

# Waste and Recycling Services



Environment & Economy Select Committee

27<sup>th</sup> February 2025

- Steve Dupoy – Assistant Director – Stevenage Direct Services
- Kris White – Operations Manager
- Colin Littlechild – Assistant Operations Manager
- Claire Nicholls – Project Manager – Waste
- Claire Murrell - Environmental Development Officer

# Agenda

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1. Current Service Provision
2. Legislative Changes
3. Progress To Date
4. Next steps
5. Performance, Challenges & Opportunities



















# SBC's Waste Service

- Stevenage = the 'waste collection authority' (WCA)  
Hertfordshire CC = the 'waste disposal authority' (WDA)
- 38,037 properties, of which 8,528 (22.4%) are flats
- 43 staff (15 HGV drivers and 28 waste operatives (loaders))
- 14 freighters for residential kerbside and trade collections –  
Operating on Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO)
- 495 Trade customers, a third of the Town's businesses - £807k  
income 23/24 (£199k net)
- 2023/24 – £1.7million staffing costs
- 2023/24 – Cost per property, per week = £1.07



# Current Collection Arrangements

	Residual waste	Multi-stream recycling			Mixed Food and Garden Waste
Frequency	Fortnightly	Fortnightly			Fortnightly
Collection container	 240 litres	 23 litres	 60 litres	 60 litres	 240 litres
Materials collected	 household waste	 mixed glass	 household plastic packaging   household metal packaging	 newspapers & magazines  cartons   cardboard  corrugated cardboard	 garden waste   food waste

# Transfer Station – Cavendish Road

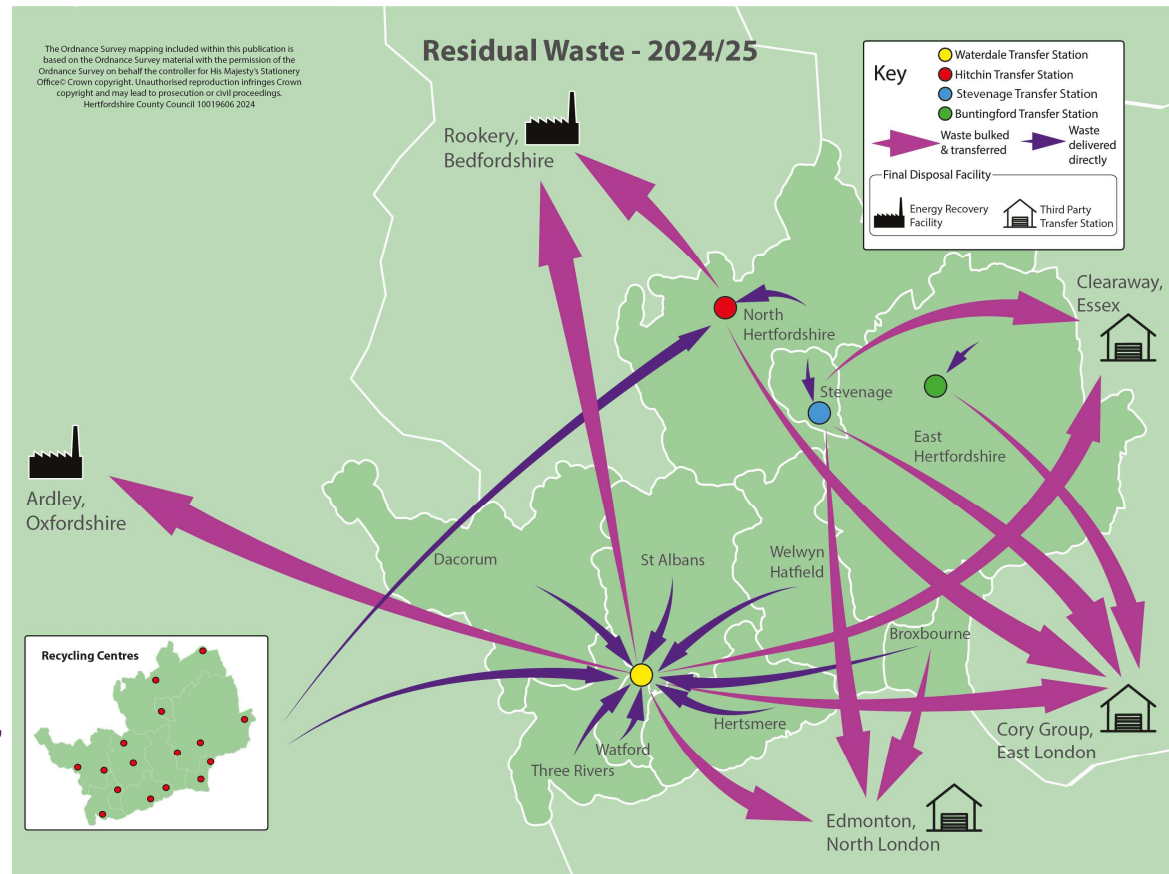
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- All waste collected comes to Cavendish Road
- Hauliers remove this from site for reprocessing; both SBC & HCC materials
- End destinations; Energy from waste, landfill, paper mills, MRFS
- In 2023/24 we had 30,500 tonnes of material come through the Transfer Station

