Food Waste: Councillor Information Pack

This pack is designed to support you in understanding our new weekly food waste collection service and help you to answer any questions from residents. Clear and simple communication will be key as we roll this out.

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1. 🍽 What Is food waste?

Food waste includes anything left over or discarded during food preparation or after eating. We refer to these as avoidable and unavoidable food waste.

• Avoidable waste – items that could have been eaten (for example bread that has gone mouldy, uneaten leftovers, edible fruit and vegetable peel).

• Unavoidable waste – parts we don't eat (for example eggshells, bones, coffee grounds, inedible fruit or vegetable peels).

✅ **Yes please**	🚫 **No thank you**
Fruit and vegetable peelings, cores and stones	Nappies and clinical waste
Raw and cooked meat, fish, bones and shells	Dog poo
Egg shells	Cat litter
Bread, cakes, and pastries	Other pet waste
Cooked and uncooked rice, pasta and beans	Food packaging (pots, tubs, trays, tins and jars)
Plate scrapings and leftovers	Any liquids (including milk, oils, fats, cream, custard, gravy and soup)
Tea bags and coffee grounds	Loose food waste – waste must be in a liner
Pet food	Garden waste and cut flowers

2. 🚚 About the service

During August and September residents will receive:

• a 7L silver-grey caddy – for the kitchen

• a 23L dark green outdoor caddy – for kerbside collection

• roll of 52 Liners – initial supply only

3. 🏢 Flats and communal areas

• 140L shared food waste bins with liners will be supplied.

• Collection tailored by site; some smaller blocks may use individual caddies.

• Coordinating with management companies and housing associations.

• Flats with communal bins – will receive a shared wheeled bin for collections.

✅Lockable lids on both caddies

4. 📦 Delivery of caddies

Delivery period: 4 August – end of September.

No fixed schedule for specific streets. Encourage residents to ask neighbors to bring caddies in if away. Residents should only contact us if all of their immediate neighbors have received a caddy.

5. 🗓️ Collection dates

Collections begin the week of Monday 6 October.

• Food waste caddies will be collected on the same day as waste and recycling bins.

• Put all containers out by 6am

Note: Around 900 households in Basingstoke and 600 in Hart will have a different collection day for their food. They will be notified directly.

6. 🌍 Why to recycle food waste

Environmental benefits:

• Food production = 25% of global greenhouse gases. Meaning food waste is one of the biggest contributors to carbon emissions.

• Food waste collections will help our residents to reduce the amount they waste and cut their carbon footprint and save money.

• Anaerobic digestion produces fertiliser and generates energy making it better than incineration which only generates energy.

Financial benefits:

• Average household wastes £700/year of edible food.

• Seeing food waste in a separate caddy helps our residents understand what they are wasting and adjust shopping habits to save money.

7. 🌱 Composting at home

Home composting is the best option for food waste like veg peelings, fruit cores and tea bags as it has the least impact on the environment

Avoid composting cooked food, meat/fish/dairy. Use food waste caddies for these unless using a special bin (e.g., Green Johanna).

8. 💡 Tips for residents

Challenge	Tip
🐜 Wildlife and insects	Food waste bins are great for deterring insects as they are easy to rinse out and keep clean, unlike waste bins. Lock the lid and keep unwanted creatures at bay by leaving the handle in an upright position
🥵 Hot weather	Place bin in shade to reduce smell
🧂 Liquids	Pour milk, juice, soup down sink. Put fats in containers and place in waste bin
📦 Space in kitchen	Use liner during prep, then pop in outdoor caddy or use something smaller
🛍️ Using liners	Reuse bread/veg bags instead of buying liners

9. ♻️ Liners

• One roll of 52 compostable liners provided

• Residents must use liners to keep caddies clean

• May use bread bags or similar instead

10. ❓ FAQs councillors might be asked

💵 How is the service being funded?

Basingstoke and Deane Council have received £1.84 millions and Hart District Council £1.08 million of government funding to cover the purchase of containers, liners, instruction leaflets, food waste collection vehicles and other implementation costs. Contributions of the running cost of the service are yet to be determined by DEFRA (central government department).

How are you communicating the new service with residents?

A letter was sent to households in the borough in July.

A social media campaign ran throughout the summer and will continue as we start the service to raise awareness, signpost residents to the correct information and answer any questions or queries.

Through the local media.

The council's website www.basingstoke.gov.uk/food-waste

The council's e-newsletter

The council's printed residents' magazine Your Place

Information sent to community magazines and websites, as well as parish and town councils and community groups.

Community engagement including existing events, visits to community groups and events, supermarket stalls.

Schools' engagement

Caddy information leaflet (6-page leaflet inside every caddy to support residents to use the service)

Bespoke website accessed through QR code on the top of the grey indoor caddy.

Where is the food waste going?

Food waste will be taken to Bio Power Ltd in Herriard, five miles south of Basingstoke.

How is food waste recycled?

When food waste breaks down is creates biogas which is used to produce greener energy. The broken-down food waste is processed into a nutrient rich bio-fertiliser, PAS110 certified, which is supplied to local farms.

Filling your green outdoor caddy?

We will provide one caddy to each property. Residents should try looking at what they buy to cut down the amount of out-of-date or excess food they may have. If they need an extra caddy after this, advise them to get in touch.

What is the frequency of waste collections

Weekly food waste collections will be introduced from October 2025. While we introduce the new service, we will continue to collect waste bins weekly and recycling and glass fortnightly. The new food waste service will mean residents will recycle more and reduce the amount going into the waste bin. Different weekly bin collections will be introduced in October 2026, once the food waste service is up and running and there is clarity for residents on how to recycle more items in their green bin through the government’s simpler recycling scheme.

Notes