



# A summary of responses to Cheshire East Council's Household Waste Collection Consultation 2024

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Final



# Executive summary and conclusions

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## Introduction

During September / October 2024 Cheshire East Council conducted a consultation to seek views on its proposal to move collection of black bins to every three weeks. This preferred option was proposed in light of 'Simpler Recycling Scheme' legislation announced by the Government in October 2023 meaning that all local authorities must collect food waste from their residents on a weekly basis, and for this to be implemented by no later than 1 April 2026.

In total, 6,257 responses were received.

## Respondents' views on the preferred option for implementation

Whilst a proportion of respondents (13%) supported the preferred option, feeling that it would be a positive move in increasing recycling rates / makes sense as the most cost-effective option, the majority of respondents (84%) opposed its implementation. Opposition to the preferred option increased in line with the number of people resident within each household.

## Impacts of the preferred option

Many respondents stated that they already struggle with a two-weekly collection and were concerned that a move to three-weekly black bin collections would lead to an increase in vermin, pests & smells due to overflowing bins and certain waste products being left within the bins for a longer period. An increase in fly tipping and contamination of other bins were also raised as concerns, especially since the recent closure of some of the local HWRC sites and the introduction of the booking system at the weekend, respondents felt it was now more difficult to get rid of excess waste.

It was felt that certain households and those in certain areas / building types would be impacted more by the preferred option, this included:

- Larger families, those with younger children, those with medical needs / disabilities and those with pets due to the extra waste produced by such households and the nature of this waste.
- Elderly residents and those with certain disabilities due to a more complicated waste schedule and heavier bins which could lead to missed bin collections.
- Residents who had opted for a smaller bin, which was adequate for two-weekly collections, would have to pay for a standard / larger bin which is seen as unfair.
- Those in rural areas due to an increased possibility of vermin, fly tipping in these areas and difficulty for the waste trucks accessing properties which leads to missed bin collections.

- Those in terraced housing / housing with little outdoor space, some areas do not have wheelie bins and instead will have an increase in the amount of black bin bags cluttering up the area.
- Those in communal properties such as flats, apartments, retirement living, and houses of multiple occupancy will struggle with three-weekly black bin collections.

## **How the Council can support those who may be negatively impacted**

When asked what the Council could do to support those households who may be negatively impacted, many respondents suggested continuing with the fortnightly collections / choose option 1 or option 3 instead, which included the collection of black waste every two weeks. Other key suggestions included:

- Providing extra support to those that need it, for example, the provision of larger or additional black bins and / or additional waste collections. Assess who are in greater need, should not be a one size fits all approach.
- Providing more local opportunities to recycle and dispose of waste, for example, easier access to HWRCs, increased frequency of the mobile tip, communal bins, facilities for recycling, community composts.
- Providing more education / clear guidance on how to manage / reduce waste effectively and clear information on when each bin is due out for collection.
- Ensure bins are collected in a timely manner and have a plan to manage potential increase in vermin, litter, and fly tipping.
- Learn from other councils and/or trial the approach before implementing.

## **Limiting the potential impact within local areas**

As part of the preferred option, if implemented, the Council indicated that it would look to invest in additional waste educational specialists, enforcement officers and adopt wider enforcement powers to ensure it can counter any potential negative impacts brought about by the changes in local areas. These resources would be targeted at the areas of greatest need. When respondents were asked how strongly they agreed or disagreed with this approach, 16% agreed and 69% disagreed. Comments made reflected on:

- Impact of such specialists and enforcement officers would be limited, would rather see the funds spent on waste collection.
- Disliked the approach, felt overbearing or “draconian” of the council to bring in such measures, too punishing on individuals.
- Would not be equally distributed across the borough with too much focus being given to Crewe and not enough on the issue of rural fly tipping.

## **Conclusions and recommendations**

It is clear from the results, that many respondents are concerned about the potential move to three-weekly residual waste collections and the possible impact this would have on them, on some types of households and / or to the local area. A selection of respondents also had concerns about the implementation of the dedicated food waste collection. As this has been mandated by government the Council has limited scope to change its implementation however it is still worth reviewing the key concerns and questions raised.

The Research and Consultation Team recommend that the details within this report are thoroughly reviewed and considered before finalising the preferred option / recommendation. If implemented, it will be beneficial to continually engage with the community to ensure any negative impacts are limited.

# Introduction

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## Purpose of the consultation

During September / October 2024 Cheshire East Council conducted a consultation to seek views on its proposal to move collection of black bins to every three weeks. This preferred option was proposed in light of 'Simpler Recycling Scheme' legislation announced by the Government in October 2023 meaning that all local authorities must collect food waste from their residents on a weekly basis by no later than 1 April 2026.

At the time of the consultation / this report we don't know how much funding we will receive from Government to compensate the Council for introducing these changes, which are forecast to be an additional circa £1.5M per annum, and there's a significant risk that the funding won't cover the costs in full.

## Consultation methodology and number of responses

The consultation was mainly hosted online however paper versions were made available at libraries throughout Cheshire East and were also available on request. It was promoted to:

- Residents of Cheshire East
- The Cheshire East Digital Influence Panel
- Members
- Town and Parish Councils

In total, 6,257 responses were received during the consultation including 6,219 survey responses and 38 emails. A breakdown of survey demographics can be viewed in Appendix 1.

During the consultation period, an all-member engagement session was also held. Members had the opportunity to hear about the reasons behind the preferred option and ask any questions, 24 Members attended. Appendix 2 provides a summary of the key questions asked and the answers provided as part of this session.

# Section 1: Respondents' views on the preferred option for implementation

The Council's Environmental Services Team produced an options appraisal for the introduction of weekly food waste collections in Cheshire East. The following option was considered to offer the greatest value for money and was therefore the council's preferred option:

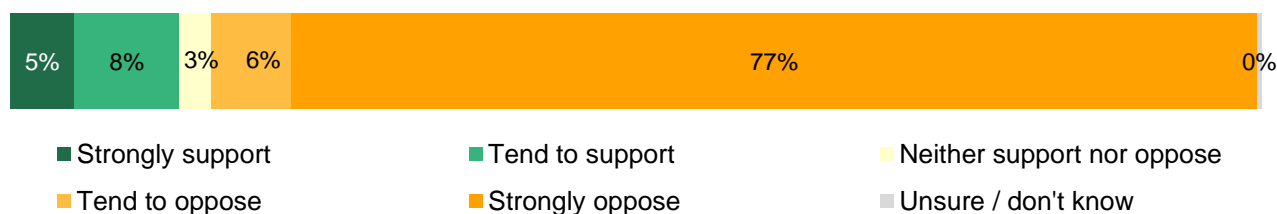
**Option 2:** Weekly food waste collection, collected in a kerbside caddy / container. Collected along with the garden waste in the same vehicle one week and separately by a dedicated small vehicle on the alternate weeks. Three-weekly black bin waste collection.

The other options looked at were:

- **Option 1:** Weekly food waste collection, collected in a kerbside caddy. Collected together with the garden waste in the same vehicle one week and separately by a dedicated small vehicle on the alternate weeks. Fortnightly black bin waste collection.
- **Option 3:** Weekly food waste collection, collected in a kerbside caddy. Collected each week by a dedicated small vehicle, separately from the fortnightly garden waste collection. Fortnightly black bin waste collection.
- **Option 4:** Weekly food waste collection, collected in a kerbside caddy. Collected each week by a dedicated small vehicle, separately from the fortnightly garden waste collection. Three-weekly black bin waste collection

Respondents were asked how strongly they support or oppose the Council's preferred option for implementation which includes a move to a three-weekly black bin waste collection. The majority of respondents, 84%, opposed the implementation of this option whilst 13% were in support, see Figure 1.

