

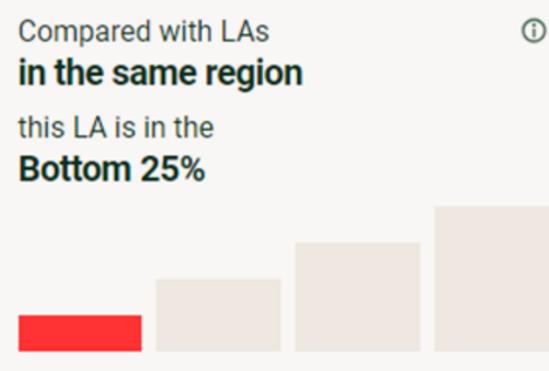
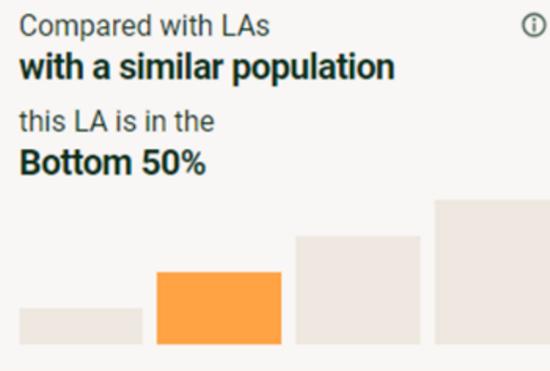
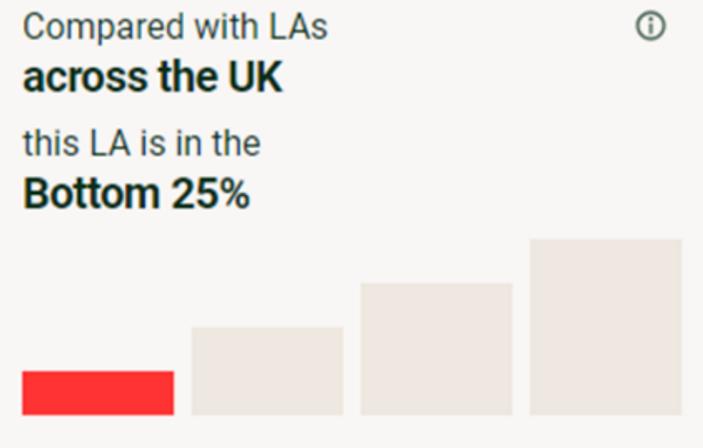


