

## Frequently Asked Questions for the Waste Consultation

We are inviting residents to have their say on how your waste and recycling is collected in the future.

The former Allerdale, Carlisle and Copeland areas of Cumberland currently have different kerbside collection services - including the frequency and method of collection.

To ensure that the service is consistent for all areas and is of the best quality possible, we are asking residents to have their say on a few proposed changes.

- **Former Allerdale area**

It is proposed to change collections to be the same as Carlisle and Copeland areas. Refuse collections would be fortnightly and cardboard/paper collections will increase from monthly to fortnightly.

To accommodate the refuse collection proposals, householders will be given the option to request a larger bin (180 litre - most residents have a 120 litre bin). It is proposed to start the new arrangements for refuse in April 2025 and recycling in September 2025.

- **Former Carlisle area**

Carlisle households currently have a mix of boxes and bags for their recycling collections. It is proposed to provide wheeled bins to make it consistent with other areas within Cumberland. Paper and cardboard will be recycled in one bin while glass, cans and plastics in another. The frequency of these refuse and recycling collections will not change.

It is proposed to provide wheeled bins from May 2026.

- **Former Allerdale and Carlisle areas**

It is proposed to collect and dispose of garden waste from one bin per property. There will be a yearly charge of £40 per additional bin that residents request to be collected. This is consistent with the approach in the former Copeland area.

It is proposed to make this change in March 2025. Collections will be fortnightly between March and November each year (Carlisle is currently all year but with a reduced service December - February).

- **Former Copeland area**

Current arrangements will continue as normal and no changes are proposed.

Please share your views by completing this survey by Wednesday 8 January 2025.

### **Why are you doing a consultation?**

We are consulting on proposals to improve our waste and recycling collection service across Cumberland.

Your feedback is essential to ensure that the changes meet the needs and preferences of all residents. Previous public engagement, as part of our waste strategy, showed general support for increasing recycling and enhancing kerbside collections. This consultation builds on that feedback and will help us understand how these changes will benefit residents.

### **Why is a change to waste collections needed?**

Cumberland Council was formed on 1 April 2023, merging three former district councils, each with its own waste collection methods. This has created the need for a single, harmonised approach to ensure services are efficient, fair, and meet residents' needs.

### **Why are you looking at changing the frequency of collections?**

Currently, Cumberland residents receive different waste and recycling collection services depending on where they live. The council aims to standardise collections so that everyone receives the same service. We have listened to feedback from residents, reviewed national trends, and considered best practices to develop collection methods that will suit the needs of our community.

### **What do you hope to achieve by changing the frequency of collections?**

By changing the collection frequency, we aim to align services across Cumberland, increase recycling rates, reduce our carbon footprint, and lessen the negative environmental impact.

### **I have a large family - how will we manage?**

Larger bins for larger families will continue to be available, as they are now.

### **How will those with medical conditions, such as incontinence pads, manage?**

Larger bins for medical reasons will also continue to be available.

### **How will assisted collections be impacted by these changes?**

Assisted collections will not be affected. If you currently receive an assisted collection, this will continue.

### **What will happen if I have more than one garden waste bin?**

From March 2025, we will collect and dispose of garden waste from one bin as part of the standard service. If you have additional bins and wish to have them collected, a charge will apply for this service.

### **What if I don't want to pay for additional garden waste collection service - how will I get rid of my garden waste?**

You can dispose of garden waste at Household Waste Recycling Centres or choose to home compost your garden and food waste. Composter and food digesters can be bought from <https://getcomposting.com/>

**I can't fit all my recycling in my current bin/boxes and bags. Can I get recycling bins that are bigger than 180-litres?**

If you regularly have excess recycling due to a large family or medical reasons, larger recycling bins will be available.

**Will I see a reduction in my council tax if the frequency of my service is reduced?**

Unfortunately, no. Like all councils, Cumberland Council is facing increasing demand for services, along with rising costs in areas such as staffing, fuel, and maintenance. We understand that if implemented these changes may be challenging, and we ask for your understanding as we work to provide essential services.