**Figure 1: How strongly do you support or oppose the council's preferred option for implementation which includes a move to a three-weekly black bin waste collection?**

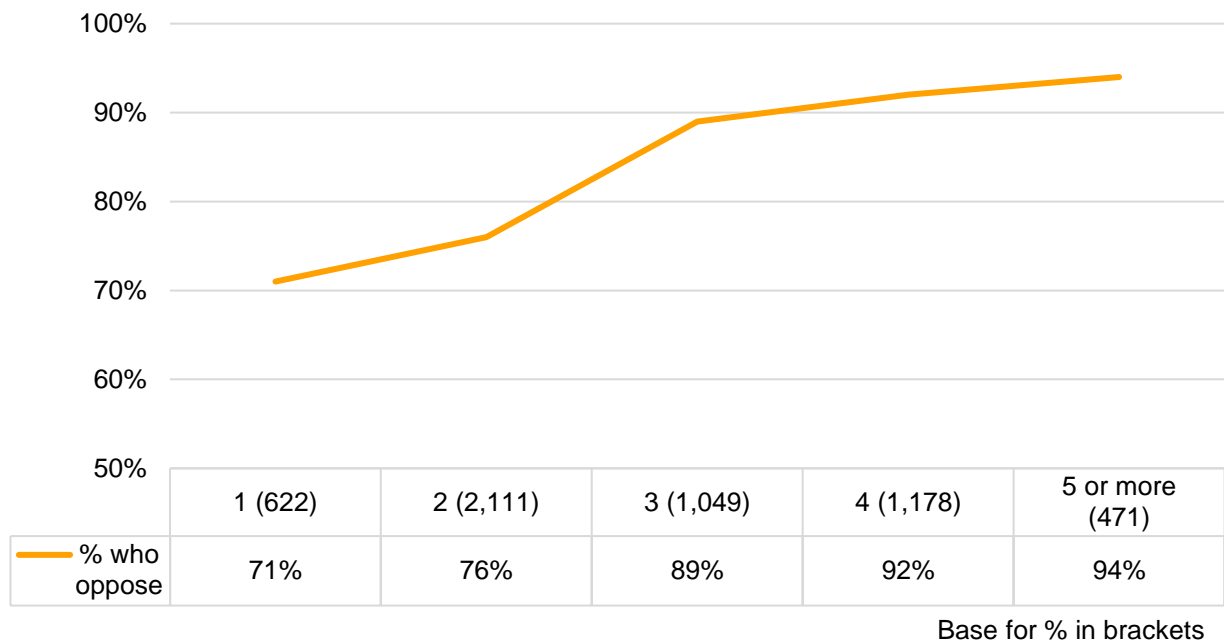


Base for % = 6,189

Opposition (either strongly oppose or tend to oppose) to the preferred option increased with the number of people within each household: 71% of 1 person households opposed the

implementation of the preferred option rising to 94% in households who had 5 or more persons as shown in Figure 2.

**Figure 2: Percentage of respondents who oppose the Council's preferred option by the number of persons within the household.**



## Positive / negative impacts of the preferred option

Respondents had the opportunity to let us know if they believed the preferred option will have a negative or positive impact on households within Cheshire East and why. 4,967 respondents chose to leave a comment. The comments provided were coded into the following overall themes and sub themes:

### Negative impacts / comments:

- Would be a health hazard due to the increased risk of pests, vermin, and smells, 1,727 mentions.
- Black bins are already full after 2 weeks, will lead to overspill and litter, 1,306 mentions.
- Will lead to an increase in people fly-tipping or contamination of other bins, 1,158 mentions.
- General negative impact / comment, 850 mentions.
- Issue with the food waste collection, 629 mentions.
- Will particularly impact large families, those with small children in nappies and those with pets, 564 mentions.
- Impact on HWRC usage / lack of a local HWRC site, 538 mentions.
- Issue with missed bin collections, 174 mentions.

- Will particularly impact those with medical issues, 119 mentions.
- Schedule would be too complicated, 114 mentions.
- Impact on those in certain areas / buildings e.g. flats, apartments, terraced housing, and houses of multiple occupancy, 48 mentions.
- Impact of heavier / larger bins, 33 mentions.

**Considerations:**

- Would need a larger bin, 137 mentions.
- Prefer option 1, 112 mentions.
- Prefer option 3, 89 mentions.
- Request for more information / clarification, 40 mentions.
- How much is this really saving, 37 mentions.
- Other considerations, inc. larger or increased collection of the recycle bin, 36 mentions.

**Positive impacts:**

- No effect on us / general positive comment, 106 mentions.
- Would encourage greater recycling, 94 comments.
- Weekly food waste collection positive, 49 mentions.
- Most cost-effective option, 37 mentions.

**Other:**

- Other comment or statement, 6 mentions.

Some respondents will have referred to more than one theme therefore the total mentions will not add up to the total number of respondents who left a comment. The full summary of the comments received by question, theme and sub theme is presented in Table 1.



**Table 1: Please let us know if you believe the preferred option will have any positive or negative impacts on households in Cheshire East and why:**

Theme	Summary of comments received	Number of mentions
<b>Negative impacts / comments</b>		
Would be a health hazard due to the increased risk of pests, vermin, and smells	It is a health & safety risk and will lead to disease. Black bins hold the dirtiest waste. The proposed 3-weekly collection would lead to a greater risk of smells, vermin, flies, and maggots especially during the summer months and within rural areas. It is unhygienic to leave pet waste, nappies, incontinence, and sanitary products for 3 weeks. Even if double bagged, they can smell. Some residents will continue to place their food waste in the black bins therefore this will be left to rot and smell also.	1,727
Black bins are already full after 2 weeks, will lead to overspill and litter	A 3-weekly collection is not sufficient for most households. Already recycle as much as we can yet the black bin is nearly full / full after 2 weeks. Black bin waste will overspill / pile up creating litter on the streets and other issues. Black bin bags will be left outside of the bins and are not strong enough to contain contents. There is a lot of food packaging which cannot be recycled. The extra food waste collection will have minimal impact to the amount that goes into the black bin, do not waste a lot of food. What are we meant to do with the excess waste? Do not have room for a larger bin or two black bins.	1,306
Will lead to an increase in people fly-tipping or contamination of other bins	This will only increase fly-tipping and other means of illegal dumping of waste. There is already an issue with fly-tipping in the area, which had been made worse by the closure of the tips / green waste charge. People will place their rubbish in public bins. It will cause people to put their rubbish into any bin to avoid having rubbish in the home hence negating the purpose of recycling. More contamination in the recycling will cost to dispose. Many busy families are still unable to split their waste.	1,158
General negative impact / comment	It will have a negative impact, awful idea. 3-weeks is simply too long, bin must be collected fortnightly. We pay enough council tax, have paid for this service. Keep as is, do not change something that is not broken. Save money elsewhere. Yet another reduction in our services already closed the tip and have to pay for green waste, pay more but receive less. What is the point of saying anything, resident views are not listened to.	850
Issue with the food waste collection	Will not be collecting food waste, most people have binned the food waste caddy. We do not waste any food. Should be encouraging people to reduce their food waste / to compost. Do not want, have the space for or need another container / bin. The council should seek to influence the current government for change. Do not waste money, they were a failure last time when they were introduced. Seems you are buying more trucks and employing more people for this. The caddies are easily knocked or blown over and are not secure, will lead to rats, flies, and other animals getting into them. As a wheelchair user it will be inconvenient to take a food caddy out weekly. Food waste caddies are too small, will fill up easily. Need to revert to putting food waste into the green / brown bin and collect using this system, make collection of this free.	629
Will particularly impact large families, those with small children in nappies and those with pets	Will have implications for larger families, families of 4 or more. As a large family bin is full after 2-weeks even after recycling everything we can. Already have a larger bin and struggle with the 2-week collection. Can imagine this will impact those with young children using disposable nappies. Having a baby, black bin is full of	564