Lancaster City Council: Food Waste & The Road to Simpler Recycling

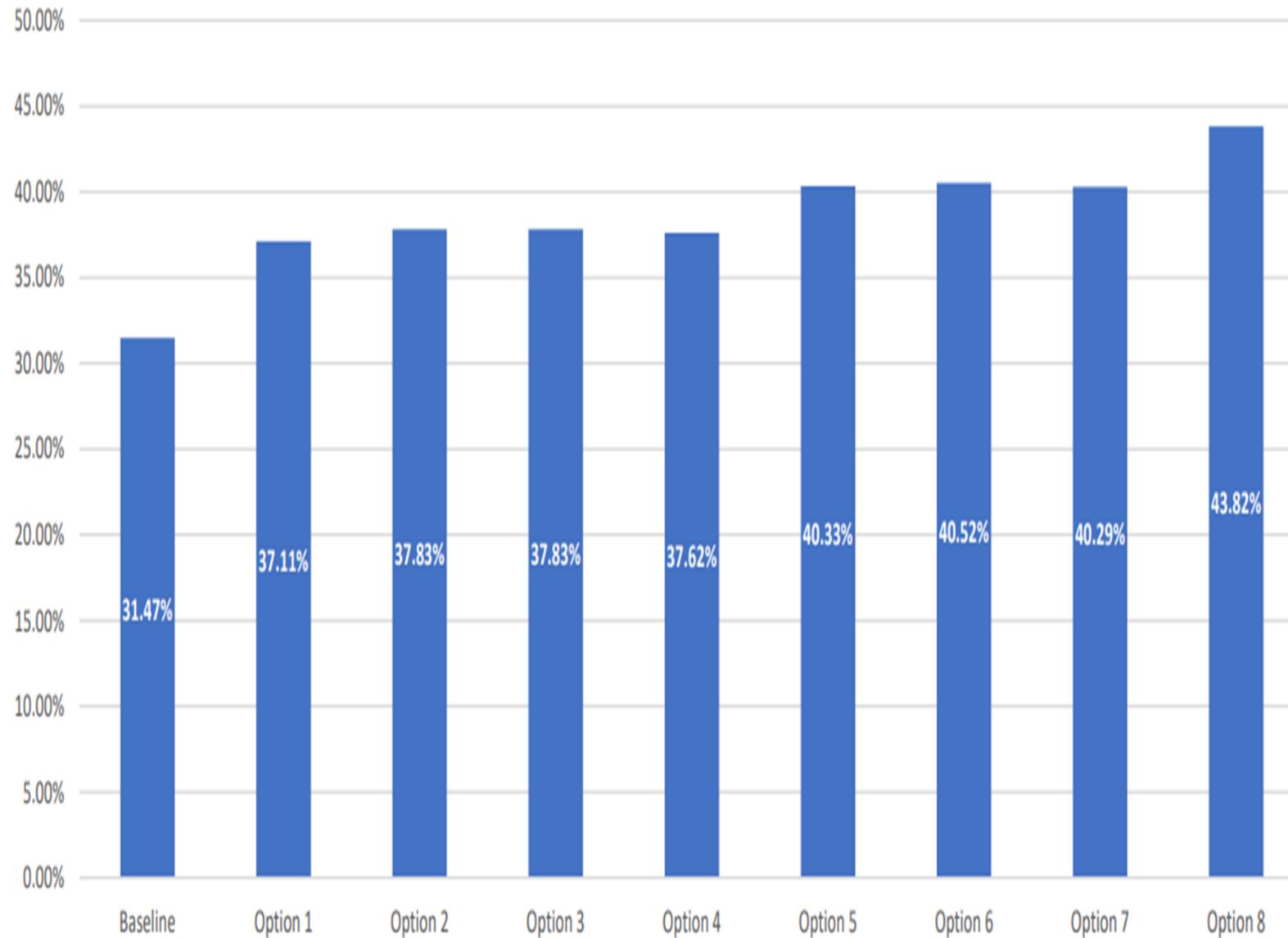
Carly Sparks – Public Realm Improvement Lead

What we currently do

- Fortnightly collection of residual
- Fortnightly 55 litre boxes collection for recycling
- Fortnightly subscription service for garden waste
- Mixed urban rural with mid deprivation
- Across UK authorities ranked in 4th Quartile for recycling performance
- Across authorities of similar size ranked in 3rd Quartile
- Across authorities in the same region ranked in 4th Quartile
- Current recycling rate of 36%



