
Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

Stage 1 Scoping and Assessing for Relevance

Section 1 Details of the Proposal

A. Title of Proposal: 3 Weekly Waste Collections

B. What is it? A new Policy/Strategy/Practice/Project

C. Description of the proposal: This project is being considered as a proposal for the Financial Plan 26/27. The details are as follows: Move to three weekly residual waste collections without expansion of food waste service.

D. Service Area: Waste Services

Department: Infrastructure & Environment

E. Lead Officer: Sharp-Dent, Ross

F. Other Officers/Partners involved: (List names, job titles and organisations)

G. Date IIA completed: 29/01/2026

Section 2 Will there be any impacts as a result of the relationship between this proposal and other policies?

Yes

If yes, - please state here

04/02/2026 This would be a significant change to the way that the public receive their waste collections across the region. Moving to less frequent general waste collections increases recycling rates by reducing the capacity available for general waste, and requiring households with capacity constraints to utilise pre-existing recycling service. This therefore impacts positively on the environmental and carbon outcomes of the Council and the region. However, not including an expansion of food waste means that the positive impacts this change can have on recycling rates will not be realised in the areas that do not receive a food waste collection. 29/01/2026 This would be a significant change to the way that the public receive their waste collections across the region. Moving to less frequent general waste collections increases recycling rates, thereby impacting positively on the environmental and carbon outcomes of the Council and the region.

Section 3 Legislative Requirements

3.1 Which groups of people do you think will be or potentially could be, impacted by the implementation of this proposal?

(You should consider employees, clients, customers / service users, and any other relevant groups).

In considering the impact of your proposal on people with equality characteristics, you should take into account the fact that the Equality Act 2010 covers:

- A. **Elimination of discrimination (both direct & indirect), victimisation and harassment.**
(Will the proposal discriminate? Or help eliminate discrimination?)
- B. **Promotion of equality of opportunity?** (Will your proposal help or hinder the Council with this)
- C. **Fostering good relations?** (Will your proposal help to foster or encourage good relations between those who have different equality characteristics?)

Protected Characteristics:

Please describe the potential impacts, and how any negative impacts could be mitigated. Some negative impacts may not be capable of mitigation, but the proposal as a whole may still be regarded as a proportionate means of achieving its outcomes.

Age: Older or younger people or a specific age grouping

04/02/2026 For those who are already maximising their recycling a move from two weekly to three weekly collections will mean a heavier bin or bags on collection day. For older individuals this may make it harder for them to move the bin/bags to the collection point. For those who are not maximising their recycling this weight impact may not be seen if they start increasing their recycling activities. 29/01/2026 Changes to waste collection frequencies have the potential to have both a positive and negative impact. This will be mitigated by consideration of these matters during the service design. Communication of changes will be critical.

Disability: A physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day to day activities. This may be visible or invisible, progressive or recurring.

04/02/2026 For those who are already maximising their recycling a move from two weekly to three weekly collections will mean a heavier bin or bags on collection day. For individuals with a physical impairment this may make it harder for them to move the bin/bags to the collection point. For those who are not maximising their recycling this weight impact may not be seen if they start increasing their recycling activities. 29/01/2026 Changes to waste

collection frequencies have the potential to have both a positive and negative impact. This will be mitigated by consideration of these matters during the service design. Communication of changes will be critical.

Sex: Women and men (girls and boys)

04/02/2026 n/a 29/01/2026 n/a

Gender Reassignment: Anybody who is proposing to undergo, is undergoing, or has undergone a process (or part of a process) for the purpose of reassigning the person's sex by changing physiological or other attributes of sex.

04/02/2026 n/a 29/01/2026 n/a

Marriage or Civil Partnership: People who are married or in a civil partnership

04/02/2026 n/a 29/01/2026 n/a

Pregnancy and Maternity: (refers to the period after the birth and is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the non-work context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth).

