

New Forest District Council (NFDC) are planning changes to their recycling and rubbish service to improve recycling and reduce waste.

NFDC's new waste and recycling strategy is due to be approved this summer. Once approved, changes are unlikely to take place until 2024 onwards.

### **Why does the service need to change?**

With a new recycling and rubbish service, NFDC aim to:

- increase their recycling rate to meet government's target of 55% by 2025
- recycle food waste. Food waste currently makes up 40% of NFDC black sack waste, by weight
- recycle more, including foil, film, and a wider range of plastics
- provide the safest way of working for waste crews. Wheelie bins are recommended by the Health and Safety Executive
- do everything they can to reduce waste
- comply with new Environment Laws
- reduce the current use of 10 million single-use sacks a year. For example, with the proposed new service, mixed recycling would be added straight to a wheelie bin with no need for a plastic sack
- provide more frequent glass collections and collect glass with mixed recycling
- reduce litter in the district's streets from split sacks

That's why NFDC are:

- looking at best practice from top performing councils in England
- working with Hampshire County Council and local authorities in Hampshire to improve the service
- working with their staff and the community to understand the impact of the proposed new service
- following feedback from government to understand the new laws they must comply with

### **How will the new service work for the community?**

Any new service will be flexible, the council will survey households across the district to establish which properties are not suitable for wheelie bins. The council will vary the service where needed, this could include keeping sacks for some properties and providing communal bins for flats and houses with multiple occupants. It will be NFDC's aim to provide the core service wherever possible, to ensure the service is efficient and to achieve their recycling and waste prevention aims.

The council will provide additional or larger containers for residents who need extra storage, such as larger families. They will continue to provide their assisted collection service for residents who are unable to take their recycling and rubbish to the edge of their property. The assisted collection service will be adapted for the new service.

### **What's next?**

Residents can find more information on NFDC's website at [www.newforest.gov.uk/wastestrategy](http://www.newforest.gov.uk/wastestrategy)

The new waste strategy document is currently being developed.

Subject to no delays, it will be published on NFDC's waste strategy web page on 8 June 2022 before going through a member approval process. Residents will also be able to request a print version of the waste strategy document.

The first step of the member approval process will be the council's Environment and Sustainability Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 16 June 2022. Following this, the waste strategy will go to Cabinet on 6 July, and Council on 11 July for final decision.

If residents have any questions, they can email NFDC's waste strategy team at [wastestrategy@nfdc.gov.uk](mailto:wastestrategy@nfdc.gov.uk)