Options Modelling

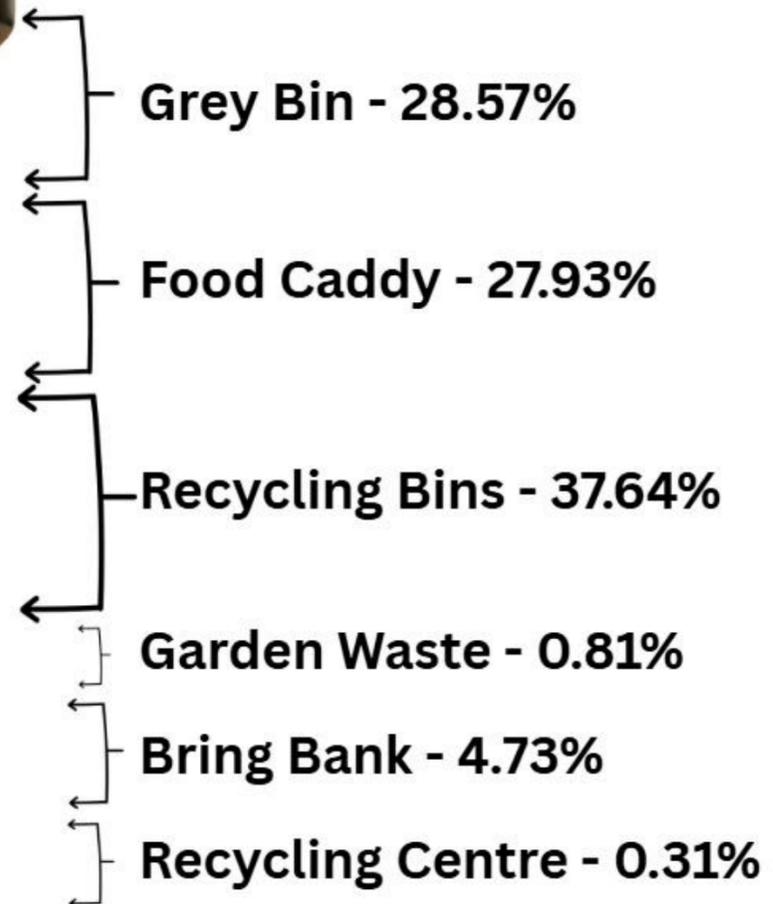


- Process commenced in June 2024
- External modeling of Options through WRAP
- 8 models initially but extended to 11 models
- Models provided insights into costs, vehicle requirements and recycling rates.
- Options examined included:
 - With and without Pod vehicles
 - Different collection frequencies
 - Reduction in residual capacities
 - Twin stream vehicles or single stream
- Following modelling work options presented to cabinet
- Once decision was made internal modelling of routes was carried out based on selected model.