**Table 1: Please let us know if you believe the preferred option will have any positive or negative impacts on households in Cheshire East and why:**

Theme	Summary of comments received	Number of mentions
	nappies there is no way we would be able to last 3-weeks. Have pets such as cats, birds, or dogs that all produce waste, so the black bin fills up fast.	
Impact on HWRC usage / lack of a local HWRC site	Would place an increased demand in residents needing to go to the tip increasing queues and carbon footprint. There is not enough HWRC's to accommodate this, local tip has been closed making it harder to dispose of excess rubbish. Since the closure of the tip people are using their black bins more, it is harder to recycle. Needing to book a slot for the weekend also makes it harder for anyone who works within the week. Not everyone is able to get to the HWRC to dispose of excess waste.	538
Issue with missed bin collections	There is already an issue with missed bins. Missed bin collections are supposed to be collected within five working days. However, this does not happen and missed bin collections are picked up at the next scheduled bin day. A move to collecting black bins every three weeks would mean that these residents have rubbish left in the bins for up to 21 days. In rural areas where I live, we have had many issues with bin collections being missed regularly. If on holiday at the time of collection / forget to put the bin out, then it will be 6 weeks by the time the bin is emptied.	174
Will particularly impact those with medical issues	There will be a problem with medical waste being left for 3 weeks, causing smells, and posing a health risk. Have a disabled adult / child in the household who are in nappies / use incontinence products/ pads. Use the bin to dispose of dressings and other medical disposables e.g. tube feed equipment, suction machine equipment, masks, syringes, catheter bags, colostomy bags, stoma bags. Rely on easy cook microwave meals / takeaways and order a lot online due to disability which unfortunately leads to increased waste. Already have a larger bin and it is full after 2 weeks / do not want a larger bin.	119
Schedule is too complicated	The inconsistency of the service will confuse residents especially the elderly and those with memory impairment. As a person with ADHD the whole thing is already very difficult to understand and plan for. It is too complicated, will make it harder for residents to comply with the schedule and will be easy to forget leading to missed bin collections.	114
Impact on those in certain areas / buildings e.g. flats, apartments, terraced housing, and HMOs.	Not suitable for all areas of Cheshire East, those with high density terraced housing and houses of multiple occupancy will not cope (e.g. Crewe South & Crewe Central). Negative impact on households that do not have a wheelie bin due to lack of space (e.g. some houses in Bollington & Macclesfield). Use black bin bags because live in a terraced house, three-weekly black bin collections would lead to an accumulation of black bags in small gardens/yards. Would not have the space for more or larger bins, bins will clutter up narrow pavements on collection day becoming hazardous for pedestrians, prams and the disabled. Live in retirement living do not have the option of separate food waste. Currently have issues with 2-weekly collections for developments housing older people with communal bins. Live in an apartment building with other flats, it is	48

**Table 1: Please let us know if you believe the preferred option will have any positive or negative impacts on households in Cheshire East and why:**

Theme	Summary of comments received	Number of mentions
	already difficult to ensure all waste will fit in the bins, have little room to store a caddy, has someone thought through their specific situation? Euro bins are collected weekly.	
Impact of heavier / larger bins	It will be negative to those who are elderly / disabled as the bins are too heavy for some as they currently are. Struggle to move the black bin as an elderly resident. Will waste vehicles cope with the larger waste capacity produced after 3 weeks.	33
<b>Considerations</b>		
Would need a larger black bin / go back to having a standard bin	Would need easy access to a larger bin to avoid overflow or an additional smaller bin. Criteria for a larger bin should be lowered. Yet another financial burden, financial support needed for those who cannot afford a larger bin, larger bin should be provided free of charge. Opted for a smaller bin when these were available which is adequate for fortnightly collections – would have to purchase a standard / bigger bin which is unfair if the frequency is reduced.	137
Prefer option 1	Option 1 is the best and most logical choice. Retains the established collection dates.	112
Prefer option 3	Option 3 maximises the revenue stream whilst averting issues with decreasing the frequency of waste.	89
Request for more information / clarification	How will the 20.5% reduction in waste be achieved. What happens to excess waste if the current black bin is full before collection? Please advise rationale of £1m saving, how is this saving money when the lorry is making more journeys? Sceptical of kerbside waste / fly tipping findings, what evidence are you quoting? What happens for those who do not pay for the brown bin? Can food waste still be placed into the green bin? Will we still have to pay for this? Will the food waste caddy be free? Will there be a discount or reduction to people that do their own composting at home/allotment? Can all food waste can go in the weekly food waste collection - i.e. bones, meat remains, fish? What happens to bin collection staff, will there be more unemployment? Please be clearer on the benefits to separating food waste. More education on recycling is needed.	40
How much is this really saving	How much will the new caddies, their delivery to households & new small collection vehicle cost? Buying dedicated small vehicles just for food waste will also have a cost, more vehicle maintenance, manpower, driver training and familiarisation, what are the running costs compared to current system? All options will not save any money, as you are collecting 3 times. Every 6th week each household would have all 3 bins out - that will need extra staff & lorries not less surely. Have you looked at this business case in detail? Service reduction due to budget constraints may well lead to increased costs elsewhere. Cost of disposal for compacting black waste will cost more. Will this mean further increases in our council tax?	37
Other considerations	Would need more or larger grey bins for recycling, ensure sufficient collection of recyclables. Collect recycling and green waste bin weekly as that will cover weekly food waste and encourage recycling. Green waste bin	36

**Table 1: Please let us know if you believe the preferred option will have any positive or negative impacts on households in Cheshire East and why:**

Theme	Summary of comments received	Number of mentions
	will be less full so could collect that every 3 weeks instead. The entire process needs looking at – could collect late at night to save on time and fuel.	
<b>Positive impacts</b>		
No effect on us / general positive comment	No effect on me black bin very seldom full. Do lots of recycling, manageable if households use their recycle and food waste bins efficiently.	106
Encourages greater recycling	Should encourage greater recycling, better for the environment. Lowest carbon footprint option. Positive with education on recycling - more support for recycling should be offered to help.	94
Weekly food waste collection positive	Weekly food waste collection is positive / support this. Better for hygiene. Will stop food waste going to landfill.	49
Most cost-effective option	Savings are positive, most cost-effective option.	37
<b>Other comments</b>		
General comment or statement	More pressure on manufacturing to produce more recyclable material. Retailers are doing nothing to minimise packaging, collaboration with businesses to provide more recycling points. New government may change all.	6

## **How can the Council support those who may be negatively impacted?**

Respondents were then asked, what, if anything, can the council do to support those households who may be negatively impacted 4,218 respondents chose to leave a comment. The comments provided were coded into the following overall themes and sub themes:

### **Suggestions relating to three-weekly black bin collections:**

- Stick with fortnightly collection / collect more often / go with option 1 or 3 instead, 2,275 mentions.
- Provide larger or second bins / collect additional bagged waste, 816 mentions.
- Keep the local HWRC open / provide easier access, 289 mentions.
- Provide education and guidance, 162 mentions.
- Provide extra bin collections for certain households / areas / during certain times, 142 mentions.
- Listen to residents' views and opinions / discuss their specific needs, 76 mentions.
- Provide a bin cleaning / pest control service and clean up fly tipping / the streets, 63 mentions.
- Provide more public / communal bins and or stores for waste / recycling, 47 mentions.
- Ensure a reliable service / collect missed bins promptly, 30 mentions.
- Look at what other councils do / share resource, 9 mentions.
- Trial the approach and assess the impact, 23 mentions.
- Other suggestions inc. Large grey bins for recycling or more often for those, 23 suggestions.