# End Destinations

- HCC, as the WDA, are responsible for treatment of our residual waste and organics waste.
- We make our own arrangements for dry recycling (paper/card, glass, plastics/cans).



# Simpler Recycling

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- New regulations introduced to improving recycling rates and simplify recycling.
- The Government has announced that the default position will be 4 containers, but with local capability determine what is best for each area:
  - **Residual (non-recyclable) waste**
  - **Food Waste (mixed with garden waste if appropriate)**
  - **Paper and card**
  - **All other dry recyclable materials (plastic, metal and glass)**



# Simpler Recycling

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- Food waste collections will become mandatory for businesses - March 31<sup>st</sup> 2025
- Mandatory for households, including flats - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026
- Mandatory for micro-businesses - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027
- Plastic films to be included in recycling for all by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027
- Tetra Pack collected with plastic from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026





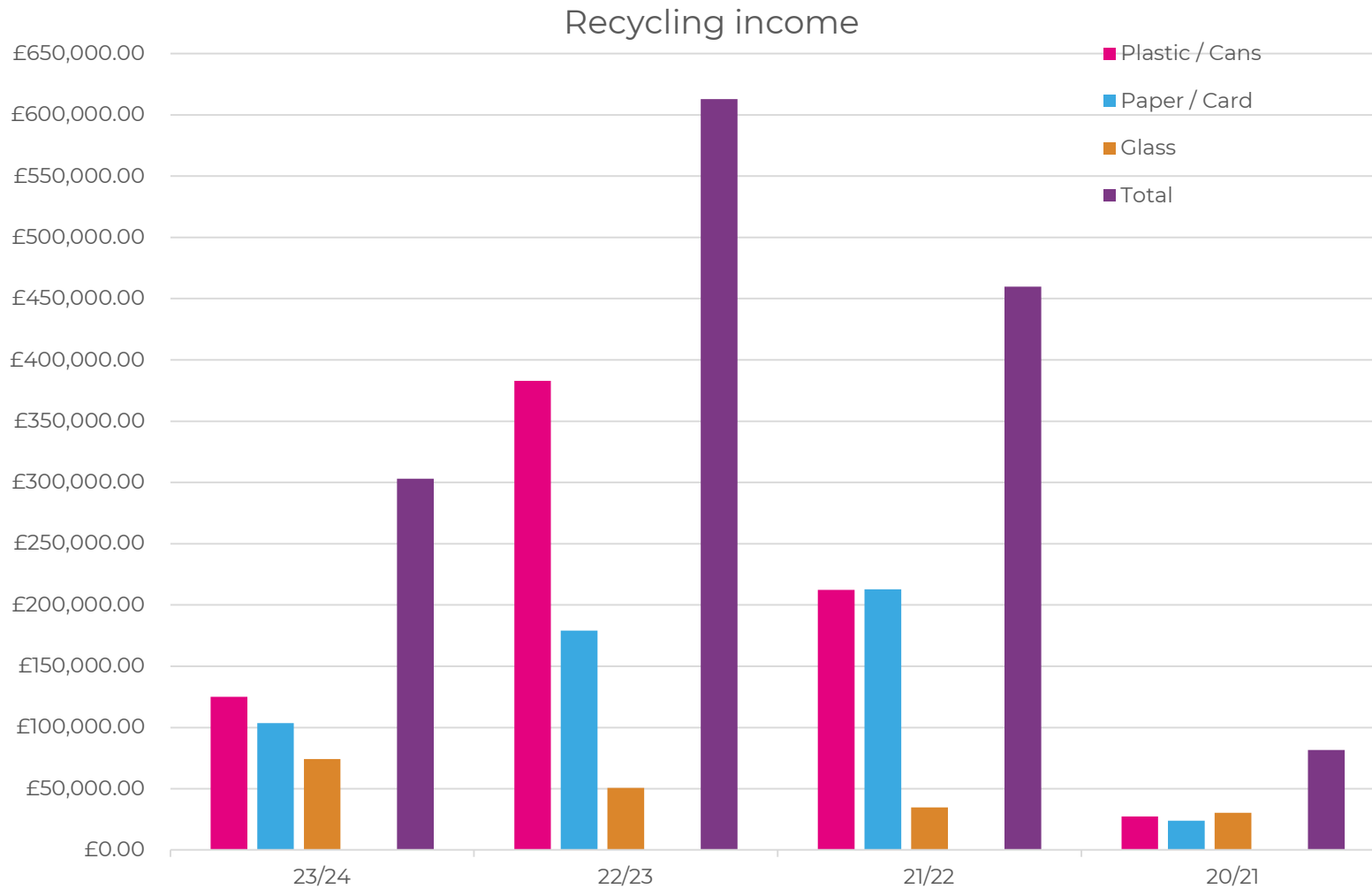
# Recycling Food Waste

## What are the benefits of a weekly food waste collection?

- Separate food waste collections generally increase recycling rates by a minimum of ~5%.
- Food waste can be treated via a process called Anaerobic Digestion (AD) which can be used to produce electricity.
- Food removed from the residual waste stream, lower disposal costs



# Recycling Income – For Context





# EPR & DRS

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EPR – Extended Producer Responsibility

2025



DRS – Deposit Return Scheme

2027

# Food Waste Collections

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- A new collection service with new rounds – residential & trade