Waste Composition Audit

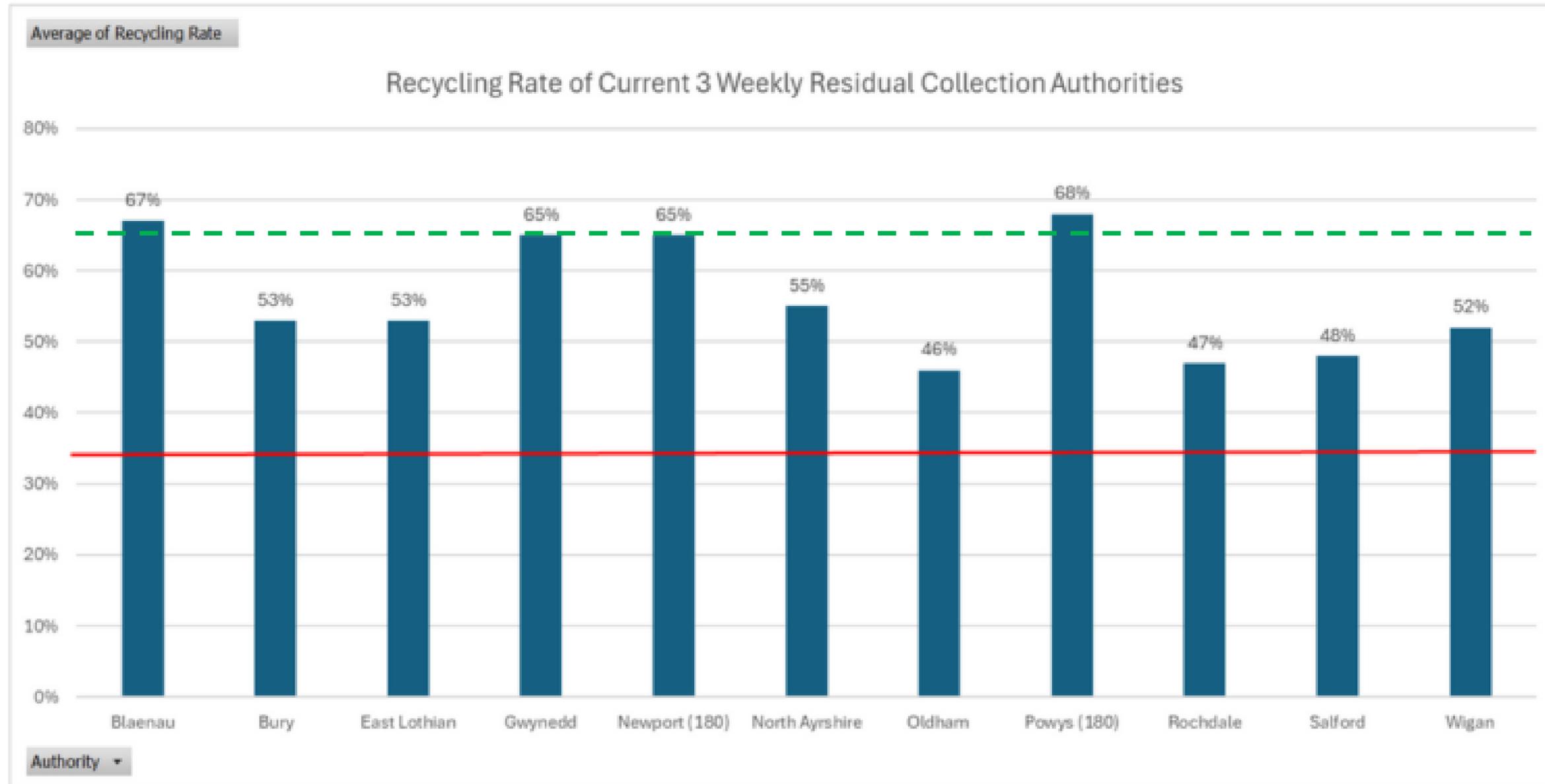


Grey bin contents and where it should go



- Four sample areas over 2 weeks
- Mix of Acorn Areas – Similar to Income deciles but postcode based as opposed to LSOA, 6 main descriptive levels.
- Streets in study – Granville Road, Hampton Road, Langdale Road, Mardale Avenue, Dunkirk Avenue, Ullswater Crescent, Pond Terrace, Leapers View and Greenways.
- Study found that 19.12% of residual waste could be collected through current recycling channels
- 27.93% by weight could be recycled through a dedicated food waste collection

Recycling rates – 3 weekly



Changes to waste collections 2026



- Weekly Food Waste Collections
- Three Weekly Waste Collections
- Three Weekly Recycling Collections (Red, Yellow)
- Fortnightly Garden Waste Collections (no change)

Benefits of Simpler Recycling

- **Reduced Confusion:**
Standardization eliminates confusion about what can be recycled where.
- **Increased Participation:**
Clearer guidelines and consistent collections should encourage more people to recycle.
- **Improved Recycling Rates:**
By simplifying the process, the initiative aims to boost the amount of waste that is recycled.



Additional Recycling Capacity

Waste Container Comparison

	 55L (Box)	 140L (Wheelie Bin)	 240L (Wheelie Bin)
Per collection	55L	140L	240L
Collections per 6 weeks	3	2	2
Capacity over 6 weeks	165L	280L	480L

*240L This equates to an increase in recycling capacity of 630L across both streams in a six-week period or a 191% increase

Waste Scheduling

Waste Collection Schedule



- Simplified 3 Weekly service (Apr 26)
- Food waste every week (full rollout Apr 26)
- Fortnightly Garden Waste Collections (if subscribed, no change)
- Bulky collection service (no change)
- Medical / Clinical (no change)
- Assisted collections (no change)
- Trade collection service (no change)

Moving forward

Waste Management Strategy Implementation

Move to 3 Weekly Collections

April 2026 the collection schedule changes to every three weeks.

Delivery of 240L Bins Ends

February 2026 the distribution of 240L bins concludes.

