

Single Member Cabinet Decision

**Executive
Forward Plan
Reference**

E3620

Business Waste Collection Changes in Central Bath

Decision maker/s	Cllr Mark Elliott, Cabinet Member for Resources
The Issue	To review the business waste collection window to improve the visual appeal, the public realm and the visitor experience during shop opening hours and critical early evening period.
Decision Date	2nd July 2025
The decision	<p>The Cabinet Member agrees that the following policy changes are implemented as a pilot from September 2025:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Collection Times: Alter the evening business waste collection window to 6pm – 8.30pm to balance business needs and public realm improvements.2) Labelling: Make it mandatory for all businesses within central Bath to clearly mark or label their waste and recycling with their company name and address.3) Reusable Rubbish Bags (RRBs): Enforce the use of RRBs to contain residual business waste where businesses can promptly return them to their premises.
Rationale for decision	<p>Bath & North East Somerset Council is implementing the changes to ensure that no business waste is left on the streets between 10am and 6pm and to enhance the city for residents and visitors.</p> <p>Better containment of non-recyclable waste in labelled reusable sacks will help guard against the mess and noise that gulls can cause within the city. Restricting the placement of business waste and recycling sacks on pavements until early evening will also help to reduce hazards and align the evening collections with the City Centre security scheme.</p> <p>This change in policy for business waste collections is intended to improve the visual appeal of central Bath during shop opening hours and the busy early evening period.</p>
Financial and budget implications	All financial risks/implications are unbudgeted. If they materialise it would be for the service to manage within existing budgets. Given the financial pressures that already exist within Waste Services, the risk that this would result in an overspend in 2025/26 would be high. It is therefore important that financial implications are assessed as part of the pilot to inform any consideration on future policy. Any on-going

	unfunded costs would need to be considered in the Council's annual budget setting process.
Issues considered	Customer Focus; Sustainability; Human Resources; Equality (age, race, disability, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation); Corporate; Health & Safety; Other Legal Considerations
Consultation undertaken	Ward Councillor; Cabinet colleagues; Staff; Other B&NES Services; Service Users; Stakeholders/Partners; Other Public Sector Bodies; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer
How consultation was carried out	<p>A consultation with local business ran from 20 February to Monday 7 April 2025. A letter was sent to all businesses identified as paying business rates within Central Bath with outline information and links to an online survey. A bespoke survey was then sent to known waste collection contractors offering commercial services within Bath.</p> <p>In addition to this, three drop-in sessions were held in Studio 22 in central Bath to offer businesses and contractors the opportunity to talk through the proposals with officers directly. Leaflets were also distributed to businesses via the Council's Business Engagement Officer and Cleansing Enforcement teams.</p>
Other options considered	<p>In addition to the recommendations proposed the following options were discussed with Members and discounted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Altering the collection time to 5.30pm - 8pm window to deliver on the overall vision whilst mitigating its impact. • Do nothing and continue with the current policy. <p>The above options were fully considered but did not support the overall vision to improve the visual appeal, the public realm and the visitor experience during shop opening hours and critical early evening period.</p>
Declaration of interest by Cabinet Member(s) for decision:	None
Any conflict of interest declared by anyone who is consulted by a Member taking the decision:	None

**Name and Signature
of Decision Maker/s**

Councillor Mark Elliott
Deputy Council Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources
Bath and North East Somerset Council

Date of Signature

2 July 2025

Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision