



***PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE***  
***Tuesday 19th September 2023***

You are invited to attend the next meeting of **Place Scrutiny Committee**, which will be held at:

**Council Chamber - Civic Offices**  
on **Tuesday 19th September 2023 at 7.00 pm**

**Georgina Blakemore**  
**Chief Executive**

**Democratic Services Officer:** Laura Kirman  
Email: [democraticservices@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)

**Members:** Councillors H Kane (Chairman), J Parsons (Vice-Chairman), I Allgood, D Barlow, R Bassett, E Gabbett, A Lion, C Nweke, L Paine, R Pugsley and B Vaz

**SUBSTITUTE NOMINATION DEADLINE: 6.00PM**

**This meeting will be recorded for repeated viewing.**

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**1. WEBCASTING INTRODUCTION**

The Chairman will read the following announcement:

“I would like to remind everyone present that this meeting will be recorded to the internet (or filmed) and will be capable of repeated viewing (or another use by such third parties).

Therefore, by entering the Council Chamber and using the seating area, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes.”

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To be announced at the meeting.

To report non-attendance before the meeting, please use the [Members Portal webpage](#) to ensure your query is properly logged.

Alternatively, you can access the Members portal from the front page of the [Council's website](#), at the bottom under 'Contact Us'.

**3. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

To report the appointment of any substitute members for the meeting.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To declare interests in any item on this agenda.

**5. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 4 - 7)**

To agree the notes of the last meeting of Place Scrutiny Committee held on 4 July 2023.

**6. WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 8 - 9)**

Members are invited to review the Place Scrutiny Committee Work Programme.

**7. TRANSFER OF GROUNDS MAINTENANCE TO QUALIS PROPERTY SOLUTIONS - UPDATE (Pages 10 - 12)**

To consider and comment on the EFDC transfer of Grounds Maintenance report.

**8. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICE UPDATE (QUALIS PROPERTY SOLUTIONS LTD) (Pages 13 - 26)**

To consider the attached update on the grounds maintenance service from Qualis Property Solutions.

**9. PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (DOG CONTROL) (Pages 27 - 30)**

To consider and comment on the Public Space Protection Order (Dog Control).

**10. PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (DEBDEN BROADWAY) (Pages 31 - 36)**

To consider and comment on the Public Space Protection Order (Debden Broadway).

**11. ESSEX DRAFT WASTE STRATEGY (Pages 37 - 87)**

To consider the attached report on the Draft Waste Strategy for Essex.

**12. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

To note that the next meeting of the Place Scrutiny Committee will be held at 7.00pm on 9 January 2024.

# Agenda Item 5

## EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 4 July 2023, 7.00 pm - 8.45 pm  
Council Chamber - Civic Offices

<b>Members Present:</b>	Councillors H Kane (Chairman), J Parsons (Vice-Chairman), I Allgood, D Barlow, R Bassett, A Lion, L Paine, R Pugsley and B Vaz
<b>Other Councillors:</b>	Councillors R Balcombe, C Whitbread, N Bedford, S Kane, J Philip, J H Whitehouse, J M Whitehouse and D Wixley
<b>Apologies:</b>	Councillor(s) E Gabbett and C Nweke
<b>Officers In Attendance:</b>	Jennifer Gould (Strategic Director and Chief Operating Officer), Natalie Cole (Corporate Communications Officer), Francesca Edmonds (Climate Change Officer), David Marsh (Waste Management Team Manager), Vivienne Messenger (Democratic Services Officer), Mandy Thompson (Interim Acting Service Director (Technical)) and James Warwick (Interim Acting Service Director (Contracts))
<b>Officers In Attendance (Virtually):</b>	Stephen Lloyd-Jones (Sustainable Transport Officer) and Rebecca Moreton (Corporate Communications Officer)
<b>Contractor:</b>	B Johnson (Qualis Solutions Limited) and M Sharples (Qualis Solutions Limited)
<b>Contractor (Virtually):</b>	G Donoghue (Optimum Professional Solutions), R Brooks (Anthony Collins) and D Stewart (Anthony Collins)

### [A RECORDING OF THIS MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR REPEATED VIEWING](#)

#### 1 WEBCASTING INTRODUCTION

The Chairman reminded everyone present that this meeting would be recorded and that the Council had adopted a protocol for the webcasting of its meetings.

#### 2 SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

The Committee noted that there were no substitute members.

#### 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- (a) Pursuant to the Council's Members' Code of Conduct, Councillor R Bassett declared a non-pecuniary interest in the following item of the agenda by virtue of being a Non-Executive Director of Qualis and would remain in the meeting for its consideration.
- Grounds Maintenance
- (b) Pursuant to the Council's Members' Code of Conduct, Councillor D Wixley declared a non-pecuniary interest in the following item of the agenda by virtue of being a member of Loughton Town Council, which was referenced in the agenda presentation, and was the Chairman of the Recreation Committee with responsibilities for grounds



maintenance. The Councillor stated he would remain in the meeting for its consideration.

- Grounds Maintenance

(c) Pursuant to the Council's Members' Code of Conduct, Councillor A Lion declared a non-pecuniary interest in the following item of the agenda by virtue of being the Chairman of the Digital Innovation Zone and would remain in the meeting for its consideration.

- Terms of Reference and Work Programme

#### 4 NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Following the approval of a new scrutiny committee structure on 4 April 2023, the Committee agreed the notes of the last meeting of the Stronger Place Select Committee held on 7 March 2023.

#### 5 TERMS OF REFERENCE & WORK PROGRAMME

(a) Terms of Reference (draft)

**Agreed:**

- (1) That the draft Terms of Reference be agreed, subject to approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 18 July 2023.

(b) Work Programme (draft)

Councillor A Lion was of the opinion Place Scrutiny Committee encompassed a wider scope of the place we lived in and the environment, as this also included broadband provision, roads and transport. As Chairman of the Digital Innovation Zone (DIZ), which was currently looking to provide fibre-based services to GP practices, he asked if an annual progress review of the DIZ could be added to the work programme. At the Strategic Director and Chief Operating Officer's (J Gould) suggestion, the Scrutiny Committee agreed to add this to the work programme for the January 2024 meeting.

Councillor H Kane asked if members could visit some specific sites to monitor grounds maintenance progress with Qualis personnel. The Managing Director of Qualis Property Solutions (B Johnson) offered to provide a schedule of works between Qualis and the Council.

Councillor A Lion remarked a 'who's responsible for what' would be very useful to help identify which piece of land was managed by who and whether it was a town/parish council, EFDC or Essex County Council. The Strategic Director and Chief Operating Officer would look into this suggestion of how best to identify on local maps the grounds maintenance responsibilities for the different council tiers in the District.

**Agreed:**

- (2) That an annual progress review of the DIZ to include an impact assessment of the project to provide fibre-based services to GP practices, be added to the work programme for January 2024;
- (3) That the Strategic Director and Chief Operating Officer would look into the suggestion of how best to identify on local maps the grounds maintenance responsibilities for the different council tiers in the District; and

- (4) That the draft work programme with the inclusion of the DIZ item above be agreed, subject to approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 18 July 2023.

## **6 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE**

The Committee received a presentation on Grounds Maintenance from B Johnson (Managing Director) and M Sharples (Head of Operations) of Qualis Property Solutions. Housing repairs had started three years ago in 2020 and the presentation included updates on Qualis' business plan objectives, its financial benefit, staff resources and apprenticeships. Highlights included the scope of the grounds maintenance service as well as performance monitoring and the customer satisfaction survey undertaken.

The Committee's questions encompassed hedge trimming, apprenticeships, maintenance equipment used, risk assessments and maintenance of closed cemeteries.

### **Resolved:**

That the Place Scrutiny Committee reviewed the updates provided for Qualis Property Solutions Grounds Maintenance service.

## **7 CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN**

The Climate Change Action Plan was adopted by Cabinet in April 2022 and stated the steps to be taken by the Council to make Epping Forest District Council area carbon neutral by 2030. Introduced by F Edmonds (Climate Change Officer), the report detailed the Plan summary to show the outcome of the review undertaken and progress made on the climate change agenda.

The Committee's questions centred on electric vehicle business use and encouraging staff take-up, EV charging point locations including charging from lamp posts, sustainable transport and reducing travel by cars, which were answered by S Lloyd-Jones (Sustainable Transport Officer). The Climate Change Officer answered queries on the low success rate of trees planted last year in the District.