Cabinet Decision Approved

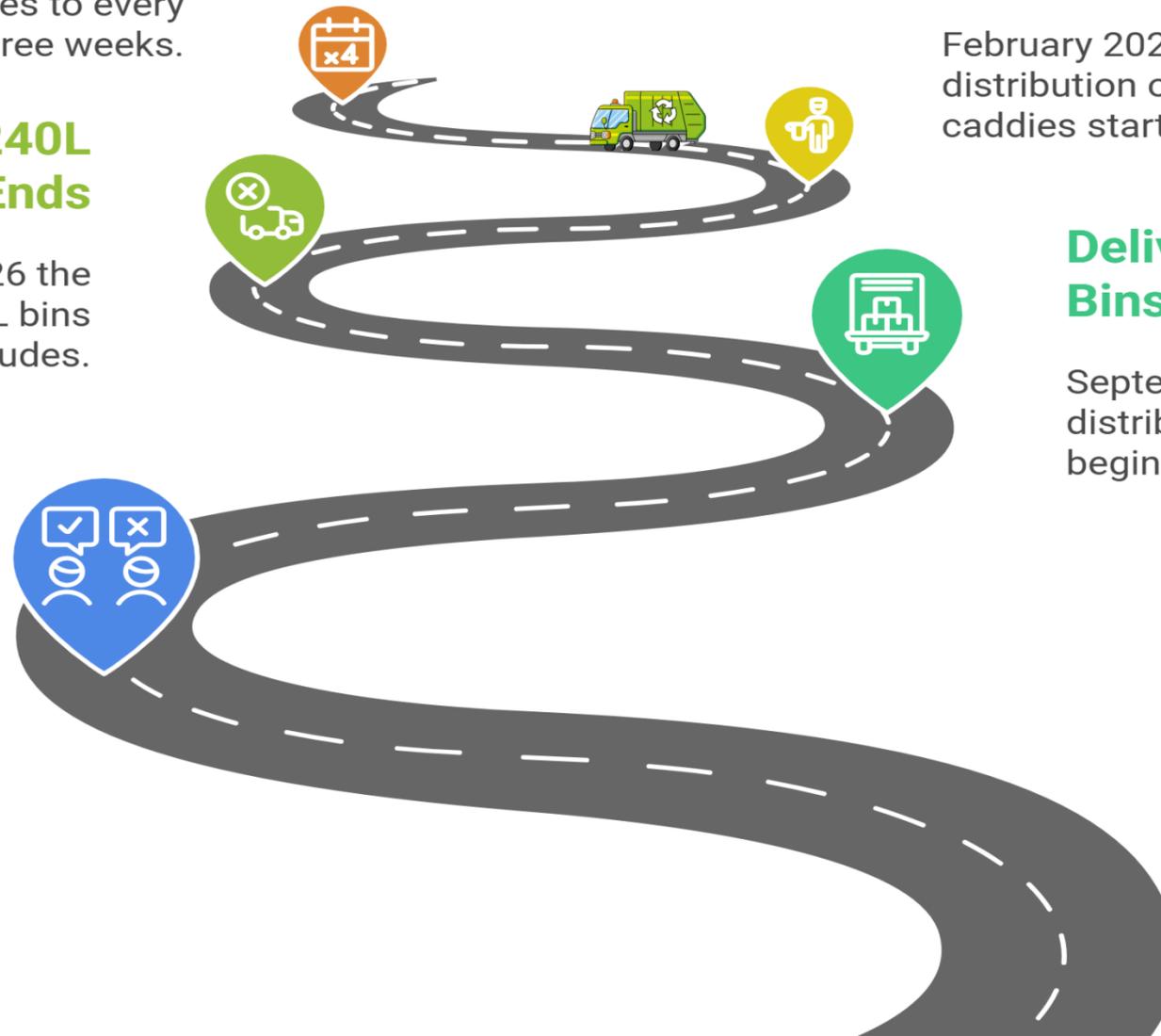
May 2025 the cabinet approves changes to the waste strategy.

