



**REPORT of
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**to
STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
24 JULY 2025**

SIMPLER RECYCLING

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Member approval to purchase a 7.5 tonne vehicle for the collection of garden waste from properties on our small vehicle route. A provisional quote for the vehicle has been obtained by Suez of £130,097:00.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Members agree a letter of intent is sent to Suez to procure an additional vehicle to add to the current fleet to allow for the expansion of the garden waste service to the whole district ensuring compliance with Simpler Recycling legislation. Upon receipt of this letter Suez will order the vehicle.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 A paper was approved by the Council in March 2023 detailing the renewal of the Suez waste contract, and next steps to prepare for legislation changes, including provision for the purchase of new vehicles.
- 3.2 New Recycling Regulations (Simpler Recycling) require that the Council collects the same materials from all households by 01 April 2026.
- 3.3 The materials include:
- Weekly food waste
 - Separate collection of recycling including glass, cans, plastic, paper and cardboard
 - Garden waste – however the Council can levy a charge.
- 3.4 Whilst the Council already complies with the changes for 95% of properties, of the final 5% (1592 properties):
- 145 blocks of flats that do not have individual bins,
 - 140 blocks do not currently have food waste.
 - Nine blocks of flats do not have any mixed recycling excluding glass
 - 56 blocks do not have glass recycling.

- 3.5 Isolated properties ("ISO Route") that are currently serviced using a smaller 7.5 tonne refuse vehicle due to access issues, are not currently offered a garden waste collection service.
- 3.6 £636k funding was allocated to Maldon District Council via the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for 2025/26, however this was amended on 11 July 2025 to £682,915.81. £145k from this funding has already been allocated to fund the rest of this project including Suez costs for set up costs, crew costs, fuel and vehicle maintenance.
- 3.7 Capital funding of £11,126.00 has already been received for weekly food waste collections and because the weekly food waste will be statutory from 01 April 2026 added burdens funding will be available from that date.
- 3.8 Transitional funding for weekly food waste collections was also made available to cover the cost of procurement, project management and communications and a Project Administrator has been appointed on a 1-year fixed term contract.
- 3.9 To facilitate the garden waste collection service to isolated properties from 01 October 2025 an additional 7.5 tonne vehicle is required.
- 3.10 This vehicle will be procured by Suez but owned by the Council and funded through capital reserves.
- 3.11 A provisional quote for the vehicle has been obtained for an *Isuzu N75 chassis* with *NTN K Midi Body* for £130,097.00.
- 3.12 As Simpler Recycling is rolled-out, demand for this size chassis will increase as most food waste vehicles are operated on a 7.5 tonne chassis and many councils do not currently operate a food waste collection service.
- 3.13 The original budget was set at £115,000, approved as being met through £80,000 excess waste income in 24/25, with £35k top up from capital receipts. The additional £15k now required can be met using the additional EPR funding.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 To ensure compliance with Simpler Recycling legislation Suez require an additional 7.5 tonne vehicle to provide properties on the smaller vehicle routes with the opportunity to recycle their garden waste.
- 4.2 This additional vehicle could also provide additional resilience for the food waste collection service from flats should it be required.
- 4.3 All of the other elements of Simpler Recycling are funded from monies received from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Extended Producer Responsibility payments.

5. IMPACT ON PRIORITIES AS SET OUT IN THE CORPORATE PLAN 2025 - 2028

5.1 Supporting our communities

- 5.1.1 Simpler Recycling will ensure that all residents receive the same level of service for recycling, food and garden waste.

5.2 Protecting our environment

- 5.2.1 Increase the diversion of waste from landfill and incineration by providing a food waste collection service to all flats and a garden waste collection service to all residents who wish to participate.

5.3 Delivering good quality services.

- 5.3.1 Currently Maldon District Council diverts 58% of waste from landfill, the second highest performance rate in Essex. The changes required by Simpler Recycling will increase this rate and help the Council meet its future targets of diverting 68% by 2030.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – All residents living in flats will receive a food waste collection service from 1 April 2026. Resident serviced by the smaller collection vehicle will be able to participate in the garden waste collection service from 1 October 2025.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – All residents will receive the same level of service in line with the principles of Simpler Recycling legislation.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk (including Fraud implications)** – Not applicable (n/a).
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – Included in the report: Extended Producer Responsibility funding.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – One part time officer already recruited as funded through DEFRA. 22.5 hours per week on a 1-year fixed term contract.
- (vi) **Impact on Devolution / Local Government Reorganisation** – n/a.

Background Papers:

Notification letter from DEFRA (**APPENDIX 1**)

Enquiries to:

Carol Love, Waste Commissioning and Contracts Manager
Tracy Farrell, Head of Environmental Health, Waste and Climate Action