

COMMITTEE: COUNCIL REF NO: C/24/26
DATE: 30 APRIL 2025
SUBJECT: CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE
PORTFOLIO HOLDER: COUNCILLOR MARTIN COOK
SENIOR OFFICER: IAN BLOFIELD

Short description of report content and the decision requested:

Executive approved the twin stream model for the new nationwide Simpler Recycling Scheme at its April meeting. This requires the £1.8m cost of the additional bins to be funded. It is recommended that this project be added to the Capital programme.

Ward(s) affected:

All

List of Appendices included in this report:

None

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This report was prepared after consultation with:

Internal consultees

Resources and Environment & Transport Portfolio Holders

Corporate Management Team

External consultees

None

The following policies form a context to this report:

Corporate Strategy – Proud of Ipswich: Championing our Community and Revitalising our Town

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS AS REQUIRED BY LAW

(papers relied on to write the report but which are not published and do not contain exempt information)

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Simpler Recycling Options Report, Executive, 08/04/25, E/24/562. Medium Term Financial Plan 2025/26 (including budget 2025/26), Council, 19/02/25, C/24/20 |
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OTHER HELPFUL PAPERS

(papers which the report author considers might be helpful – this might include published material)

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. None |
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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Government has legislated for councils to align their waste and recycling services with new nationwide Simpler Recycling provision by 31 March 2026. The Council already meets many of the requirements, but it will need to either provide new services or alter existing services to collect:
- food waste (weekly)
 - glass bottles and jars
 - cartons
 - plastic film (by April 2027)
- 1.2 At its meeting on 8 April 2025, Executive approved the twin stream recycling model (report E/24/56) subject to Council adding the £1.8m cost for the additional bins to the 2025/26 Capital programme.

2. Background

- 2.1 Council approved the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) at its meeting on 19 February 2025. This included agreeing the capital programme. At this time, it was not known which model for dry recycling would be adopted by Executive and so provision could not be made for the capital costs within the MTFP.
- 2.2 Executive resolved to adopt a twin stream recycling model at its meeting on 8 April 2025 (report E/24/56) subject to Council adding the £1.8m cost for the additional bins to the 2025/26 Capital programme.

3. Relevant Policies

- 3.1 The Government has set a clear legal requirement for councils to introduce the required changes through Simpler Recycling part of the Resources and Waste Strategy for England.
- 3.2 Corporate Strategy – Proud of Ipswich: A financially sustainable council providing good quality services. The Council has a responsibility to provide high quality services. This service makes individuals' lives better and helps the town to thrive.

4. Options Considered / Under Consideration

- 4.1 The options are either to accept Executive's recommendation to increase the capital programme 2025/26 by £1.8m or not to increase the capital programme.
- 4.2 The Council is expected to provide the new nationwide Simpler Recycling service standards by 31 March 2026. The additional bins will

be required to comply with this expectation. It is recommended that the capital programme 2025/26 is increased by £1.8m.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 The consultation process is explained in section 5 of the Executive report E/24/56. No further consultation was required regarding this report.

6. Risk Management

Risk Description	Consequence of risk	Risk Controls	Probability of risk occurring taking account of controls (scale 1-6) 1 – almost impossible 6 – very high	Impact of risk, if it occurred taking account of actions (scale 1 – negligible; 4 – catastrophic)	Actions to mitigate risk
Unable to comply with Simpler Recycling from 31 March 2026	Reputational damage Loss of financial support	Approve inclusion in capital programme	2	3	Include capital programme
Insufficient capital funding	Reputational and operational damage Inability to deliver capital projects	MTFP approval process including funding parameters	2	3	Capital and Treasury governance Arrangements in place

7. Environment and Climate Change

- 7.1 The Council has declared a climate change emergency and has resolved to start working towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030. All Council decisions should take into account and respond to the potential impact that they will have on the climate and wider environment.
- 7.2 The allocation of the funds to enable twin stream recycling will have a positive impact on the environment by enabling additional recycling.

8. Equalities, Diversity and Community Implications

- 8.1 Under the general equality duty as set out in the Equality Act 2010, public authorities are required to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation as well as

advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

- 8.2 The protected grounds covered by the equality duty are age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, and sexual orientation. The equality duty also covers marriage and civil partnership, but only in respect of eliminating unlawful discrimination.
- 8.3 The law requires that this duty to have due regard be demonstrated in decision making processes. Assessing the potential impact on equality of proposed changes to policies, procedures and practices is one of the key ways in which public authorities can demonstrate that they have had due regard to the aims of the equality duty.
- 8.4 There are no direct equality impacts from the allocation of funding to enable twin stream recycling.

9. Crime and Disorder Impact

- 9.1 There are no direct crime and disorder implications from this report.

10. Financial Considerations

- 10.1 If the recommendation to add this £1.8m bin acquisition project is approved, the 2025/26 capital programme would increase per the table below.

Capital Programme	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Approved Capital programme	52.466	15.312	6.098	3.270
Add £1.8m simpler recycling project	1.800	0.000	0.000	0.000
Revised Capital programme	54.266	15.312	6.098	3.270

- 10.2 The Executive report (E/24/56) identified the revenue cost implications of borrowing £1.8m over a ten-year term would be £0.226m and this could be funded from the existing capital financing provision.

11. Legal Considerations

- 11.1 The Environment Act 2021 amended the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and includes new requirements relating to the separate collection of waste in England.

- 11.2 Simpler Recycling is a government reform and is intended to make the recycling system simpler by introducing a standardised recycling system which councils in England must adopt.

12. Performance Monitoring

- 12.1 The capital programme is monitored monthly through the corporate budget monitoring process. This forms part of the quarterly budget monitoring reports that are presented to Executive.

13. Conclusions

- 13.1 The Council is expected to provide the new nationwide Simpler Recycling service provision by 31 March 2026.
- 13.2 At the meeting on 8 April 2025, Executive approved the twin stream recycling model (report E/24/56) subject to Council adding the £1.8m cost for the additional bins to the 2025/26 Capital Programme.

14. Recommendations

- 14.1 **That Council approves an additional £1.8m to be included in the Capital Programme for 2025/26 to make financial provision for the procurement of the additional bins required.**
- 14.2 **That the Director of Resources and Housing be authorised to take all actions necessary to effect Recommendation 14.1.**