### **General negative comments / council wide suggestions:**

- General negative comment regarding the proposal or the council / save money elsewhere, 485 mentions.
- Reduce council tax, 81 mentions.
- Request for more information / clarification, 15 mentions.

### **Suggestions / comments relating to food waste collections:**

- Allow food waste to be placed into the green bin / stop the green bin charge, 227 mentions.
- Food waste collection is a waste of time and money / will not be collecting food waste, 90 mentions.
- Provide larger more robust food waste caddies / liners, 59 mentions.

**Other comments:**

- Little or no impact, 14 mentions.
- General comment or statement, 17 mentions.

Some respondents will have referred to more than one theme therefore total mentions will not add up to the total number of respondents who left a comment. The full summary of the comments received by question, theme and sub theme is presented in Table 2.

**Table 2: And what, if anything, can the council do to support those households who may be negatively impacted?**

Theme	Summary of comments received	Number of mentions
<b>Suggestions / comments relating to three-weekly black bin collections</b>		
Stick with fortnightly collection / collect more often / go with option 1 or 3 instead	Do not introduce this scheme, collect more regularly rather than less so. Keep the fortnightly collection. Do not change it. Choose option 1 or 3 instead.	2,275
Provide larger or second bins / collect additional bagged waste	Option for a larger black bin or second bin for all that request them, especially for larger families, for households with 4 or more people, for those with medical needs, for households with children in nappies and those with pets. Remove the charges for the larger black bin, should not have to pay for a larger bin seen as it is not our fault the collections are changing. Sealable bins for medical waste, pet waste and nappies. Allow additional bagged waste in addition to the bin. Issues with smell and hygiene will however still be an issue.	816
Keep the local HWRC open and provide easier access	Re-open the local HWRC (e.g. Congleton, Middlewich, Bollington, and Poynton sites). Keep the local tips open. Provide easier access to the tip, scrap the booking system. Increase the opening times.	289
Provide education and guidance	Education and clearer guidance. Launch a comprehensive campaign to inform residents about the new collection schedules, the benefits of food waste recycling, and how to manage waste effectively. Ensuring residents, particularly in houses of multiple occupancy, understand how to manage waste effectively is critical. This can include flyers, online resources, and community meetings. Stickers inside bin lids for households to get it right first time. Provide advice on how to minimise food waste. Actively promoting and advertising the availability of reusable nappies. Calander showing clearly when each collection is due / written timetable to look at each week.	162
Provide extra bin collections for certain households / areas / during certain times	Offer extra / separate collection of animal / human waste on a more frequent basis inc. nappies, disposable bed sheets, incontinence pads, soiled dressing etc. Extra collections for larger families. Consider maintaining more frequent collections for areas identified as high-risk for fly-tipping and waste management issues. Collect fortnightly during spring and summer, and three-weekly during autumn/winter. Additional collections during the Christmas period. Additional 'paid for' collections on request, would rather pay a small fee to ensure the black bin is emptied fortnightly. Extra collections for larger communal properties e.g. flats, nursing homes. Help with bulky waste disposal.	142
Listen to residents' views and opinions / discuss their specific needs – not a one size fits all	Listen to residents' views and opinions. Identify such households and discuss with them directly their worries and then attempt to address their specific issues. Assess what wards are in greater need, should not be a one size fits all approach. Offer support for families, and disabled people. Provide support to those who cannot move heavy bins. There should be consideration for households and individuals who are vulnerable and not able to drive to their local tip. Consider small businesses e.g. home dog boarders. Consider the impact on people in flats, multi occupancy and high-rise accommodation. Could there be a way of making the council aware of households with someone who will struggle with the rules due to memory loss or cognitive impairment?	76

**Table 2: And what, if anything, can the council do to support those households who may be negatively impacted?**

Theme	Summary of comments received	Number of mentions
Provide a bin cleaning / pest control service and clean up fly tipping / the streets.	Offer regular bin cleans, free bin cleaning service, free bin freshener, odour neutralisers. Discounted pest control, provide free pest control services. Plan to manage vermin, rat infestation control. Mechanism to compact the black bin waste. Road sweepers and cleaners, clean up fly tipping. Catch out fly tipplers, increase fines for fly tipping, review the current enforcement actions, take legal action, mandate that bins are returned onto driveways.	63
Provide more public / communal bins and or stores for waste / recycling	Local small deposit spots for waste. Provide communal bins for overspill waste, community skip days, community composts, more public bins, more dog waste bins, bins at each passing place, more local facilities for recycling, mobile tip to become fortnightly. Consider implementing additional or alternative waste disposal options in high-density areas. Make facilities for recycling soft plastics accessible. Local collection places so smelly waste is not left near homes or left on pavements / find a place where bins can be stored off the footpaths.	47
Ensure a reliable service / collect missed bins promptly	Provide a reliable service, ensure bins are emptied on the given day. Provide a genuine re-collection service when bins reported to be missed, commit to emptying missed bins within 48 hours.	30
Look at what other councils do / share resource	Look at what other councils do, follow Stockport, look at Trafford as a model to follow. Look at pooling waste collections with other LAs to properly maximise efficiency and reduce carbon footprint, look at alternative facilities with neighbouring towns to share services.	12
Trial the approach and assess the impact	A 2-month trial could be done to see how it works and what impact this has had on households – follow up with a survey. Give a slow phased approach, test it in certain areas. Undertake an analysis of black bin capacity over a few months and assess. Assess the impact of the new weekly food disposal on the black bins after a few months and adjust schedule if needed.	9
Other suggestions	Large grey bins for recycling or more often for those. Let everyone have one free garden pass a year. Schedule should be user friendly / keep collection days as they are at least. Reduce other collections instead e.g. garden waste, recycling bin. Make all bin types for different types of waste weekly to help with the environment. Provide rural households with the same variety of bins as urban households.	23
<b>General negative comments / council wide suggestions</b>		
General negative comment regarding the proposal or the council / save money elsewhere	All households will be negatively impacted, have a vermin problem, will be impacted by fly tipping. Do the job you are paid to do / provide value for money. Improve services instead of reducing them. Already closed the tips and charged for green waste collection whilst increasing costs for tax collection, now this. Stop wasting money, cut council salary, expense costs, and manage budgets better. Reduce spend in other areas. The council will not do anything to support residents. Not sure the council can do anything / nothing, probably already decided.	485
Reduce council tax	Reduce council tax in line with reduced services. Incentivise.	81
Request for more information / clarification	Provide more information regarding how this will work. What about those that do not pay for the green waste bin, will they have weekly food waste collections? Is it not cheaper to run less vehicles and sort the waste at the recycling centre? Publish the impact on land fill waste. Information on how much money is allocated to each	15