- ‘New Burdens Funding’ from government via Defra to implement the change
- Requirement for new vehicles – to support household and trade waste
- Additional staffing
- New food waste containers: indoor ‘kitchen’ caddies and outdoor caddies / wheeled bins.
- Changes to depot license and containers / bays.
- Communication and delivery of new service to residents.


















# Food Waste Collections - Costs

Vehicle costs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Trade waste vehicle</li><li>• Dedicated household vehicle (x4)</li></ul>	£244,000 £92,305 (£369,220)
Container costs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 23L kerbside caddies</li><li>• 5L kitchen caddies</li><li>• 180/240L wheeled bins (for flats)</li></ul>	£136,813 £49,871 £32,277
Staffing costs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3x Crews -Drivers (x3) and loaders (x6)</li></ul>	£364,215 p/a

Capital Implementation Costs - £653,606

Yearly Revenue Costs - £521,910

# Future Service

 Stevenage BOROUGH COUNCIL	Residual Waste	Multi-stream recycling		Food Waste	Green Waste	
Frequency	Fortnightly	Fortnightly		Weekly	Fortnightly	
Collection Container	 180lt	 23lt	 60lt	 5lt 23lt	 240lt	
Materials Collected	 household waste	 mixed glass	 household plastic packaging  household metal packaging	 newspapers & magazines  corrugated cardboard  cardboard	 food waste	 garden waste

# Milestones Achieved....

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- New food waste vehicles for Trade and Residential purchased



## Commercial Food Waste Collections

- 33 of our trade waste customers and schools identified as in-scope
- Working with our commercial officer & liaising with these customers



# Milestones Achieved...

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- Waste containers have been tendered and order to be placed imminently.



