

Report to:	EXECUTIVE CABINET
Date:	28 June 2023
Executive Member:	Councillor Denise Ward, Climate Emergency and Environmental Services
Reporting Officer:	Julian Jackson, Director of Place
Subject:	STOPPING THE SUPPLY OF FREE CADDY LINERS FOR FOOD WASTE
Report Summary:	<p>The Council currently supplies free on request compostable caddy liners to encourage residents to compost their food waste and add to their brown bin. The collection of food waste is now a well-established practice across households in Tameside. The provision of caddy liners is not necessary to enable residents to recycle their food waste and does not align with the Council's environmental aspirations of achieving net zero services; reducing consumption and procuring sustainably. The preferred approach is to recycle food waste directly into the caddy and then into the brown bin, reducing un-necessary resources in the waste stream as well as the detrimental carbon footprint of producing liners.</p> <p>This report outlines the proposal to cease supplying caddy liners free to residents and the implementation timeline.</p>
Recommendations:	To stop the supply of free caddy liners to households.
Corporate Plan:	Reduce tonnes of waste sent to landfill and increase the proportion recycled waste
Policy Implications:	The ceasing of free caddy liners aligns with the Council's Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2021-2026, with a commitment to reduce consumption and procure sustainably.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)	The current annual budget for caddy liners is £130,000, with actual expenditure 2022/23 being £169,500. The proposal to stop supplying caddy liners is part of the Place Directorate savings plan. As outlined in this report, there is a risk of public behaviour change which may lead to an increase in general waste tonnages, consequently increasing the cost of the waste levy payment. This is difficult to quantify at this stage but it is proposed that this is monitored closely following cessation of caddy liner supply and any additional cost in the Levy is met by the Council's Waste Levy Smoothing Reserve.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	<p>The Council is a waste collection authority under section 45 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, as amended. As such it has a duty to collect household waste including recyclable waste. Subject to consultation requirements the council can decide on the method and the frequency of collection. The use of caddy liners themselves is not a statutory requirement.</p> <p>The proposal set out in this report is prompted by the need for all departments in the Council to consider all practices to try and make savings wherever possible given the challenging financial climate.</p>

As set out in the impact section of the report it is possible that the level of savings from stopping the provision could be impacted by an increase in The Waste Levy if there is a reduction in the tonnage of recycling. It is therefore critical that the service closely monitors this together with finance colleagues.

Risk Management:

The Council will implement a comprehensive communication plan to advise residents of the reasons why it is ceasing the supply of free caddy liners and the impetus to continue recycling. There is a risk that by stopping provision of liners there may be an increase in contamination as residents use plastic bags or newspaper as liners and that food waste is diverted from composting to disposal

Access to Information:

Not Confidential

Background Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Emma Varnam, Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhood Services



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council currently supplies free on request compostable caddy liners, this practice was initially introduced to encourage residents to compost their food waste and add to their brown bin for food and garden waste.
- 1.2 Caddy liners were introduced, as a free incentive to residents to encouraging the recycling of food waste instead of adding heavy food into residual collections. The practice of recycling of food waste is now well established.
- 1.3 The use of caddy liners is not a net-zero waste practice. The cost of production is not only financial but there is a cost in terms of their carbon footprint both in the resources required to produce the product, their distribution from production, to the Council and then again to the resident. Aligned with the Council's commitment to reduce our consumption and carbon footprint as part of our Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2021-2026, the Council wishes to eliminate the un-necessary liners from the waste stream.
- 1.4 The Council currently places an annual order for caddy liners and for 2022/23 the expenditure was £169,500, which was £39,500 in excess of budget. This is the result of significant increases in production costs for the liners, compounded by import delays into the UK post-pandemic.

2. CEASING THE FREE PROVISION OF CADDY LINERS

- 2.1 The recycling of food waste is strongly encouraged and has a significant positive impact on the Council's budget. By recycling food with garden waste, residents avoid placing heavy food waste into the general 'residual' green bin collection which has a significantly higher disposal cost. The cost per tonne for disposal of residual waste is £118.30 and £50.54 for composting of food and garden waste.
- 2.2 When residents were first introduced to food recycling they were encouraged to use a caddy liner to keep their plastic container clean and to aid transferring waste to their large external bin. However the caddy liner is not required. The most effective form of recycling would be to transfer the waste straight from the caddy into the external bin and not use the additional liner.
- 2.3 The supply of caddy liners is not required for the process of recycling and it is not a statutory requirement for waste disposal under the section 45 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Households are strongly encouraged to continue to recycle their food waste by recycling waste food directly in their brown bin. They are asked not to use newspaper or non-compostable bags such as recyclable carrier bags to wrap their food waste as these are classed as contamination, take too long to break down during the treatment process and would lead to whole wagon loads being rejected for recycling.
- 2.4 If residents prefer to continue to use caddy liners they can purchase caddy liners from all major supermarkets for around £2.50 for a roll of 20 or value shops and online retailers, which are typically cheaper.

3. TIMESCALES

- 3.1 It is proposed that the delivery of free supplies of free caddy liners will cease at the end of June. At the end of May there were approximately 25,000 rolls of caddy liners in stock, this is around a month's supply. Any residual stock will be made available from local Libraries until all stocks have been cleared. The decision, reasons for our approach and hints and tips

for good recycling will be communicated to residents through the Council's established channels. The communication plan can be found in **Appendix 1**.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 As set out at the front of the report.