



Title of Report:	Food Waste Recycling Initiative
Committee Report Submitted To:	Environmental Services
Date of Meeting:	11th March 2025
For Decision or For Information	For Information
To be discussed In Committee YES/NO	NO

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Climate Change and our Environment
Outcome	Increasing proportion of domestic and commercial waste recycled
Lead Officer	Head of Operations

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	
Included in Current Year Estimates	NO
Capital/Revenue	Capital
Code	
Staffing Costs	

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	NO

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of an initiative to increase the quantity of food waste deposited in the household brown bin and in turn reduce the disposal of food waste in household black and blue bins.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 A waste compositional analysis study of household residual (black bin) and mixed recyclables (blue bin) waste was conducted in July 2024. The study highlighted the continuing incorrect disposal of food waste.
- 2.2 Study results showed that 22.5% of black bin and 4.4% of blue bin contents was food waste.
- 2.3 Since autumn 2018, all households have been in receipt of a 240 litre brown bin for recycling mixed food and garden waste and a 5 litre food caddy. Council supplies biodegradable food caddy liners free of charge.
- 2.4 Food and garden waste collected via the kerbside brown bin collection service goes to a locally based organics company to be processed into organic composts and soil conditioners.

3.0 Action

- 3.1 It is intended to apply a label to all household black bins. Text on label will instruct householders that all food waste should be deposited in the brown bin for recycling.
- 3.2 Presently, c.5000 tonnes of food waste per annum is disposed of incorrectly via household black and blue bins.
- 3.3 Diverting food waste from the blue and black bins into the brown bin will realise financial savings (c.£60 per tonne), improve council's recycling rate and contribute to the circular economy.
- 3.4 A Province wide initiative co-ordinated by WRAP, similar to the one being undertaken, was conducted in 2017. This resulted in an immediate one third reduction in food waste deposited in the black bin.

4.0 Recommendation

- 4.1 It is recommended that Committee notes the initiative to reduce food waste deposited incorrectly in household black and blue bins and in turn increase the amount of food waste presented for recycling via the brown bin.