**Table 2: And what, if anything, can the council do to support those households who may be negatively impacted?**

Theme	Summary of comments received	Number of mentions
	service in a simple format would be helpful, the funding the council receives and where council tax goes. Prove it is not possible to make savings in any other category. Highlight the issue is lack of funding and that this has been cut over the years.	
<b>Suggestions relating to food waste collections</b>		
Allow food waste to be placed into the green bin / stop the green bin charge	Allow the continued disposal of food waste in the large green garden bins. Revert to putting food waste in the green / brown bin and for that service to be fortnightly and free of charge as before, therefore no need for extra expenditure of new bins or additional costs of its collection.	227
Food waste collection is a waste of time and money / will not be collecting food waste	A weekly food waste collection service is a waste of time & money. It has been tried before, and it did not work. Do not waste more money on caddies for everyone, only give food caddies to those who want to participate. Will not be collecting food waste, do not waste that much food. Provide compost bins for gardens where practical - no need for collection. Lobby the new Labour government to remove the requirement for weekly food waste collections.	90
Provide larger more robust food waste caddies / liners	Provide larger food waste bins, small caddy will not suffice. Caddies must be strong and secure. All caddies must be provided free of charge. Provide bin liners for the food waste bins.	59
<b>Other comments</b>		
Little or no impact	Do not think many households should be negatively affected especially if recycling properly, collecting food waste. Households should manage their own waste.	14
General comment or statement	See what the new government will do first. Appeal for more grants. Education does not work, and enforcement rarely used. Take away green bins not used. Concentrate investment in waste education / enforcement in urban areas where poor waste management is most prevalent. Put pressure on supermarkets to reduce non-recyclable packaging.	17

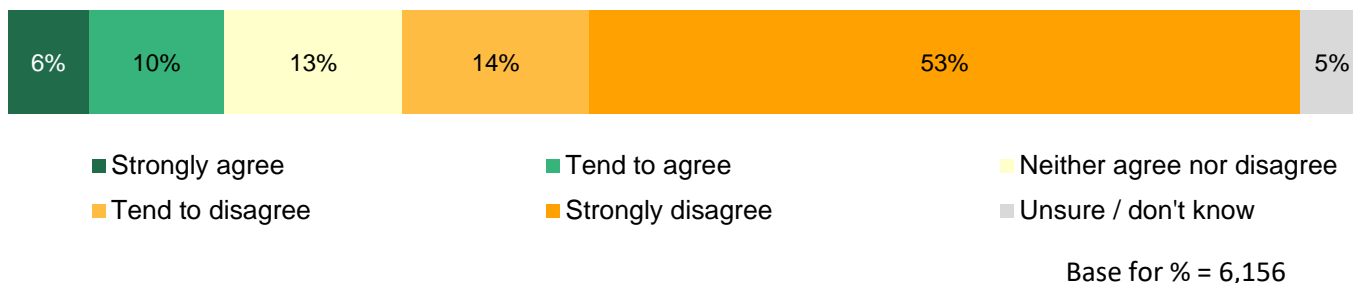
## Section 2: Limiting the potential impact within local areas

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As part of the preferred option, if implemented, we would look to invest in a number of areas to ensure we can counter any potential negative impacts brought about by the changes such as the recruitment of additional waste education specialists community enforcement officers as well as the adoption of wider area enforcement powers. These resources will be targeted at the areas of greatest need.

Respondents were asked how strongly they agree or disagree with the approach outlined which aims to limit any negative impacts within local areas, 67% of respondents disagreed with the approach whilst 16% agreed, see Figure 3.

**Figure 3: How strongly do you agree or disagree with the approach outlined, which aims to limit any negative impacts within local areas?**



## Section 3: Further comments

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At the end of the survey respondents had the opportunity to let us know if they had any further comments to make on the options. 3,094 respondents chose to leave a comment. The comments provided were coded into the following overall themes and sub themes:

### Comments / concerns relating to three-weekly black bin collections:

- Stick with fortnightly collection / go with option 1 or 3 instead, 569 mentions.
- Will increase fly tipping especially in rural areas, 490 mentions.
- Closure of HWRC's will have a knock-on effect, 408 mentions.
- Support three-weekly collections, 140 mentions.
- Already struggle with the current level of service / should be increased, 72 mentions.

### Comments / concerns about the food waste collection:

- Green waste charges should be removed or reviewed to align with food waste, 329 mentions.
- Would lead to an increase in unhygienic conditions / mess / vermin, 249 mentions.
- Do not want a food waste caddy, 206 mentions.
- Do not make food waste, would not use the service, 188 mentions.

- Food waste caddy is too small / not secure, 180 mentions.
- Extra food waste collections are not environmentally friendly, 26 mentions.

**General negative comments / council wide suggestions:**

- Paying more council tax for fewer services / Council should sort its own spending out, 373 mentions.
- General negative comment regarding the proposal, 275 mentions.
- Sceptical that residents' views will be listened to, 71 mentions.
- Other general negative comment / statement, 130 mentions.

**Comments on the recruitment of additional waste education specialists' community enforcement officers:**

- Against spending money for more staff in this area, 681 mentions.
- Consideration of extra support for Crewe, 72 mentions.
- Individuals are being punished / do not like waste policing, 70 mentions.

**Considerations / requests for clarification:**

- Require further clarification on use of green bin / collection days, 229 mentions.
- Challenge the requirement for weekly food waste collection, 108 mentions.
- Should help people to recycle more, 88 mentions.
- Should offer larger bins free of charge, 31 mentions.
- Provide assurance around missed collections, 26 mentions.
- Different waste types need further consideration, 26 mentions.

Some respondents will have referred to more than one theme therefore total mentions will not add up to the total number of respondents who left a comment. The full summary of the comments received by theme and sub theme is presented in Table 3.

38 emails were also received during the consultation, 28 from individuals and 10 from a group / organisation or town / parish council / councillor. A summary of the comments received can be seen in Table 4.

**Table 3: Further comments on the options**

Theme	Summary of comments received	Number of mentions
<b>Comments / concerns relating to three-weekly black bin collections</b>		
Stick with fortnightly collection / go with option 1 or 3 instead	Against the move to three-weekly collections, needs to remain as fortnightly, especially given the charges for green waste and the closure of local HWRC's. Option 1 or option 3 is the preferred choice. Waste management is an essential service and savings should not be made in this area.	569
Will increase fly tipping especially in rural areas	Will lead to an increase in fly tipping as people's bins will be full / do not have access to an alternative method of disposal. Rural areas will be disproportionately affected, and these incidents are not tracked as they are often on private land. Why is Middlewich not on the fly tipping chart? Fly tipping is already poorly managed. More should be done to prevent fly tipping of trade waste	490
Closure of HWRC's will have a knock-on effect	The reduction in waste services to 3 weekly is unacceptable given the closure of HWRC's (e.g. Congleton, Middlewich, Bollington, and Poynton sites). Certain residents will have limited or no travel options to get to the remaining waste sites. Use savings from the scheme to re-open these sites to ensure a good alternative service for those with extra waste. Wary of the fly-tipping data especially as the impact of the closure of the sites has not been captured yet.	408
Support three-weekly collections	Collecting food waste weekly is a positive step. Collections could be considered going to 4-weekly in some cases due to most waste being recycled.	140
Already struggle with the current level of service / should be increased	Already struggle with a 2-weekly collection, it should be increased / restored to weekly rather than decreased further.	72
<b>Comments / concerns about the food waste collection</b>		
Green waste charges should be removed or reviewed to align with food waste	The decision to charge for green waste should be removed/reduced to encourage greater uptake. Use of the green bin on a free weekly collection would remove the need for caddies. Charging for this collection was shortsighted and could have been used for food waste implementation.	329
Would lead to an increase in unhygienic conditions/ mess/ vermin	Collecting waste in food caddies would lead to an increase in mess due to spillage and smells as well as a potential increase in vermin and pests who would be attracted by the food, especially in more rural areas. What about the mess caused by anti-social behaviour, who would be responsible for clearing up spilled food waste?	249
Do not want a food waste caddy	Don't have the space for a food caddy, don't like the design of them, they are unhygienic / smelly. Did not use the previous one that was provided. Will lead to more "clutter" on the pavement on collection day and on windy days the caddies may blow away.	206
Do not make food waste, would not use the service	Food waste collection is not needed as don't waste food / waste little food especially due to the increasing costs. Home compost own food waste and would have no need for a collection.	188