Answer: 04/02/2026 For those who are already maximising their recycling a move from two weekly to three weekly collections will mean a heavier bin or bags on collection day. For individuals in the later trimesters of pregnancy this may make it harder for them to move the bin/bags to the collection point. For those who are not maximising their recycling this weight impact may not be seen if they start increasing their recycling activities. 29/01/2026 n/a

Race: including colour, nationality, ethnic origins, including minorities (e.g. gypsy travellers, refugees, migrants and asylum seekers)

04/02/2026 n/a 29/01/2026 n/a

Religion or Belief: different religious or philosophical beliefs, customs (including atheists and those with no aligned belief) e.g. Christianity, Islam, Hindu, pacifism, vegetarianism, gender critical.

04/02/2026 n/a 29/01/2026 n/a

Sexual Orientation: e.g. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Heterosexual

04/02/2026 n/a 29/01/2026 n/a

3.2 Fairer Scotland Duty

This duty places a legal responsibility on Scottish Borders Council (SBC) to actively consider (give due regard) to how we can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socioeconomic disadvantage when making strategic decisions.

The duty is set at a strategic level - these are the key, high level decisions that SBC will take. This would normally include strategy documents, decisions about setting priorities, allocating resources and commissioning services.

Is the proposal strategic?

Answer: Yes

If No go to Section 4

If Yes, Please describe the potential impacts, and how any negative impacts could be mitigated. Some negative impacts may not be capable of mitigation, but the proposal as a whole may still be regarded as a proportionate means of achieving its outcomes.

Low and/or No Wealth: enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future.

04/02/2026 n/a 29/01/2026 Changes to waste collection frequencies have the potential to have both a positive and negative impact. This will be mitigated by consideration of these matters during the service design. Communication of changes will be critical.

Material Deprivation – being unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure and hobbies

04/02/2026 If individuals do not have access to a car they may find it harder to access recycling centres. If this is the case, they are likely to use their general waste bin to dispose of material that those with a car might take directly to the recycling centre. This may mean that these households find it harder to manage with the move from 2 to 3 weekly waste collections. Larger households can ask for bigger bins, as per existing policies. 29/01/2026 Changes to waste collection frequencies have the potential to have both a positive and negative impact. This will be mitigated by consideration of these matters during the service design. Communication of changes will be critical.

Area Deprivation – where you live (e.g. rural areas), where you work (e.g. accessibility of transport), see rural proofing guidance

04/02/2026 If food waste is not expanded (which will generally be rural areas) then the move from 2 weekly to 3 weekly collections will have a greater impact on the capacity that these

households have than those in urban areas, that have food waste collections. Analysis will be undertaken, including an assessment of how full bins are, to determine if we think capacity will be a challenge and/or our policies on provision of larger bins should be reviewed. 29/01/2026 Changes to waste collection frequencies have the potential to have both a positive and negative impact. This will be mitigated by consideration of these matters during the service design. Communication of changes will be critical.

Socio-economic Background – social class i.e. parents' education, employment and income

04/02/2026 n/a 29/01/2026 n/a

Care experienced people

Answer: 04/02/2026 n/a 29/01/2026 n/a

Carers paid and unpaid including family members

04/02/2026 n/a 29/01/2026 n/a

Homelessness

04/02/2026 <p>n/a</p> 29/01/2026 <p>n/a</p>

Addictions and substance use

04/02/2026 n/a 29/01/2026 n/a

Those involved within the criminal justice system

04/02/2026 n/a 29/01/2026 n/a

3.3 Consumer Duty

This duty places a legal responsibility on Scottish Borders Council (SBC) to have regard to the matters listed below.

This applies to strategic matters so only complete this section if you have marked "Yes" in Section 3.2

How will the proposal impact on users or potential users of the service? E.g. Will the proposal affect the way in which people can access services, will it improve the range of choice accessible to service users, will it improve or hinder access to information for service users?