### **Resolved:**

- (1) That the Committee reviewed the Climate Change Action Plan Summary and progress to date on the Climate Change agenda; and
- (2) That the Committee agreed the recommendations for Priorities 2023/24.

## **8 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Place Scrutiny Committee noted the next meeting would be held on 19 September 2023 at 7.00pm.

## **9 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

The Committee agreed to exclude under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press from the meeting for the item of business set out below on grounds that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the following paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended) or are confidential under Section 100(A)(2):

Agenda Item No	Subject	Exempt Information Paragraph Number
11	Waste Collection Services – Future Delivery Options	3

## 10 WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES - FUTURE DELIVERY OPTIONS

J Warwick (Contracts Service Director) introduced the report which was discussed in private session and answered the Committee's questions.

**Resolved:**

That the Committee approved of the report's four recommendations to Cabinet.

**DRAFT Place Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/24**  
**Chairman: Councillor H Kane**

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	Item		Progress/Comments	Lead Officer	
<b>4 July</b>					
1	Grounds Maintenance	4 July 2023,  19 Sept 2023	Grounds Maintenance Service Update (Qualis Presentation – Ben Johnson)  Agreed to an additional update from Qualis at 19 Sept meeting	Jen Gould	
2	Waste Collection Services Future Delivery Options	Completed	Scrutiny of Options Paper Options (Exempt Report) restricted papers	James Warwick	
3	Climate Change Action Plan	Completed	c/f from Stronger Place Select Committee	Fran Edmonds/ Nigel Richardson	
<b>19 September 2023</b>					
	<i>Technical Service</i>	<i>Tbc</i>	<i>To provide an update on the service functions and key areas of delivery for the year; item to be reviewed. <b>Delayed</b> due to additional agenda items</i>	<i>Mandy Thompson</i>	
5.	Grounds Maintenance	19 Sept 23	Contract Monitoring and review of grounds maintenance post transfer to Qualis Property Service (EFDC)	Mandy Thompson	
6.	District Wide Public Space Protection Order – Dog Control	19 Sept 2023	The introduction of Dog control areas	Mandy Thompson	
7.	Waste Strategy for Essex	19 Sept 2023	Overview of waste strategy for Essex and consultation plans (tbc)	James Warwick	
8.	<i>Air Pollution Mitigation Strategy</i>	<i>Tbc</i>	<i>Approval of an updated strategy to mitigate the impact of air pollution from new developments on the Epping Forest Special Area of conservation</i>	<i>Nigel Richardson</i>	

	Item		Progress/Comments	Lead Officer	
9.	Public Space Protection Order (Debden Broadway)	19 Sept 2023	<i>Postponed pending the completion of monitoring and traffic modelling.</i>  <b>NEW ITEM</b> Public Space Protection Order	Mandy Thompson	
<b>9 January 2023</b>					
10.	Planning /Development Management and Planning Enforcement		As requested by O & S APG 12 Jan 2023 To include virtual attendance at planning meetings (Stronger Council Select Committee c/f)	Nigel Richardson	
11.	Epping Leisure Centre Progress Report		Progress report on the construction of the new Epping Leisure Centre	James Warwick	
12.	Digital Innovation Zone (DIZ)		NEW ITEM Annual progress review of the DIZ and to include an impact assessment of the project to provide fibre-based services to GP practices. – proposed at 4 July	Jen Gould/ Mike Warr	
<b>27 February 2024</b>					
13.	Waste Programme Update		Progress report on three waste workstreams: WS1: Future delivery of Waste Services WS2: Mobilise a New Environment Operations Centre WS3: Procurement of a Waste Vehicle Fleet	James Warwick	

# Agenda Item 7



## Report to Place Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: **19<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Portfolio:** Regulatory & Technical Services – Cllr K Williamson

**Subject:** Update on the transfer of services (Grounds Maintenance) to Qualis Property Solutions Ltd.

**Officer contact for further information:** P Hawkins [phawkins@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:phawkins@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)

**Service Director:** Mandy Thompson: [mthompson@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:mthompson@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)

**Democratic Services Officer:**

L Kirman: email: [DemocraticServices@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:DemocraticServices@eppingforestdc.gov.uk) tel:01992 564243

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### Recommendations/Decisions Required:

To consider the Cabinet Report: Update on the transfer of services (Grounds Maintenance) to Qualis Property Solutions Ltd.