Food waste caddy is too small / not secure	The previous caddies supplied by Cheshire East were too small and not secure enough – would fill it too quickly. A larger caddy would be more appropriate and secure or even a small bin. Some respondents reported not receiving a caddy on the last distribution and wanted to make sure they would receive one. Live in communal housing or flats and not able to access such as service. Bio-degradable bags should be allowed / given with the caddies for hygiene reasons.	180
Extra food waste collections are not environmentally friendly	Distribution of the plastic caddies as well as having another round for waste collection can't be environmentally friendly, especially if the new vehicles are not electric.	12
<b>General negative comments / council wide suggestions</b>		
Paying more council tax for fewer services / Council should sort its own spending out	Seem to be paying more for less services, already charge for green waste and closed HWRC's. Council tax should reduce if waste collections go to 3-weekl. Making cuts to an essential service such as waste is unacceptable, look at saving efficiencies closer to home either through management, staff or "vanity project" spending.	373
General negative comment regarding the proposal	Dreadful idea, seems short sighted / not properly thought-out, doesn't solve the underlying problem. Won't save money / waste of time. Review information from other local authorities before proceeding.	275
Sceptical that residents' views will be listened to	Sceptical that that any views or concerns put forward will be considered by the council, seems like another 'tick boxing' exercise.	71
Other general negative comment / statement	General negative comments outside of the consultation scope e.g. poor road conditions / or generally negative statement with no further expansion or explanation given.	130
<b>Comments on the recruitment of additional waste education specialists' community enforcement officers</b>		
Against spending money for more staff in this area	This is a counter-intuitive move, the proposed savings for reducing collections seem to be offset by increased spend in this area. Dislike the idea, what is the benefit that such staff would bring aside increased costs. Should not invest in this area - 2 weekly collections should remain instead.	681
Consideration of extra support for Crewe	Opinion was split here with some feeling that the data supported the need for further support and consideration to Crewe given the high fly tipping rate, transient population, and shared bins. There were concerns that a "one size fits all" approach to bin collections would not work here. Others felt that too much focus was being placed on Crewe at the expense of other areas.	72
Individuals are being punished / do not like waste policing	The proposed enforcement / education staff are "draconian" measure, the council should look at using more incentives and less punishment when it comes to change behaviour in waste. Would likely punish individuals who were just trying their best to dispose of waste.	70
<b>Considerations / requests for clarification</b>		
Require further clarification on use of green bin / collection days	Can food waste continue to be placed in the green waste bin if paying for one - this is the preference rather than using a caddy. The number of collections could lead to confusion and must be communicated clearly.	229

Challenge the requirement for weekly food waste collection	Why aren't you challenging the requirement for weekly food waste collection or seeking appropriate funding? Doesn't need to be collected on a weekly basis, can just place in green bins as previously.	108
Should help people to recycle more	Need to provide more information about what can and can't be recycled as well as offering support in reducing household food waste. Should be less about enforcement measures and more about helping individuals.	88
Should offer larger bins free of charge	Larger black waste bins should be offered to households free of charge / at a reduced cost if the council moves to 3 weekly waste collections to accommodate.	31
Provide assurance around missed collections	Need assurance that if a collection is missed it will be collected before the next - many reported experiencing a poor service currently and a 6 weekly collection would not be manageable.	26
Different waste types need further consideration	Concerned about the handling of pet and medical waste, a 3-weekly collection of those would not be appropriate or safe. Consideration needs to be made for households with additional needs such as adults requiring support.	26

**Table 4: Email responses**

Theme	Summary of comments received	Number of mentions
<b>Individual mentions concerning three weekly black bin collections</b>		
Would be a health hazard due to the increased risk of pests, vermin, and smells	Should remain at 2 weeks for health reasons, waste in black bins smells and attracts vermin, flies / maggots, especially in the warmer months.	11
General objection / negative comment	Object to the move in collecting black bins every three weeks. Our council tax increases every year, and services are decreased every year. If you do insist on reducing collections maybe you should consider reducing the council tax.	7
Black bins are already full after 2 weeks, will lead to overspill	Bin is already full after 2 weeks, bags will be left on pavements, are you going to take black bags as well? Already suffer from a plague of bins, often overflowing and lining streets permanently due to constraints of poor access for collection.	6
Will increase fly tipping	Will increase fly tipping, especially since the closure of the local tip.	6
Issue with missed bins	Our bins are often forgotten and are not picked up until the next cycle. Often work away and can miss bin collection if this happens would have to wait 6 weeks for collection.	5
Consider those who cannot get to the tip	Please think how it will affect working families who may not have time to go to the tip in between these collections' times. Local tip has closed which is an inconvenience.	3
Would require a larger bin	Larger wheelie bins would make three weekly collections more acceptable.	2
Agree to three-weekly collections with more guidance	More than happy for black bin waste to be collected every 3 weeks. More clear guidance needs to be offered about precisely which types of plastics can be recycled.	1
Impact on those in apartment blocks	No consideration of how changes affect apartment blocks. None of the alternatives are appropriate. It will be necessary to assess the needs of such properties individually to ensure an appropriate service.	1
<b>Individual mentions concerning the food waste collection scheme</b>		
Issue with food waste collection / caddies	Waste of time would not store food waste in bins, the additional cost for additional collections is unacceptable. How are we meant to safely hold food waste for a week. Food waste bin will smell and lead to maggots. Caddies would easily be blown over. Can you create a storage container that can be clipped to the handrails of an actual bin by residents?	6
Query regarding green bin scheme and foods waste	I would like to understand the cost of this new weekly collection proposal vs the income gained from charging for the green bin scheme. If all residents retained their green bin, then surely your weekly commitment would be met. Is it planned to throw the food waste in with the garden waste - why can't the food waste be included in the garden waste bin by residents if this is the case?	2
<b>Group / organisation or town / parish council / councillor mentions</b>		
On behalf of a group of flat owners	Writing on behalf of 36 flat owners to object to the proposed move to a 3-week collection for general waste bins. We are allocated (and only have space in the bin sheds for 6 Euro Bins (4 general waste and 2 re-cycling). By the end of 2 weeks our general waste bins are	