# Milestones Achieved....

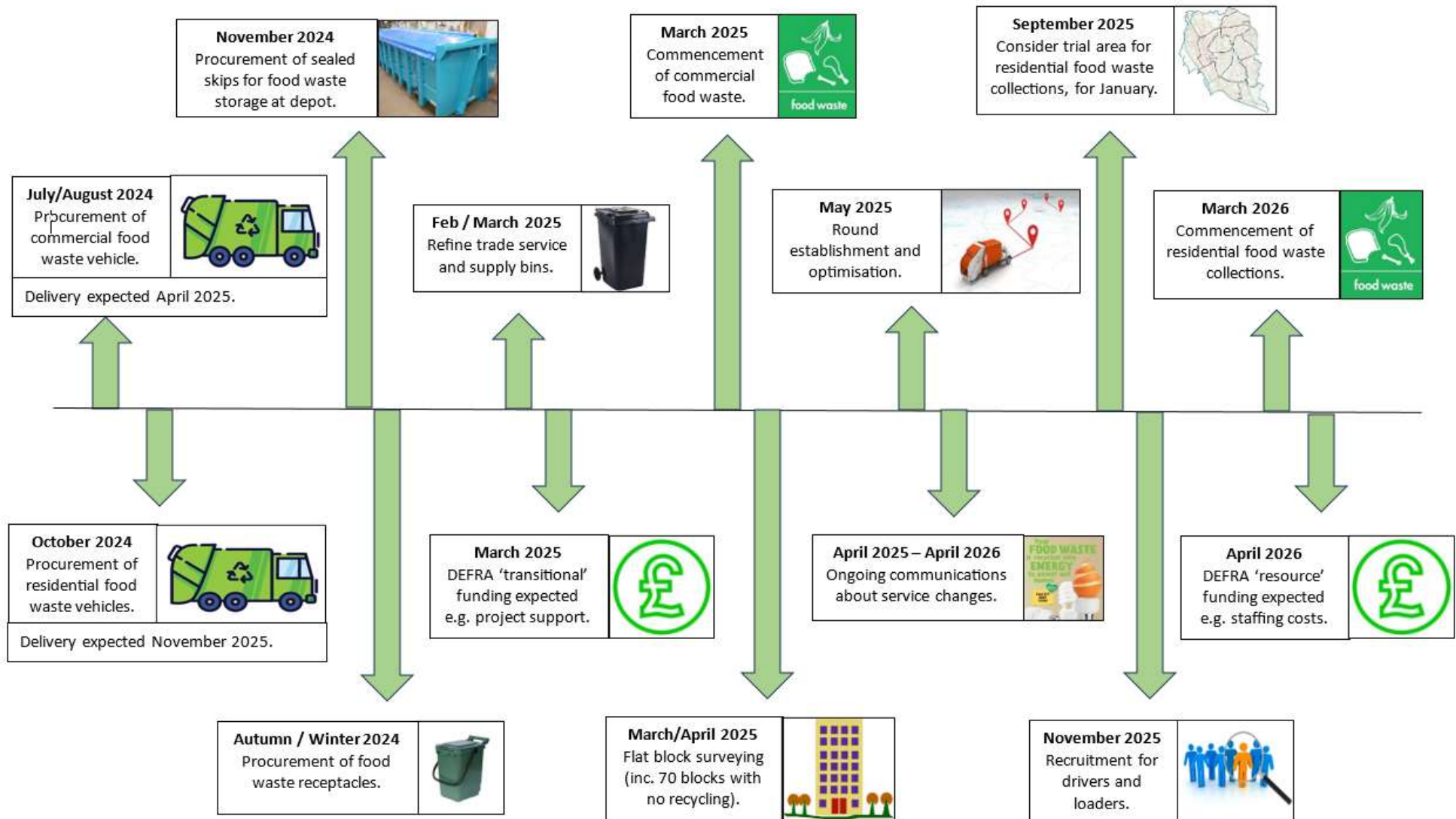
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- Application to Environment Agency submitted for licence variation.