### Recommendations/Decisions Required:

1. To consider and comment on the contents of the report.

### Executive Summary:

The planned transfer of the Grounds Maintenance service to Qualis Property Solutions (QPS) successfully took place in May. Post transfer, this report provides an update on the transfer and service delivery.

**Reasons for Proposed Decision:** N/A informative report

**Other Options for Action:** N/A informative report

### Report:

1. There was some apprehension amongst staff at the prospect of transfer into the Councils Local Authority Trading Company (LATC), particularly for members with long service with the Council. To provide reassurance to staff and facilitate a smooth transition, both Epping Forest & Qualis management team worked closely together to ensure staff were consulted at all stages of the process and kept informed regarding the TUPE process particularly to their employment terms & conditions. This process took the form of both team meetings and individual staff 1-2-1 discussions. At the time of the transfer there were 5 vacant FTE posts (25%).
2. Staff have had to adapt to the new working arrangements in terms of Qualis administration processes and IT operating systems, which was expected and mitigated with support. The staff have received relevant training and there is on-hand assistance from Qualis leadership team and experienced colleagues, to ensure the GM team are quickly brought up to speed.
3. A Contract Compliance Officer (CCO) role was created to monitor the contract and performance of the team for service delivery and to maintain good productive partnership working and collaboration. The focus from the outset was to ensure a seamless transfer was achieved and that frontline operations and the level of quality would be unaffected by the

change. To facilitate this, it was deemed vital to cause the least disruption to both staff and service delivery and therefore, previous proven ways of working have remained largely unaltered.

4. The transfer in May alongside the commencement of the mowing season presented some service challenges and the commitment and effort of the staff involved to manage this is acknowledged. There were 2 key factors that had the most impact on the service, these were the extreme variance in spring weather conditions and reduced staffing levels.
5. The wet weather experienced early in the season followed by a very warm spell produced some exceptional growth rates. This in turn, created some difficult mowing conditions resulting in the grass verges and open spaces becoming longer than usual between cuts and grass clippings remaining on the mown areas for much longer. Despite all available staff being deployed to try and counter this, agency support where possible and overtime working, that resulted in an increased number of complaints being received.
6. Recruitment for grounds staff has been an ongoing issue for the Council in recent years and this remains the same for Qualis, with 7 FT posts currently vacant. Some key vacancies have been filled by internal restructuring and a full management structure is now in place. Several operational posts are still being temporarily covered by agency staff, QPS are currently running adverts to redress this issue and have been successful in recruiting their first new gardener this month. Whilst operational levels remain reduced, it will continue to present challenges in the team's ability to deal with seasonal demanding tasks and reactive issues.
7. During the embedding period for Qualis, there was a need to establish new systems of working for both the client and contractor in terms of managing, monitoring, and recording performance. Ongoing team meetings with Qualis enabled various trials to take place in this area of work and a suitable method agreed. With these systems now in operation, it is anticipated going forward that a more consistent view of performance will be achieved for both parties.
8. The Service Level Agreement (SLA) has been drafted in agreement with EFDC and QPS and will incorporate an overarching 'umbrella' SLA with individual SLAs for individual services that have transferred into Qualis.
9. The CCO carries out independent and joint inspections, the following is a summary sheet of inspections, member enquiries and complaints. Performance of the contract will be reported on a quarterly basis to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. An inspection incorporates several different elements including:
  - Playgrounds
  - Lawns and Grassed Areas
  - Flowers, Shrub & Rose Beds
  - Hedges
  - Weeds – Hard surface areas

they are assessed and graded individually to enable robust monitoring and emerging trends identified.

	May	June	July	Totals
Member/Cllr GM Enquiries	2	8	6	16
Stage 1 Complaints	0	1	2	3
Stage 2 Complaints	0	0	0	0
Inspections	0	4	5	9
Category A	0	0	0	0
Category B	0	11	7	18
Category C	0	2	3	5
Category D	0	0	0	0
Rectification Notices	0	0	0	0
Default Notices	0	0	0	0

**KEY - Cat. Insp Std** A – Desired Standard – Good  
B – Satisfactory Standard – Average  
C – Unsatisfactory Standard – Poor  
D – Unacceptable Standard

Prior to transfer, the number of GM Enquiries and complaints are comparable for the current season in previous years. A benefit of the transfer is that a regime has been developed to monitor standards across the district and ensure acceptable standards are maintained and poor performance identified and rectified as necessary.