Delivery of Food Waste Caddies Commences

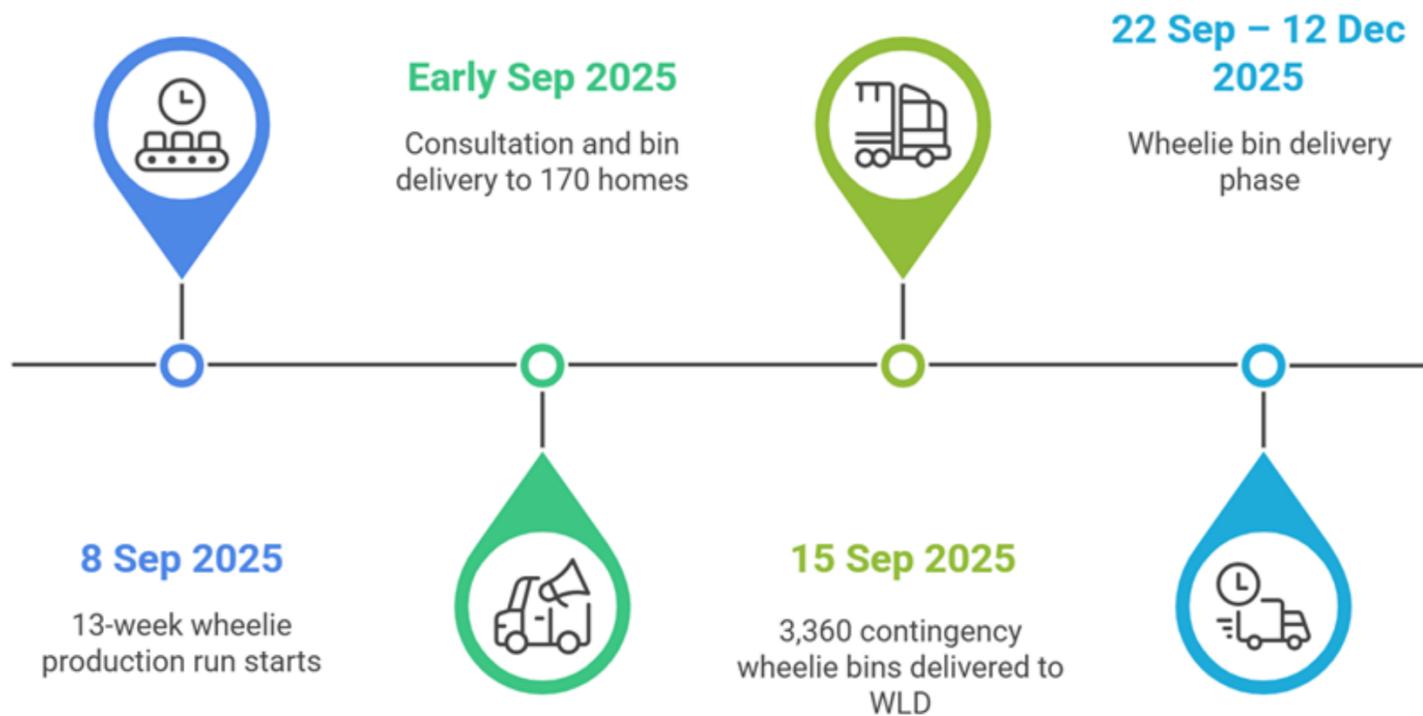
February 2026 the distribution of food waste caddies starts.

Delivery of 240L Bins Commences

September 2025 the distribution of 240L bins begins.



Key Milestones in Wheelie Bin Rollout



Bin Deliveries – Stage 1

Stage 1 Bin deliveries – Current and ongoing

Stage 2 – Food waste Caddy Delivery – February 26

Stage 3 - 3 weekly collections – April 26



Bin Configurations

Maximum Space Required for Different Bin Configurations



We have looked at the space requirements for a variety of bin configurations based on different needs. And can visit properties to carry out an assessment

Bin Size	Height cm	Width cm	Depth cm	Capacity
120L	93	48	54.5	120 litres
140L	105	47.5	56	140 litres
180L	107	48	72	180 litres
240L	107	58	74	240 litres
360L	110	62	85	360 litres
Food Caddy	40	32	45	23 litres
Recycling Box	35	60.5	38.5	55 litres

Flexible Approach to Waste Collection

- The new waste strategy aims to modernise how we collect waste across the district.
- We recognise that a one-size-fits-all model will not work for every property.
- Collection methods will be tailored based on property type and specific needs, including:
 - Some households may continue with box collections.
 - In some cases, communal collection points may be more effective.
- Flexibility is key to ensuring the service is practical and accessible for all residents.
- Existing arrangements for medical waste collections will remain unchanged..



Resident Testimonials

Halton, New Street – During a delivery, it was observed that this street has a narrow back alley, and the residents are using 140L grey bins. Contact was made with the residents, and a central point of contact was established to represent the street's views. It was agreed to trial recycling bins at both ends of the alley, with the residents' spokesperson providing feedback to the Waste Op's Manager. Residents also indicated they were open to using larger bins at the end of the alley.

