



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# Public Binned Waste Programme Overview

*APSE 16.01.24*

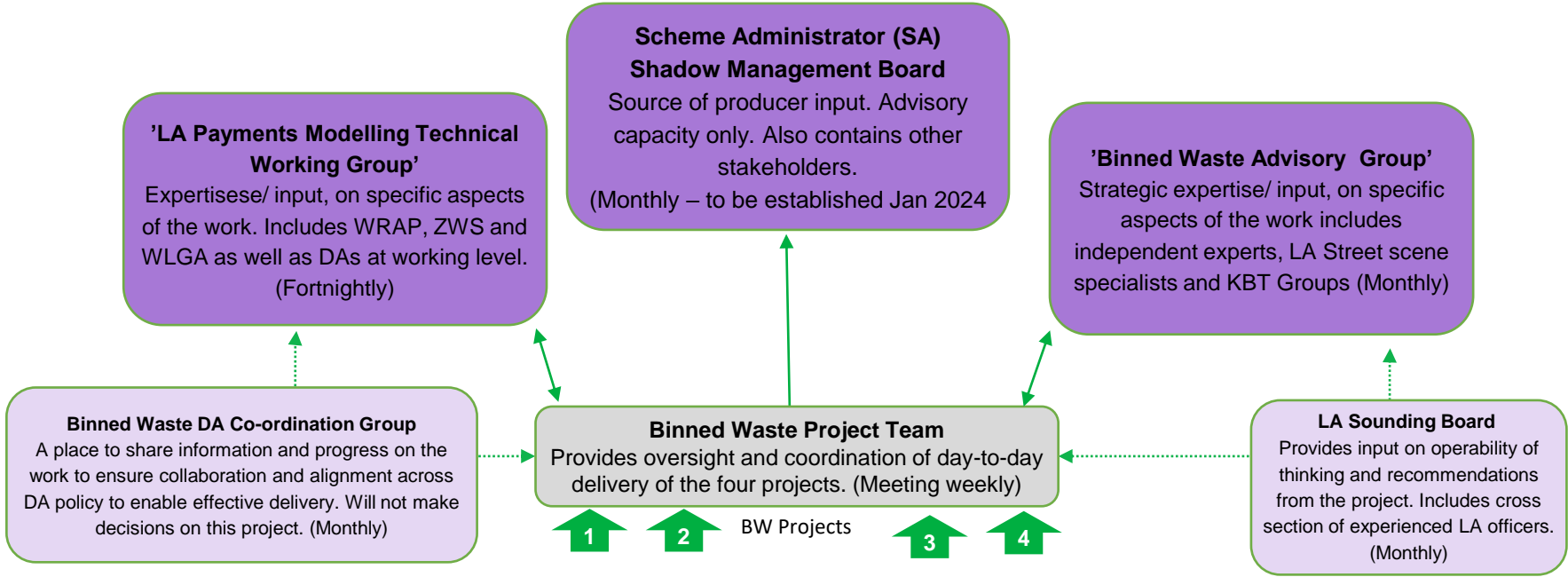


Version: 0.1  
Classification: OFFICIAL

# PEPR & Street binned packaging waste

- Producers will be required to cover the cost of managing packaging likely to be disposed of in public bins (i.e., a bin managed by a local authority) based on an efficient and effective public binned waste service.
- Binned Waste payments are expected to start in Year 2 of packaging EPR (FY 26/27).
- We plan to publish indicative payments in Nov 2025.
- Producers must report the total weight of ‘commonly binned items’ they have placed on the market and this data will be combined with:
  - LA binned waste cost data per tonne and
  - binned waste composition and weight research from sampled LAs obtained in 2024/25.
- Collected data will be modelled via the creation of payment rate groupings derived from sampled LAs and fees will be generated through a Fees and Payments Calculator reflective of any contextual conditions identified through the research such as factors impacting the cost-of-service provision (typically characteristics of an area likely to affect the costs of public bin provision and management, such as geography (rurality, urbaness), tourism etc).

# Binned Packaging - Stakeholder Engagement groups



# The Projects – 1. Model Design & Build

**Product Summary:** A model to calculate the fees payable by obligated producers (based on the amount of “commonly binned” packaging they supply) and the amounts payable to LAs (based on the costs of delivering an efficient and effective service) will be built.

The model is being developed by Defra on behalf of all four nation Governments.

## Key outputs/ deliverables:

Nov 2023  Nov 2025

## The Projects – 2. LA Costs

**Summary:** This work initially involves developing Local authority groupings that can be used to identify a sample of local authorities that share similar contextual characteristics to gain a representative sample of data that will help us understand the costs to local authorities of managing street bin waste and understand within this - what constitutes an efficient and effective service. Research will involve roll out of qualitative and quantitative data capture via a data capture form obtained from a representative sample of LAs will commence in Spring and take place throughout the summer.

### Key outputs / Deliverables:

Sept 2023  Dec 2024

# LA costs – data capture phase 1 (work in progress)

## 1. First Pilot to co-create the data capture form (October – Dec 2023)

- Engage with 4 authorities to collect data
- Qualitative data collected: service organisation, frequency of emptying, how collections are scheduled, any seasonal variances, arrangements with parish councils and any relevant communications activities.

