



**West  
Northamptonshire  
Council**

# Waste services and the re-organisation journey at West Northamptonshire Council

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# Pre- Unitary Northamptonshire



- Northamptonshire County Council
- 7 District and Borough:
  - Corby Borough
  - Daventry District
  - East Northamptonshire
  - Kettering Borough
  - Northampton Borough
  - South Northamptonshire
  - Wellingborough
- 913 square miles
- Population: 792,421 (2022)
- County Town: Northampton
- 320,000 houses (2021)

- Ran from 2001 to 2021
- Partnership of all 8 local authorities in Northamptonshire working on waste and street cleansings related projects
- Met regularly at a Member, senior officer and officer levels
- Made joint funding applications
- Joint procurement of services, equipment and software
- Ran joint publicity campaigns, including on recycling contamination, litter and fly-tipping
- Provided waste education in schools
- Had a website and social media presence



# 2021 - Becoming a Unitary



- Government led recommendation for Northamptonshire to become two Unitary Councils, North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire
- West Northamptonshire: Half of Northamptonshire County Council, Daventry, Northampton and South Northamptonshire
  - 175,000 household (2021)
  - Population of 425,725 (2021)
  - 532 square miles
  - Mix of rural and urban areas

# WNC's Waste Services in 2021

- 3 separate services, based in legacy council areas

	Northampton	Daventry	South
<b>Service Delivery</b>	Contract with Veolia	Joint Venture with Norse	In-house Service
<b>Residual</b>	Fortnightly – 240 litre bin	Three-weekly – 240 litre bin	Fortnightly – 180 litre bin
<b>Recycling</b>	Fortnightly, co-mingled, 240 litre bin	Fortnightly, co-mingled, 240 litre bin	Fortnightly, co-mingled, 240 litre bin
<b>Food Waste</b>	Weekly – 23 litre caddy	Weekly – 23 litre caddy	Weekly – 23 litre caddy
<b>Garden Waste</b>	Fortnightly, chargeable at £42 per bin, 240 litre bin	Fortnightly, chargeable at £36 per bin, 240 litre bin	Fortnightly, FOC, 240 litre bin
<b>WEEE and Batteries</b>	Collected with recycling bin	Not collected	Collected with any bin

- Different coloured bins and caddies
- Different SLAs for missed bins, fly-tip collections, bin deliveries etc
- Different charges for bulky waste and different items collected
- Different systems for taking garden waste payment
- Separate comms – leaflets, bins stickers and comms arrangements
- Bin App in place for Daventry area only
- Different working days and bank holiday arrangements
- 3 Different back-office systems and on-line services
- Different arrangement for off take contracts
- Big difference in recycling rate of the 3 areas:

**Daventry – 52%      South – 59.6 %      Northampton – 37.6 %**

## Production of a WNC Street Scene Policy in time for Vesting Day

- Garden Waste: Harmonised Daventry's and Northampton's price and payment system in the run up to the start of 2021/22.
- Bins: Bin colours standards for future orders, based on the majority
- Bulky Waste: Charge, pricing structure and list of accepted items harmonised for day 1.
- Website: WNC front page to website, but 3 areas behind scenes

# Harmonisation after vesting day

- WEEE and Batteries      Collection Service introduced to the Daventry area in 2022, utilising external funding
- Garden waste:      Charge introduced into South area 2022/3
- Comms      New WNC leaflets, bins stickers etc designed and produced for use in all areas. One social media message – often tricky!
- App:      Coverage of App extended to South and then to Northampton. “Report It” module added.
- Recycling contract      One contract DMR for South and Daventry area

# Harmonisation Still to do .....

In 2028 have the opportunity to harmonise:

- Service Delivery Method
- Service Standards
- Residual Waste Frequency
- Working week, working days and bank holiday arrangements
- Who owns the vehicles
- Back-office systems
- Off Take Contracts
- Routes – no longer any internal boundaries

We have a cross-party Member' Working Group looking at all these issues in a series of workshops. Reporting to Cabinet early 2026.

# Conclusions

- Relationships forged through NWP work in years preceding Unitary certainly helped
- Preparation prior to Vesting Day gave us a head start on harmonisation
- You can give the perception of harmonisation whilst running separate services behind the scenes
- Having one social media voice behind the scenes is difficult
- We still have the savings of harmonisation to realise, when we become one service in 2028
- Recycling rate achieved in 23/24 was 46.6%
- **Working as unitary in the waste world makes making service changes to reduce residual waste much, much easier!**

# Any Questions?

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