Scale Hall, Lancambe Court – It was determined that these properties, consisting of blocks with two flats each, do not have sufficient space to accommodate additional bins. Accordingly, one set of bins was delivered to each block, and a resident spokesperson has been designated to provide r regarding the implementation process going forward.



External Communications

25 August: Launched a new microsite for waste and recycling with improved accessibility and clearer instructions. Updated the service changes webpage with new information and revised FAQs.

15-20 September: Distributed a leaflet containing a letter and infographic to all households to inform residents of the timeline of service alterations.

19 September: Social media posts with informational graphics were released across all platforms. Waste Consultation and Engagement Leads began residential visits.

23 September: Launched a general recycling campaign for Recycling Week.

25 September: Lancaster City Council Housing re-shares and newsletter copy sent for the next edition.



Internal Communications

1 September: Staff newsletter informed staff and members of the timeline of changes.

18 September: Members were briefed on the details of the service change and methods of communication and engagement with residents.

18 September: Waste teams received a briefing.



Other Activities

25 September: Online briefing for city council ward councillors.

29 September: Email briefing notes and toolkits for town and parish councils/stakeholders/partners.

26 September: Residents can check online whether their bin should have been delivered.

27 September: Officers will host a stall at The Gregson for a community Big Green Day event.

30 September: Lancaster and Morecambe Town Halls will begin hosting displays with information leaflets and the new bins



Weekly Food Waste Collection Timeline

Full Weekly Collection

Regular weekly collections are established on 30th March

Finish Delivering Caddies

Caddy distribution concludes 27th March

Start Collecting Food Waste

Starting 16th February

Start Delivering Caddies

Caddies are distributed to households from 9th Feb.



Caddie deliveries – Stage 2

Stage 1 Bin deliveries – Current and ongoing

Stage 2 – Food waste Caddy Delivery – February 9th

Stage 3 - 3 weekly collections – April 2026



What residents will receive



23L Outdoor food waste bin (lockable)



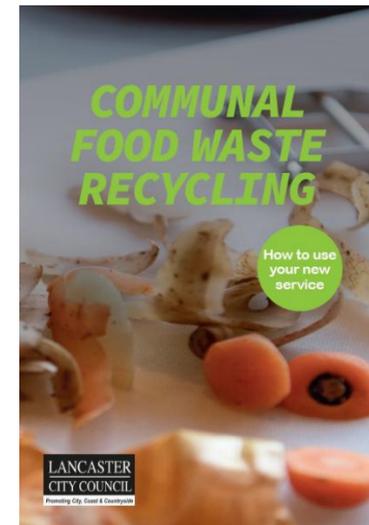
7L Kitchen caddy bin



2 Rolls of caddy liners (52 per roll)



Instruction leaflet



9A WEDNESDAYS From 30th March 2026 collections will be on a three week cycle

	Grey Bin	Cans, Glass and Plastic	Paper/ Cardboard	Christmas/ New Year Change	Garden Waste			
Apr 26	1	8	15	22	29	8	22	
May 26	6	13	20	27		6	20	
Jun 26	3	10	17	24		3	17	
Jul 26	1	8	15	22	29	1	15	29
Aug 26	5	12	19	26		12	26	
Sep 26	2	9	16	23	30	9	23	
Oct 26	7	14	21	28		7	21	
Nov 26	4	11	18	25		11	25	
Dec 26	2	9	16	TUES 22	30	2		
Jan 27	6	13	20	27		No garden waste collections 7 th Dec 26 - 14 th Feb 27		
Feb 27	3	10	17	24		3	17	
Mar 27	3	10	17	24	31	10	24	
Apr 27	7	14	21	28		7	21	

FOOD WASTE IS COLLECTED EACH WEEK
Please put your external food waste bin out the front of your property on the same day as either your grey, yellow or red bin.

To guarantee a collection, all wheeled bins should be at the kerbside (or collection point) by 7am on collection day and returned to your property as soon as possible after collection.

lancaster.gov.uk/householdwaste

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL
Promoting City, Coast & Countryside

Printed calendar



Waste and recycling guide



