £1,800,000.

## **Implications**

### **Corporate Plan:**

The details within the report which are set out above, play a key role in delivering the Council's Greener & Cleaner; Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability objectives.

### **Legal:**

The legal requirements placed upon the Council are detailed in the body of the report. The acceptance of the recommendations will ensure the Council is compliant with its legal duties within the statutory timeframes. [RLD 30/10/2024]

## Finance:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	The Costed Action Delivery Plan sets out the anticipated capital and revenue expenditure over a 4yr period. The project is suggesting an ‘Invest to save’ approach which would seem logical based upon the annual efficiencies that can be achieved through the refuse and recycling round reconfiguration. As per appendix 1 of the report . [SB29/10/2024]
General Fund – Capital Programme	Capital purchase of vehicle assets is included within the five year capital programme due for further consideration through the budget setting process. As per appendix 1 of the report.[SB29/10/2024]
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	N/A

## Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
Capital and revenue financial uncertainty (New burdens funding) and shortfall in meeting costs.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Monitoring of DEFRA announcements to identify key funding opportunities when available.</li> <li>2. Close budget monitoring during the project implementation phases.</li> </ol>
Capacity of supply chain to meet unprecedented nationwide demand for specialist vehicles, caddies, and bins.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Engagement with supply chains is underway, to ensure that once full procurement commences, ADC are ahead of the game and able to obtain vehicles, bins and other items prior to statutory deadlines.</li> </ol>
Capacity and suitability of our existing depot to accommodate increased number of electric/hydrogen trucks.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Depot supply capacity has been raised as a priority in the Depot refurbishment project.</li> <li>2. The synergies and dependences between Simpler Recycling and the Depot Project are regularly monitored.</li> </ol>
Infrastructure for food waste treatment and local disposal points by the County Council within the timescales set.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Issues raised with the County Council and is being monitored at the Waste Officers Officer Regional Working Group.</li> </ol>
Resource capacity to ensure the effective transition to new ways of working.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Simpler Recycling is being monitored as a project within the Neighbourhood Services Transformation programme.</li> </ol>

	2. The Neighbourhood Services Transformation Programme has a resource plan which is monitored at a corporate level.
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### **Human Resources:**

A contracted-out service may have TUPE implications.

There are no HR Implications from the recommendation contained in the report however there may be HR implications in future reports in regard to the implementation.

Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications. [KB30/10/2024]

### **Environmental/Sustainability:**

The current modelling work being undertaken will inform the Council's new approach to waste and resource management. This will lead to a refresh of the Council's Waste Management Strategy and Collection Policy.

Future fleet considerations will play a part in the Council achieving its Climate Change Strategy.

### **Equalities:**

A separate equalities impact assessment will be developed and considered as part of the overall project decision making route.

### **Other Implications:**

N/A

### **Reason(s) for Urgency**

N/A

### **Reason(s) for Exemption**

N/A

### **Background Papers**

Environment Act 2021 - Environment Act 2021

Waste and Resource Strategy England - Our waste, our resources: a strategy for England (publishing.service.gov.uk)

Simpler Recycling - Government response - GOV.UK

Environment Act 2021, Simpler Recycling, Cabinet Report, 16 September 2024

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