- Food waste sealed skips tendered and ordered

# Project Timeline



# Summary of Statutory Food Waste Implementation

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- Vehicles are ordered and delivery confirmed. Containers due to be ordered by the end of February.
- Commercial food waste service scheduled to commence on 31 March 2025.
- We expect to receive notification of Defra's new burdens calculations re 'transitional' funding in March 2025 and ongoing resource funding by April 2026 and will then review.
- Round optimisation, suite of communications materials, recruitment and trial area all to come later this year.
- As it stands currently, operational planning wise, we are confident of being able to implement the required food waste changes (subject to adequate Defra funding!).

# Recycling Performance

- SBC's recycling rate is lower than other Herts authorities.
- Collecting recycling separately = higher quality recycling but capture rates tend to be lower.
- We make our own arrangements for sale of recycling to generate income.

**Table 3: Partner Authority and HWP recycling percentages**

Year	Broxbourne	Dacorum	East Herts	Hertsmere	North Herts	St Albans	Stevenage	Three Rivers	Watford	Wel / Hat	Herts CC	H W P
2023/24	43.3	51.6	44.7	43.6	56.9	60.3	39.1	61.9	49.6	47.7	61.6	52.0
2022/23	42.7	50.5	43.5	43.1	55.2	60.1	37.0	61.5	50.2	47.6	61.1	51.2
2021/22	41.8	52.7	49.2	44.3	57.7	62.5	39.7	63.5	51.9	50.6	59.8	52.7
2020/21	42.4	54.5	51.5	44.4	55.9	64.2	40.2	63.1	50.0	47.8	56.9	52.4
2019/20	41.5	52.8	50.7	44.4	57.5	63.0	39.5	64.1	45.3	46.6	58.7	52.3
2018/19	42.0	52.3	49.9	44.3	56.8	62.1	40.0	63.0	45.1	45.4	57.5	51.7
2017/18	41.8	52.5	49.4	43.6	57.5	59.5	38.3	62.4	44.3	43.4	56.3	50.9
2016/17	41.1	51.1	51.2	43.4	58.9	57.5	39.8	61.9	42.9	53.0	60.8	52.2

# Residual Waste

- Residual waste in SBC has reduced over the last few years.
- But it remains high compared to other Herts authorities.
- The ongoing transition to 180ltr refuse bins combined with separate food waste collections should help residents reduce their waste and recycle more.

**Table 4: Residual waste per household (kgs)**

Year	Broxbourne	Dacorum	East Herts	Hertsmere	North Herts	St Albans	Stevenage	Three Rivers	Watford	Wel / Hat	Herts CC	H W P	WCA Average
2023/24	441	397	452	463	334	317	483	315	379	395	53	448.15	398
2022/23	449	416	466	464	345	318	497	320	381	400	50	453.88	406
2021/22	522	421	473	492	350	321	521	322	386	409	56	473.68	422
2020/21	547	424	468	517	381	338	535	336	429	458	52	489.49	443
2019/20	506	396	433	475	337	305	493	309	438	417	57	462.06	411
2018/19	505	406	447	481	347	318	498	320	445	437	61	475.55	420
2017/18	534	414	461	507	368	348	522	338	468	446	63	497.29	441
2016/17	544	438	434	512	358	369	519	346	491	386	57	489.68	440

# Contamination Rates

Household Waste Tonnage and Recycling Rates. January- December 2024	Q4 2023-24	Q1 2024-25	Q2 2024-25	Q3 2024-25
	Jan to Mar 2024	Apr to Jun 2024	Jul to Sep 2024	Oct to Dec 2024
Total Household Waste (recycled & non-recycled)	7336.83	8848.77	7851.45	7458.7
Total Household Waste sent for recycling	2505.36	3609.73	3230.62	2698.22
<b>Contamination Rate</b>	<b>10.67%</b>	<b>1.00%</b>	<b>1.07%</b>	<b>1.98%</b>
Total Household Waste sent for recycling and recycled (%)	89.33%	99.00%	98.93%	98.02%
Total Household Waste sent for recycling and recycled (tonnes)	2238.04	3573.63	3196.05	2644.80

Reasons for contamination: Paper and card can be rejected for having too much moisture, therefore in wetter months we are likely to see more rejected loads.

