

This report is public	
Response to Motion: Consultation on three-weekly collections	
Committee	Executive
Date of Committee	16 June 2026
Portfolio Holder presenting the report	Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services, Councillor Alisa Russell
Date Portfolio Holder agreed report	6 June 2026
Report of	Executive Director Neighbourhood Services, Kristian Aspinall

Purpose of report

The report outlines the response to the motion submitted to Full Council in March 2026 requesting clarity on any consultation on changes to our waste collection service.

As the motion fell within the remit of the Executive powers, it was referred to the Executive.

1. Recommendations

The Executive resolves:

- 1.1 To note the response and endorse the commitment to extensive consultation on any proposed changes.
- 1.2 To note there is no decision to proceed with three weekly collections, and this response outlines how any consultation on any proposed significant changes to the service would be conducted in the future.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The 2026/27 budget includes a commitment to research and investigate the impact of moving to a three weekly collection cycle, as part of the wider changes to waste collection that include kerb-side glass recycling and other improvements.
- 2.2 Any changes to collections would be consulted on extensively and thoroughly and include the wider range of improvements that have been made and are proposed for the future of environmental services, as outlined within.
- 2.3 No decision has been made on moving to three weekly collections.

Implications & Impact Assessments

Implications	Commentary			
Finance	<p>Any engagement and consultation undertaken will need to be funded from within existing budgets.</p> <p>Michael Furness, Assistant Director – Finance (S151 Officer), 13 May 2026</p>			
Legal	<p>The report does not involve any decision-making and is intended solely to provide an overview of the current position as regards to the motion. It sets out the steps that are presently being undertaken within the relevant services and reflects work already in progress. On this basis, there are no legal implications arising at this stage.</p> <p>Shiraz Sheik, Assistant Director Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer, 8 June 2026</p>			
Risk Management	<p>A strong and proactive consultation and communications strategy will be implemented to ensure residents are well informed and able to shape the proposals, supporting positive engagement and maintaining public confidence. Any potential service impacts will be effectively addressed through careful planning, benchmarking against other authorities, and incorporating feedback into service design. Overall, the approach aims to provide a robust framework to minimise risk and support a smooth transition. Related risks will be monitored and managed through the service operational risk and escalated to the Corporate Risk Register as and when deemed necessary.</p> <p>Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance & Insight Team Leader, 13 May 2026</p>			
Impact Assessments	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equality Impact		X		<p>The proposal has been developed in line with our Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion framework. A full Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed as part of this proposal.</p> <p>Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance & Insight Team Leader, 13 May 2026</p>
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		No evidence on any specific equality impact

B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		Should the Executive decide to change waste frequency following this consultation, based on evidence from other areas where this has been introduced, it would not have a material impact on residents.
Climate & Environmental Impact		X		This report outlines the principles of any consultation of changes to waste collection. Should the bi-weekly residual waste collection move to three weekly collections it would increase levels of recycling in the borough, reducing our carbon footprint and increasing our progress towards becoming a net neutral council.
ICT & Digital Impact		X		N/A
Data Impact		X		N/A
Procurement & subsidy		X		N/A
Council Priorities	Environmental stewardship			
Human Resources	N/A			
Property	N/A			
Consultation & Engagement	Report outlines the principles of any consultation for changes to waste collection and the wider environmental services			

Supporting Information

3. Background

- 3.1 The motion proposed at Full Council on 16 March 2026 by Councillor Eddie Reeves was as follows:

“This Council considers that its plans to move to three-weekly bin collections from as early as April 2027 have, on balance, been poorly communicated to members of the public.

“Mindful of the need for public support for such a significant change in a vital public service, this Council resolves to undertake a wider public consultation exercise than first envisaged, including but not limited to writing to all Town and Parish clerks with a view to more fully explaining the environment and commercial benefits of the policy to residents.

Given this authority's aspiration to be a "listening Council", it further resolves to listen to, and properly take on board, residents' views surrounding any proposed change to current bin collections."

- 3.2 Having been proposed, seconded (by Councillor David Rogers) and responded to by the Leader, the motion was referred to Executive.

4. Details

- 4.1 Any change to 3-weekly collections would involve significant and extensive public consultation. This would include a minimum of 12 weeks consultation, community engagement events, and direct communication to every key stakeholder – including town and parish councils, business organisations, major statutory partners etc.
- 4.2 Such consultation would be part of a wider engagement on our overall approach to collecting waste locally, and further improvements following the introduction of kerb-side glass recycling ahead of the national requirement and other measures. It will include the benefits that three weekly collections would deliver, including substantial improvements to our recycling rates, lower carbon footprint, and potential commercial improvements that would deliver better value for money for Cherwell residents.
- 4.3 Any proposal would include benchmarking information and comparisons to other areas across England & Wales that have implemented similar changes.
- 4.4 Effective service changes and redesign are only delivered when done with the resident at the heart of planning, and a meaningful consultation will ensure that any changes are the best option for Cherwell and take into account our residents needs and preferences on both waste and wider climate change and environmental sustainability.

5. Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 5.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: Do minimal consultation

The executive has committed to thorough and meaningful consultation on this area, with a commitment to “listening to residents” as a core principle throughout the council’s work. Only conducting a minimal consultation would not meet the expectations set by Executive for Cherwell, and as such is not a recommended option.

Option 2: No consultation

Doing no consultation would not only fail to meet the Executives commitment to “listening to residents but would also expose the council to legal challenge on any significant changes to the service. This would increase costs, delay implementation, and not provide best value for money for the council.

6 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 6.1 The council has committed to a thorough and meaningful consultation on any large-scale changes to waste collection and environmental services, including moving to three weekly collections.
- 6.2 This is the only option that both meets the Executive's commitment to "listening to residents" and delivers best value for money when making any changes. It also ensures that future services are designed with residents at the heart of what we do.

Decision Information

Key Decision	No
Subject to Call in	Yes
If not, why not subject to call in	N/A
Ward(s) Affected	All

Document Information

Appendices	
Appendix 1	None
Background Papers	None
Reference Papers	None
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Executive Director Approval (unless Executive Director or Statutory Officer report)	Report of Executive Director