Data Category	Quantitative Data	Cost Data
Frontline Staff	FTE to deliver the service, including roles and grades – operatives and supervisors % of time spent on street bins/ground litter/other	Annual staff costs
Fleet	Number and type of vehicles used by the service % of time spent on street bins/ground litter/other	Annual fleet costs including capital and operational costs
Equipment	Number of street bin equipment (bin bags, bin keys, etc.) used per year	Annual equipment costs
Infrastructure	Numbers and types of bins in use (e.g., smart bin, recycling, residual, dual bin) Number of bins replaced per type and per year	Capital costs (e.g., bin purchase costs, bin installation costs) including depreciation period and operational costs (maintenance, IT system for smart bins)
Overheads	Staff overheads (management, HR, IT, etc.), facilities overheads (depots, sorting facility, etc.) and other overheads (IT management system, comms, etc.) % to apply on street bins/ground litter/other	Overhead costs
Tonnages	Recycling and residual tonnages collected % tonnages from street bin/ground litter/other	Gate fee/material income

# LA Costs – data capture phase 2 (work in progress)

## **2. Second pilot to test the draft data capture form (December 2023 – March 2024)**

- Engage with a second set of four authorities to test and revise the capture form

## **3. Wider LA Engagement (March 2024 – August 2024)**

- Engage with another 32 authorities to collect data
- First step of the engagement will be a call with each authority to introduce the form and avoid any ambiguity on what is required
- Data validation
- LA sign-off
- Effectiveness and efficiency assessment.
- Metrics are being developed as part of the efficiency and effectiveness guidance project and will feed into this task.

# Challenges & Opportunities

## Challenges:

- Absence of published or previously collated data. There is currently no requirement for information about the design or performance of street bin services to be published, nor does any organisation (e.g. WRAP) collect detailed information about it. Consequently, there is no standardised method by which such data is already collected, and LAs will likely struggle to supply data.
- Integrated service. In many cases, local authorities' street bin services are integrated with and delivered as part of one or more other services, such as street cleansing, parks and gardens, dog waste, fly tipping clearance or beach cleaning services. In addition, there are also variations in operational delivery between (and within) authorities. Some street bins will be emptied as part of scheduled services, while others may be emptied only when full.

## Opportunities:

- This project will attempt to unpick the intricacies in the data to provide a basis for apportioning fair pEPR costs across local authorities in the UK
- An initial pilot will help streamline the data gathering process and whilst the extension of full data collation across all LAs will represent an initial burden in the first year, it will help to bring some standardisation of approach and terminology and may allow some opportunities for authorities to find efficiencies.
- It should be noted that there is provision in the regulations for obligated producers to meet the costs of data gathering indefinitely; therefore, detail from this study could help support common / standardised data management system and/or approaches.



## The Projects – 3. Binned Waste Composition and Weight

**Summary:** The composition and weight project will quantify the amounts, types and costs of managing packaging waste placed in street bins managed by local authorities (LAs). This includes work to gather data on:

- **Weight** – weighing of street bin waste to inform modelled calculations for binned waste produced by each LA in the UK
- **Composition** – obtaining the weighted composition of street bin waste (with a focus on the proportion attributable to packaging materials), produced by each LA in the UK
- **Determining the Number** - of certain ‘commonly binned items’ (whilst also identifying possible new commonly binned items).
- **Cleanliness** - the contractor will be required to develop a simple form of assessment (for England only) to provide understanding of the extent of packaging that has not been disposed of in a street bin but potentially could have been (for example, due to bin overflow). Street cleanliness (such as is categorised in the Code of Practice for Litter and Refuse - may be relevant for this assessment."

### Key outputs:

January 2024  May 2025

# The Projects - Quality Assurance & Peer Review

**Summary:** QA of the in-field measurement exercises, audit of measurement data, peer review of methodologies and reports including audit fieldwork and data, critically review methodology and data analysis, and peer review the findings from cost and composition and weight projects.

## Key outputs:

Sept 2023



May 2025

# Example Questions stakeholders are helping us with

- Are we asking the right questions in understanding LA costs for binned waste?
- What are the key factors influencing efficiency and effectiveness in delivery of binned waste services?
- Are we designing the waste comp work in a sensible way, testing our assumptions etc?
- What information do key people in the supply chain need to know at what points, what are their interests likely to be etc? to support that engagement and help this land well.
- Is littering rate a measure of effectiveness?
- Is there an effective number of street bins? Crucially do more bins = more waste
- Does provision for large public events need to be included and what does effective provision for large public events look like?
- If collection frequency (and timing) for street bins is a clear driver of cost. What frequency and timings should producers be paying for?
- Can Street bin types determine effectiveness: size, vandalism resistance, compaction, sensor bins, contamination
- Are recycling street bins effective and should they be used as an effectiveness measure?

## Next steps

- Initiate the composition study – first fieldwork planned for spring/summer this year
- Collect as much data as we can on costs from a selection of LAs (March)
- Please engage!
- Get in touch if you can offer any support – [cprenquiries@defra.gov.uk](mailto:cprenquiries@defra.gov.uk) marked for attention of Jo Keegan