# Recycling Bring Banks

Neighbourhood Recycling Bring Banks Improvement Project				
	Site	Ward	Info	Funding
2025	The Glebe	Shephall	Est cost: £2,800	UKSPF
	The Hyde	Shephall	Est cost: £2,600	UKSPF
	Oaks Cross	Longmeadow	Est cost: £2,800	UKSPF
	Bedwell shops	Bedwell	Est cost: £2,700	UKSPF
	Primett Road	Old Town	Est cost: £3,800	CCCF
	Filey Close	Symonds Green	Est cost: £2,800	CCCF
	St Nicholas Shops	St Nicholas	Est cost: £2,800	CCCF
	Mobbsbury Way	Chells	Est cost: £2,600	CCCF
2021	The Oval	Martins Wood	Improvement Works took place at these bring bank sites in 2021. New signage, new bins and new stickers were installed.	
	Emperors Gate	Manor		
	Roebuck Shops	Roebuck		
	Merymead Shops, Broadwater Crescent	Roebuck	Rails have been removed as part of 2021 work. Replacement bins and signage will be provided using current stock.	
	Tesco Extra	Old Town	Rails have been removed as part of 2021 work. Replacement bins and signage will be provided using current stock.	

UKSPF – UK Shared Prosperity Fund

CCCF – Climate Change Community Fund (SBC)



# Flats Recycling

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- Flat block recycling pilot completed in 2023.
- Installation of new infrastructure, signage and bins at 6 sites across Stevenage.
- Results showed a 185% increase in recycling.
- Further monitoring over the last 2-3 months has shown a sustained increase in recycling at these sites, averaging at around 85%.
- This helps to inform roll out of recycling to more sites.
- Phase 2 of the flat block recycling pilot is underway and due to be completed in 2025.



# Resident Participation

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- Engaging residents both to recycle and use the new food waste service is key.
- A broad communications plan is being developed to ensure we reach as many residents in as many ways as possible.
- Important to explain the benefits – inc. how food waste links to climate change.
- One consideration is the use of liners for food waste. Research shows that making it easy generally increases participation.



# Climate Change

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## Environmental benefits of changes to our services

- Using Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) has delivered 90% CO2 savings across our diesel fleet and machinery – estimated to be saving 791 tonnes of CO2 per year.
- HVO is a transitional fuel whilst we progress switching from petrol/diesel to zero emission fleet and machinery. We currently have 6 electric vehicles across the Council's fleet.
- The solar panels fitted to 7 refuse trucks have so far produced a saving of 8,894kgs of CO2.
- Separate food waste collections is expected to increase recycling rates by at least 5%.
- This should result in a reduction in residual waste and diverts food waste from landfill.

# Summary

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- The scope of our waste collection operations have been highlighted
- We are well placed to meet the requirements of 'Simpler Recycling'
- Preparing to implement a separate, weekly food collection service and progress is on track
- The addition of a separate food waste collection will be beneficial for the environment and increase SBC's recycling rate.
- Challenges and opportunities have been highlighted, with the goal of increasing participation levels and raising recycling rates longer term.

## Reflections and Questions?

# A Deeper Dive – Some Suggestions?

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## Separate Food Waste Collections

- Project plan
- Progress made
- Trade uptake
- Residential rounds/collection delivery plans

## Flats Recycling Trials

- Review of phase one
- Plans for phase two
- Future aspirations

## Recycling Bring Sites Review

- Current need and provision
- Fly Tipping and misuse
- Future needs
- Super sites

## Simpler Recycling

- A look in more detail about what Simpler Recycling encompasses
- Weekly food collections
- Flexible plastics
- DRS and EPR

**Cavendish Road Depot visit**