**Table 4: Email responses**

Theme	Summary of comments received	Number of mentions
	usually full and the re-cycling bins are full to over-flowing. The move would cause a safety and hygiene concern - over-flowing bins, resulting in smells and vermin. A weekly collection of food waste from separate containers is unworkable for 36 flats. Need a more suitable arrangement for communal properties.	
The Planning & Environment Committee at Poynton Town Council	Cannot support the proposal for black bins to be collected on a three-weekly cycle. Too long for noxious items such as nappies to be left, especially in the summer months. The recent decision to close the local household waste and recycling centre at Poynton will only increase the use of and demand for the black bins.	
Buckley and Ridley Parish Council	<p><b>Effect on Households</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Missed bin collections would lead to an intolerably long 6 weeks - concerned that overfilled bins left uncollected for long period will encourage vermin and smells.</li> <li>• There is no clear evidence that it would not lead to fly-tipping.</li> <li>• To maintain public support from local taxpayers it is important CEC provides at least minimum service levels.</li> </ul> <p><b>Uncertainty over Government Policy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considering the uncertainty over government policy and funding this is the wrong time for CEC to be seeking public consultation on a proposed change to waste collection services. CEC should wait until government policy and funding is more certain.</li> </ul> <p><b>Budgetary Analysis</b></p> <p>The consultation only provided limited detail on the budgetary implications of the four proposals, there is no wider consideration of the cost to the wider economy and to individual households:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Option proposed by CEC might be cheapest for CEC but end up being the most expensive to the wider local economy.</li> <li>• The larger bins would be a cost to households and the local economy. This should be considered as part of the cost.</li> <li>• Additional health, pest control and Fly tipping controls and expenditure should be considered.</li> <li>• The cost of employing more officers in unproductive activity</li> <li>• The expected additional inconvenience to households has no measurable cost and so is being ignored</li> </ul>	
Councillor for Crewe East	In Crewe South, after 2 weeks there are already black bins with raised lids and side waste, after 3 weeks this will be even worse. No thought into how this policy will affect areas where there are many rental properties and densely packed terraced housing. Not all of them understand recycling either. With only 4 operatives for the whole of the Borough education techniques do not look like a viable approach based on the daily reports of fly tipping of waste in Crewe. Add to this the transient nature of the population and educating residents who move within a couple of months is going to be a Herculean task. One size does not fit all!	
Cranage Parish Council	The Parish Council have concerns that, whilst an additional bin could be accommodated easily in more rural areas where dwellings generally have a garden, this is not the case in urban areas, such as Crewe. In urban areas with terraced housing, an increasing number of bins will cause congestion to the front of properties and resultant unsightliness on the streets. This will be exacerbated with more homes requesting a larger capacity bin.	



**Table 4: Email responses**

Theme	Summary of comments received	Number of mentions
Bollington Ward Councillor	<p>The major practical questions raised:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What provision will there be for those residents who currently require a black bag collection scheme?</li> <li>2. What protection will there be for those residents that require the regular disposal of sanitary waste?</li> </ol> <p>Must have robust and sustainable answers before any move to 3 weekly black waste are introduced.</p>	
Church Lawton Parish Council	<p>The Parish Council request that the black bin and garden waste are collected fortnightly for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The service changes will be confusing, especially for the older and vulnerable community members whose needs should be assessed.</li> <li>• The type of waste that is put in a black bin should not be left for up to 3 weeks e.g. pet waste, human waste, and the health hazards associated with this should be considered.</li> <li>• If a household misses a back bin collection due to disruption to the service or error this will be result in waste not being collected for six weeks.</li> <li>• New housing and most existing housing are not designed to take so many bins, so there may be a lack of space provided to store the bins.</li> <li>• Periodically, there will be four bins on the pavement or roads from each property whilst waiting for collection. This will be especially problematic for terraced properties, maisonettes, and flats. And will lead to the pavements being impeded.</li> <li>• The arrangements may impact on people's health and hygiene and attract vermin due to fermented waste.</li> </ul>	
Bollington Town Council	<p>Of the options put forward we consider Option 2 and Option 4 (moving to 3 weekly black bin collections. unacceptable due to:</p> <p><b>Health and Safety</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Feasibility Study contains no reference to public and environmental health. What assessment has been made of Health Risks?</li> <li>• Bollington contains approximately 400 properties (generally terraced cottages. where black bins cannot be used due to space and access restrictions. These residents have to use black bin bags. The loss of a nearby HWRC makes it likely that more waste will accumulate in these black bags creating a health hazard.</li> <li>• Approximately 140/150 folk in Bollington, mainly aged, require a care package. These and others, many of whom live in properties that cannot use black bins, will use Absorbent Hygiene Products (incontinence pads., the accumulation of which will add to the health risks and unacceptable odours.</li> <li>• Added to this is the confusion arising from three weekly collection intervals, with the prospect of a six-week interval between collections if one is inadvertently missed.</li> <li>• Additionally, there are many young families in Bollington who will also be using Absorbent Hygiene Products (nappies. on a regular basis.</li> <li>• In addition, the loss of the HWRC in Bollington will lead to more waste going into Black bins.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cost Considerations</b></p> <p>A number of conclusions in the Feasibility study arise from the modelling assumptions. The Cost argument in favour of moving to 3 weekly black bin collections is primarily based on an illogical assumption that it will result in less residual waste than for a 2-weekly</p>	

**Table 4: Email responses**

Theme	Summary of comments received	Number of mentions
	<p>collection. Waste does not just disappear; it must go somewhere else! The cost argument is predicated on a highly contestable key assumption that impacts the cost analysis by over £1M. The authors of the report state in their conclusion....'However there is uncertainty on the size of the waste prevention effect and whether waste streams at HWRC's or fly-tipping would increase, so disposal savings should be treated with caution.'</p>	
<p>Macclesfield Broken Cross &amp; Upton Ward Councillor</p>	<p><b>Public and Environmental Health</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many of the residents in Broken Cross and Upton live in terraced houses. There are already issues with litter in ginnels and passageways, a less regular collection of black bin waste will lead to more litter – effectively fly tipping and greater likelihood of animals being able to get into supplementary black bin bags. This cannot be healthy or hygienic.</li> <li>• The data in the feasibility assessment suggests that in a modelling comparison with Mid Devon District Council which made a change from fortnightly collections to three weekly ones quite recently, data suggests that ‘there may be a genuine waste prevention effect of moving to three weekly residual collections. I find this difficult to accept and an explanation for this suggestion is not provided. Further, I wonder about the overall use of separate budgets to deal with fly tipping and street cleaning as well as environmental health which would erode a level of any possible savings made across budgets. The feasibility study itself concludes this paragraph with ‘caution must be used when considering the savings possible’ in this context.</li> <li>• There are significant numbers of residents who are elderly, vulnerable and/or live with disabilities. Concern has been expressed that such residents may use clinical or absorbent hygiene products and have significant amounts of medical waste to dispose of this waste has hygiene and health implications. There are also large numbers of families with young children who will use disposable nappies. What additional provision is proposed for those residents who require the regular disposal of sanitary and medical waste? Has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed which addresses the needs of those who will be disproportionately affected by a change to three weekly black bin collections?</li> </ul> <p><b>Variable performance of recent bin collection service</b></p> <p>Concerns relating to recent missed collections in the ward, often it is not possible to replace the collection, and it goes over to the next collection. If this change is made, a resident will have to wait for six weeks for their usual collection.</p> <p>Please retain the fortnightly collections of black bins. Complaints from residents will increase if Cheshire East changes black bin collections from fortnightly to three-weekly.</p>	
<p>Prestbury Parish Council</p>	<p>Three weeks seems a long time for the time between the black bin being emptied for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The black bin contains matter such as dog waste and human waste (dressings etc. which could pose a health hazard if left three weeks.</li> <li>• The weight of the bin after three weeks may become problematic to some members of the community, particularly the elderly.</li> <li>• The three weekly collections could attract vermin (due to some of the nature of the waste as in the first comment.</li> <li>• The service changes will be confusing, especially for the older and vulnerable community members. It does seem a complicated system to keep on top of.</li> </ul>	

**Table 4: Email responses**

Theme	Summary of comments received	Number of mentions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If a household misses a back bin collection due to disruption to the service or error this will be result in waste not being collected for six weeks.</li><li>• Some properties may struggle to store four bins (food waste, general waste, garden waste and recycling).</li><li>• Periodically, there will be four bins on the pavement or roads from each property whilst waiting for collection. This will be especially problematic for terraced properties, maisonettes, and flats. Four bins per property could also lead to pavements being impeded making it difficult for push chairs and wheelchairs</li></ul>	

## Appendix 1: Demographic breakdowns

A number of demographic questions were asked at the end of the survey to ensure there was a wide range of views from across different characteristics. All the questions were optional and therefore will not add up to the total number of responses received.