10. QPS continue to strive to improve performance and customer satisfaction, improving services to customers where they can. An Action Plan is in development by QPS outlining improvements over the next 12 months that will be shared with EFDC for approval.

### Scrutiny Comments

*To be added following Place Scrutiny 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023*

Please insert where its relevant to the report a paragraph entitled, e.g. “Scrutiny Comments” as above. Any pre-scrutiny and/or consultation undertaken can be included here. It can also be summarised below under “Resource Implications” in the “Consultation / Scrutiny Undertaken” section.

**Resource Implications:** N/A informative report

**Legal and Governance Implications:** N/A informative report

**Safer, Cleaner and Greener Implications:**

**Consultation / Scrutiny Undertaken:** N/A informative report

**Background Papers:** N/A informative report

**Risk Management:** N/A informative report

**Equality:** N/A informative report





**Qualis**  
PROPERTY SOLUTIONS

# Place- Scrutiny Committee Sept 23

Quality...It's what we stand for

# Agenda

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- Through the customers eyes
- Key Challenges
- 4 Stage Plan to Improvement



# Customer Views



**Delivering quality services through the eyes of the customers...**

**Summary of Customer Feedback- (May 2023 42% Satisfied)**

- “We don’t understand who does what”
- “They don’t take pride in the service, quality needs to improve”.
- “We don't understand service standards or frequency”.



Quality...It's what we stand for



# Who does what?



**Challenges regarding responsibilities of land on EFDC estates and highways which will impact on the overall CSAT.**

## **QPS Responsibilities**

- Grass Cutting
- Hedge Maintenance
- Shrub and bed maintenance
- Ad Hoc works from EFDC
- HRA Playgrounds

## **Areas within estates and rural areas that QPS are not contracted to do**

- Pathways (EFDC Housing or ECC Highways)
- Pavements (ECC Highways)
- Garage Areas (EFDC Housing)
- Trees (EFDC)

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# Key Challenges



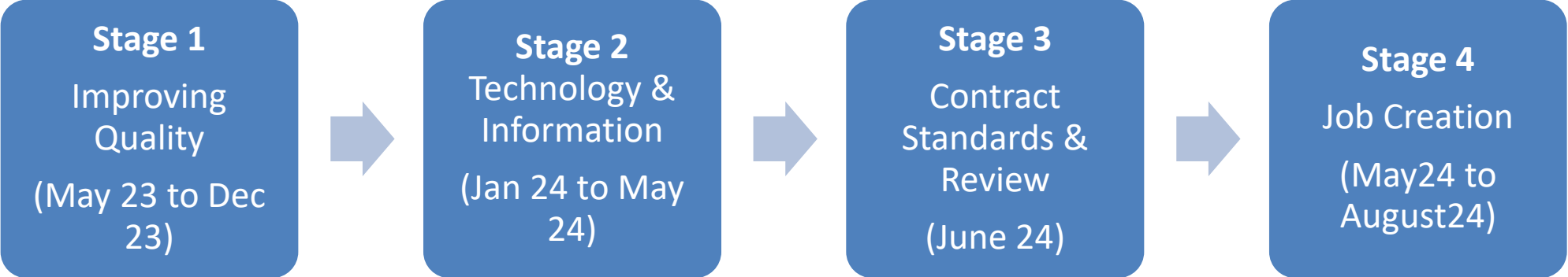
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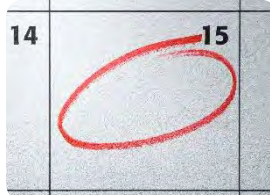
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# Four Stage Plan to Improvement



Visual Standard



Schedule



Pilots & Quality Review



ICT



Mapping  
(subject to EFDC)



Standards & Performance setting



Job Creation

# Visual Standards



- Monitoring and Performance Reporting
- Joint EFDC and Qualis Property Solution Inspections
- Supervisor and Manager Inspections

- A – The Desired Standard – Very Good
- B – The Acceptable Standard - Good
- C – Average Standard – Average
- D – Very Poor Standard



