

Report Title	DOMESTIC FOOD WASTE COLLECTIONS
Meeting	EXECUTIVE
Meeting Date	29 th October 2026
Report Author	David Walker
Directorate	Place
Lead Executive Member(s)	Councillor Zafar Ali
Wards Affected	All
Public. Part Exempt, or Fully Exempt	Public
Appendices (if any)	None

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 To provide Executive Members with an update on the domestic weekly food waste collection service following its introduction on the 30th March 2026.

2. Recommendations

For the reasons set out in this report, Executive is recommended to:

- 2.1 Endorse the action taken and to be taken

3. Information: the Rationale & Evidence for the Recommendations

- 3.1 Executive are advised that the weekly domestic food waste collection scheme was introduced across the Borough on the 30th March 2026 slightly before DEFRA's 1st April deadline
- 3.2 The service is currently provided through using a mix of 8 x 7.5t vehicles fitted with TREST food waste bodies and 4 x 3.5t caged tippers with food waste pods retrofitted within their bodies. Retrofitting of pods to existing vehicles has enabled hard to reach properties to receive the new service
- 3.3 Prior to and following introduction of the new collection scheme Operational Services has completed several recruitment drives to fill vacancies created by the new scheme. At the time of writing this report the Service still has several driver and collection operative vacancies to fill.
- 3.4 Following the initial peak in enquiries about the scheme and its introduction the service appears to have been relatively well received.

- 3.5 Monitoring participation over the initial 6 months from introduction we report that 31% of properties have presented food waste caddies at least once.
- 3.6 Participation rates are higher in Colne with 7% of properties presenting their caddies on a fortnightly basis for emptying
- 3.7 Participation rates are lower in Nelson with only 4% of properties presenting their caddies on a fortnightly basis for emptying.
- 3.8 Members are advised that participation rates will vary and it is likely that some properties will not present caddies on a weekly basis due to their not requiring the service on such a frequency.
- 3.9 Early indications are that the new scheme will improve the Council's recycling rate, using local data on collected materials we are projecting a significant increase in our recycling performance. The performance figure does not include Waste Disposal Authority data on contamination and rejection rates for all streams and we are therefore unable to positively promote the schemes impact at the time of writing this report.
- 3.10 The service is yet to be delivered over potential peak periods such as Christmas. It is likely the reported figures for both weight and participation levels will be impacted by seasonal variances.
- 3.11 To increase participation rates and reduce food waste being created the service has participated in 7 feedback meetings with resident groups and housing providers. Feedback from these meetings has been used to update our Frequently asked questions on our website.
- 3.12 The Council through the initial six months of introduction has promoted the scheme through the use of advertisement banners fitted to the Council's vehicles and the issuing of 10 social media messages promoting the participation of the scheme and the means of receiving replacement liners.
- 3.13 Executive are reminded that during the initial roll out residents were provided with indoor and outdoor caddies and a roll of 52 liners. Demand for replacement liners has been high following the schemes introduction and to encourage continued participation an additional 50,000 rolls have been purchased.
- 3.14 Replacement liners are provided when operatives are advised of a need to replenish residents stock. Residents are asked to tie a liner to the caddy handle when their stocks are running low. We continue to use this method of replenishment over a six-monthly block distribution of liners as we feel this enables those participating in the scheme to request liners at any point in time

and reduces unnecessary costs in buying and distributing liners to properties that have not fully participated in the scheme.

- 3.15 At the time of writing this report residents have sent over 756 tonnes of food waste to the Farrington waste recovery park in Leyland to be converted into energy from waste or compost. An average over 26 weeks of 29 tonnes per week.
- 3.16 The highest weights were recorded in week commencing 11th May when we received over 38 tonnes of food waste.
- 3.17 Food waste is having a positive impact on the Council's overall recycling rate. Though we await final confirmation of our collected weights from Lancashire County Council we expect to see an increase in the percentage of material diverted from disposal to recycling and composting.
- 3.18 In January 2026 we reported that the estimated cost of operating the service would be £1,184,770 per annum. Recent budget monitoring figures advise that the cost of the weekly service is being delivered within budget.

4. Link to Council Plan Priorities: (Providing High Quality Services and Facilities, Proud and Connected Communities and Places, (Good Growth))

- 4.1 The new scheme has created new jobs and development opportunities for new and existing staff
- 4.2 The new fleet has impacted positively on the services ability to deliver statutory and income generating services.
- 4.3 Review of frontline resources over initial 12 months may create opportunities to explore commercial food waste markets.

5. Implications

5.1 Financial Implications

Capital Expenditure and Funding

The scheme had an agreed capital budget of £1,000,000, created from £793,377 awarded by DEFRA and £281,807 from Pendle's own capital programme.

Revenue costs were forecasted to be in the region of £1,184,770. Revenue costs are subject to ongoing monitoring and review.

5.2 Legal and Governance Implications

The Environment Act 2021 became law in November 2021. The Act introduced changes to waste collection services so that recyclable household waste (which includes food waste) had to be 'collected separately from other household waste'. Food waste itself must be collected at least once a week

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report

5.3 Climate and Biodiversity Implications

The new scheme will continue to support the Council's drive to reduce its impact on the environment. The introduction of food waste collections is forecast to increase the Borough recycling rate from 29.1% to 38.2%. Additional steps such as limiting container size or amending the frequency of none recycling collections would increase the Council's recycling rates further

5.4 Human Resources Implications

Additional staff are required to provide the weekly food waste collection service

5.5 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no equality and diversity issues arising directly from the recommendations of this report.

6. Consultation

Resident panels were consulted regarding their preferences on internal and external caddies prior to the schemes introduction

7. Alternative Options Considered

None the scheme is mandatory

8. Statutory Officer Sign off (please put an x in the relevant box below)

Section 151 Officer	x
Monitoring Officer	x

9. Background Documents

N/A

Contact Officers

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