05/02/2026 This would be a significant change to the way that the public receive their waste collections across the region. Moving to less frequent general waste collections reduces the capacity available in the bin between collection dates, and so encourages users to maximise their recycling. If the change prompts users to move waste out of their general waste stream and into their recycling stream(s) there may be some householders who require additional bin capacity for their recycling - most likely their recycling bins. In creating a new collection frequency we will need to re-assess collection routes and this will result in householders collection days being changed. Some householders will not like the change as they like their general waste to be collected as frequently as possible. 04/02/2026 This would be a significant change to the way that the public receive their waste collections across the region. Moving to less frequent general waste collections reduces the capacity available in the bin between collection dates, and so encourages users to maximise their recycling. CONTINUE FROM HERE, AND NEED TO COVER IMPACT ON RECYCLING BIN SIZES

If there are any negative impacts, do you intend to mitigate these and, if so, how?

05/02/2026 In the design phase we will consider bin capacities and policies around bin provision. We will develop communications for implementation. Online lookups exist for calendars, and information on which materials go in which bin. Frontline teams will be asked for feedback, and complaints and queries will be monitored and responded to accordingly.

3.4 Armed Forces Covenant Duty (Education and Housing/ Homelessness proposals only)

This duty places a legal responsibility on Scottish Borders Council (SBC) to actively consider (give due regard) to the three matters listed below in Education and Housing/ Homelessness matters.

This relates to current and former armed forces personnel (regular or reserve) and their families.

Is the Armed Forces Covenant Duty applicable?

No

If Yes:

For each of the following Covenant Duties, You should cover these two points:

The unique obligations of, and sacrifices made by, the armed forces;

The MOD Statutory Guidance gives the following examples – Link for this can be found here:
[MOD Statutory Guidance](#)

- Danger
- Geographical Mobility
- Separation from Family
- Service Law
- Unfamiliarity with Civilian Life
- Hours of Work
- Stress

How is the proposal impacted by the following principles?

If there are any negative impacts, do you intend to mitigate these and, if so, how?

Some negative impacts may not be capable of mitigation, but the proposal as a whole may still be regarded as a proportionate means of achieving its outcomes.

The principle that it is desirable to remove disadvantages arising for Service people from membership, or former membership, of the armed forces;

How is the proposal impacted by the following principles?

If there are any negative impacts, do you intend to mitigate these and, if so, how?

Some negative impacts may not be capable of mitigation, but the proposal as a whole may still be regarded as a proportionate means of achieving its outcomes.

The principle that special provision for Service people may be justified by the effects on such people of membership, or former membership, of the armed forces.

How is the proposal impacted by the following principles?

If there are any negative impacts, do you intend to mitigate these and, if so, how?

Some negative impacts may not be capable of mitigation, but the proposal as a whole may still be regarded as a proportionate means of achieving its outcomes.

3.5 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

Scottish Borders Council (SBC) has a duty not to act, or fail to act, in a manner incompatible with the requirements of the UNCRC.

This only applies to certain matters, where SBC is acting under:

- An Act of the Scottish Parliament.
- Regulations made under an Act of the Scottish Parliament.
- A general (common law) legal duty.

Is the UNCRC Duty applicable?

No

If “Yes”, please complete below

If you have answered yes for any of the Articles, please specify whether it is positive, negative or neutral, the nature of the impact, as well as any mitigations put in place if the effect is negative. Some negative impacts may not be capable of mitigation, but the proposal as a whole may still be regarded as a proportionate means of achieving its outcomes.

Which of the General Principles of the UNCRC are engaged?

Non-discrimination (Article 2)

Impact:

Best interests of the child as a primary consideration (Article 3)

Impact:

Right to life, Survival and Development (Article 6)

Impact:

Right to be heard (Article 12)

Impact:

Other:

Impact:

Section 4 Full Integrated Impact Assessment Required

Select No if you have answered “No” to all of Sections 3.1 – 3.5.

Yes

If a full impact assessment is not required briefly explain why there are no effects and provide justification for the decision.

Signed by Lead Officer: Sharp-Dent, Ross

Designation: Chief Officer Waste and Transport

Date: 05/02/2026

Counter Signature Director: Curry, John

Date: 06/02/2026