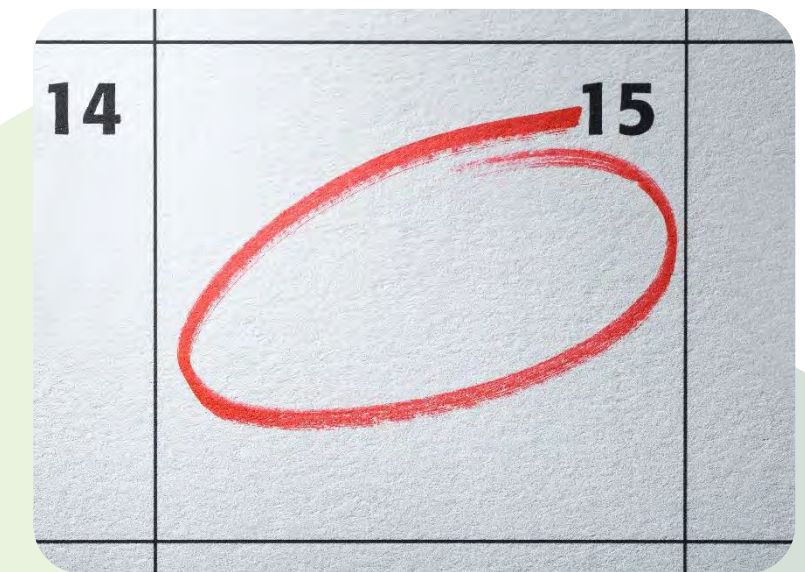
# Schedule of Works



Create individual schedules for each area that can be shared with our customers and key stakeholders.

- Frequency of visits
- Areas to be maintain
- Advertising schedule
- Shadowing/Supervision
- Stakeholder attendance (From October 2023)

**Timescale- December 2023**





# Improving Quality



## Use of data to improve services

- Customer & Tenant Service Satisfaction
- Inspections

## Initial Improvements

- Productivity
- Strimming
- Edging
- Photographic evidence of completed works

**Timescale= December 2023**



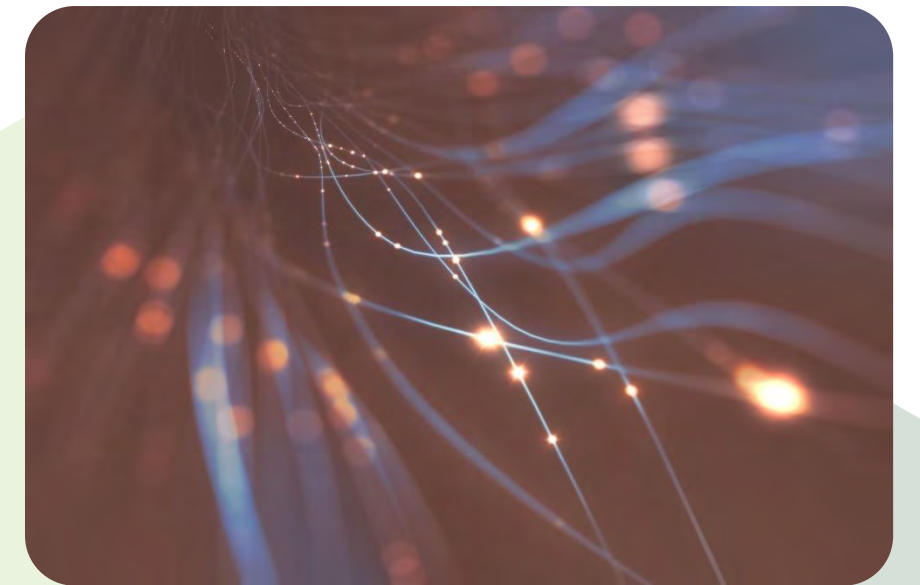
# Information and Communication Technology

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- Review of existing technology
- Productivity Measurement
- Suitability of solution
- Cost Benefit

**Timescale= March 2024**



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# GIS Mapping and Land Ownership

Understanding the land ownership is key to delivering services and improving customer satisfaction.