**Table 5: Number of survey respondents by representation. Respondents could select all that apply.**

Category	Count	Percent
As a resident of Cheshire East	6,134	99%
As an elected Cheshire East Ward Councillor / Town/Parish Councillor or on behalf of a Town / Parish Council	32	<1%
On behalf of a group, organisation, or club	10	<1%
An elected Member of Cheshire East	8	<1%
On behalf of a local business	6	<1%
Other inc. MP, on behalf of a resident, residents association, volunteer	12	<1%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6,202</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 6: Number of survey respondents by gender**

Category	Count	Percent
Female	3,207	58%
Male	1,857	34%
Other gender identity	< 5	< 1%
Prefer not to say	465	8%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5,530</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 7: Number of survey respondents by age group**

Category	Count	Percent
16-24	49	1%
25-34	610	11%
35-44	1,144	20%
45-54	1,128	20%
55-64	1,101	20%
65-74	736	13%
75-84	372	7%
85 and over	34	1%
Prefer not to say	452	8%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5,626</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 8: Number of survey respondents by ethnic origin**

Category	Count	Percent
White British / English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / Irish	4,692	85%
Any other White background	101	2%
Asian/Asian British	57	1%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	27	<1%
Black African/Caribbean/Black British	10	<1%
Other ethnic origin	5	<1%
Prefer not to say	603	11%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5,495</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 9: Number of survey respondents by religious belief**

Category	Count	Percent
Christian	2,191	41%
No Religion	2,093	39%
Buddhist	18	< 1%
Muslim	16	< 1%
Hindu	11	< 1%
Sikh	9	< 1%
Jewish	3	< 1%
Other religious belief	24	< 1%
Prefer not to say	1,002	19%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5,367</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 10: Number of survey respondents by limited activity due to health problem / disability**

Category	Count	Percent
Yes, a lot	753	14%
Yes, a little	480	9%
Not at all	3,484	63%
Prefer not to say	842	15%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5,559</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Appendix 2: Members engagement session – key questions and responses

Table 11: Key questions and responses from the Members engagement session	
Key questions / comments	Key responses / answers
<b>Concerning the move to three-weekly collections</b>	
Where I am, people seem to have issues with missed bin collections. How will this be addressed? It is unacceptable to have to wait a further three weeks for collection especially those families who need and dispose of sanitary products.	We do monitor missed bins and have performance targets against this, generally performance against that target is good but there is always room for improvement. If there is a specific problem with a particular street / area than we need to address that. We would need to review the black bin collection process anyway if the preferred option is approved. Part of that process would involve looking at those small pockets in certain locations which may get missed more than others and build additional capacity to address those one-off missed bin collections / problematic areas.
You may have a problem with communal buildings and collecting three-weekly residual waste. As an example, there is an older person's development in Disley with a limit to how many bins can be put out due to space.	Communal properties tend to have bigger Euro bins not wheelie bins. The three-week collection is mostly focused on the household rounds. We will try and move towards the three weekly collections for communal properties were pragmatic also, however, understand we may need to provide bespoke arrangements for certain properties.
You may have an increase in fly-tipping, more so in rural areas	The feasibility report matches us with like for like authorities demographically and they have not seen an increase in fly-tipping associated with introducing three-weekly collections. We will continue to monitor the fly-tipping hotspots and seek to address those. Where we already have problems with people misusing bins the move to three-weekly could make this issue worse which is why we are increasing our community and education specialists, and more so in those areas with greatest need.
What is the size of the larger black bins?	360 litres – the standard bins are 240 litres.
Concerned about health waste and the safety of operatives due to how heavy the bins could get after 3 weeks	Double bagging health waste is recommended for things like adult medical waste. We will be working with our operatives and assessing health and safety; however, the wheel bins are automatic lifts so the weight should not particularly be an issue.
Concerned with the level of enforcement and education that is going to be required, especially for Crewe South. Already have an issue with contaminated bins and side waste. It will not be the only area in Cheshire East with terraced properties and transient communities	We can look at how other authorities have dealt with this issue plus we will have an investment in additional community enforcement officers, waste educational teams and powers put in place for section 46 notices. This resource will be targeted at those existing areas where data tells us that we have a larger problem – this will be regularly reviewed. We are reliant on people reporting and highlighting these areas of challenge. On the back of the cleaner Crewe project, we are working behind the scenes with Crewe Town Council to also support the outcomes of that.
Have concerns about around Macclesfield and houses of multiple occupation. Do they get bigger bins? Regarding enforcement how do you know who is responsible?	Yes, there will be different sized containers depending on property type. Houses with multiple occupation is a wider piece to do with the good landlord practice. Waste management is one aspect so we can raise that and receive further clarification on what is happening from our housing team. Enforcement activity will be targeted in areas with greatest need, and this will be regularly reviewed.

Currently terraced houses leave their bins outside of the property because they have not got enough room to store all the bins, some people are leaving the bins out on the main roads. That is going to cause issues.	We are looking at options around further enforcement powers so that the community enforcement officers can take more pro-active action against, for example, residents leaving bins on the highway. There will be a process of politely asking them not to do this and to change their behaviour which moves towards enforcement action. This will be on a more borough wide process, reliant on people reporting the issue.
Where are the £1,000,000 savings going to come from?	The savings are associated with a shift in the reduction of black bin waste. This is the highest type of waste cost we have to treat and dispose of. More people should attempt to recycle better and with the food waste being extracted this waste does not make its way through the very costly disposal contract process. It is cheaper to deal with recyclable, garden, and food waste.
<b>Concerning the food waste collection</b>	
Will we be getting a new food waste caddy that is different to the current kitchen caddy that we have?	Yes, all households will receive a dedicated curb-side caddy which is bigger than the current kitchen caddy, it is 24 litres. Households will be asked to present this bigger caddy at the curb side every week for collection.
What if people do not want the food waste -caddy as they compost (or do not waste much food. can they reject them?	We are unfortunately unable to offer bespoke deliveries due to the number of households in the borough. However, in the past we have allowed people to deposit there caddies back to HWRC sites if not needed. We could look into this again.
How have we factored in the price of the electric vehicles to collect the food waste on a weekly basis?	The electric vehicles are part of the capital costs quoted as part of the business case, these are required to deliver the weekly food waste collection which had been mandated by the government. They are smaller than the standardised bin waggons.
Will food waste still be allowed in the green waste bin?	The details for this have not been 100% agreed however the plan would be for people to switch to using the curb side caddy for food waste. This allows us to potentially not have to process garden waste and food waste together which is another saving to the authority. It also means people can see just how much food waste they are throwing away and hopefully this leads to a change in behaviour and habits.
Are the food waste bins rodent proof?	Yes, they are national standard used by authorities. They are designed to be rodent proof when the handle goes down it locks the lid.
The food waste caddies could be heavy particularly for the elderly to move, will they have wheels.	No, they do not have wheels, there is the option for assisted collections for those that need them. Elderly person households however should have less food waste so it would be unusual for such households to fill up the bin.
Are you going to run a campaign to encourage home composting?	Yes, we will be running campaigns this year relating to the disposing of waste in different ways.

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