- **Pilot (By December 2023)**
- Exercise to undertake land ownership (all estate) EFDC TBC part of prioritised work plan.
- GIS Mapping Updated (TBC EFDC)

**Timescale= TBC**

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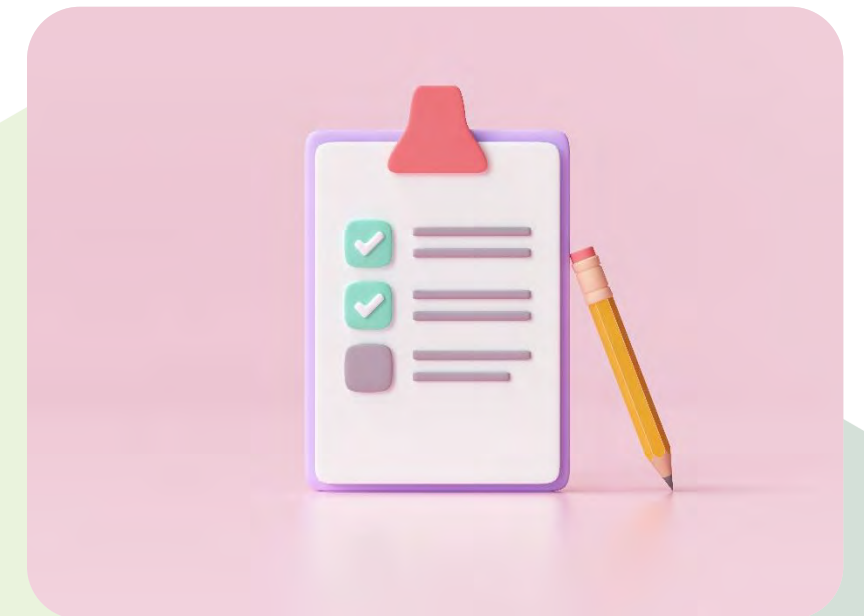


# Review Contract Standards and Performance



- Review Specification, quality and scope of work following mapping
- Now Vs Improvement
- Continuous monitoring and reporting
- Review KPIs and set Targets – June 2024

**Timescale = June 2024**



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# Job Creation

- Apprenticeships & Local Jobs
- Training & Progression
- Potential Back to Work Schemes

**Timescale = August 2024**





# Questions



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### Report to Place Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: **19<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Portfolio:** Regulatory & Technical Services – Cllr K Williamson

**Subject:** Public Space Protection Order (Dog Control) (Antisocial Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014)

**Officer contact for further information:** Chris Smith [csmith@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:csmith@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)

**Service Director:** Mandy Thompson: [mthompson@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:mthompson@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)

**Democratic Services Officer:**

L Kirman: [DemocraticServices@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:DemocraticServices@eppingforestdc.gov.uk) tel:01992 564243)

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### Recommendations/Decisions Required:

To consider the Cabinet Report: Public Space Protection Order (Dog Control) (Antisocial Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014) and comment as required.

### Cabinet Recommendations/Decisions Required:

1. Cabinet agrees a 28-day public consultation on the proposed Public Space Protection Order (PSPO).
2. Cabinet agrees that where no objections are made or a majority of 60% of responses are positive that the proposed PSPO be implemented on the date specified in the public notice.
3. Cabinet agrees that where more than 40% objections are made, it will reconsider the proposal in light of those objections within 2 months of the date specified in the public notice.

### Executive Summary:

EFDC tries to encourage responsible dog ownership, for the benefit of all residents and visitors to the district. The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced a variety of powers for local authorities to deal with anti-social behaviour including Public Spaces Protection Orders. PSPO's are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone.

Responsible ownership will be supported by the proposed conditions in that it will:

- Allow swift action to be taken against those who do not pick up after their dog.
- Limiting the number of dogs an individual can walk at one time will assist in managing issues caused by professional dog walkers when they are walking more dogs than they can control and manage.
- Allow for reasonable checks to be carried out with dog walkers to ensure they have a suitable receptacle to pick up dog faeces.
- If any dog is found to be roaming away from its walker, causing legitimate concerns for others then officers can direct the walker to place the dog on a lead.
- Allow safe environments for children to play.

### **Reasons for Proposed Decision:**

In October 2017, following public consultation the Councils Dog Control Order under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 was repealed by the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 and a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) was adopted.

The PSPO has now expired and the current method of enforcement is the use of Community Protection Warning / Notices issued under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014, this extends the process of taking enforcement action by way of gathering evidence issue of a Community Protection Warning (CPW), if the behaviour continues then a Community Protection Notice (CPN) is issued, subsequently a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) is issued for repeat offending.

As a Local Authority we want to continue to promote responsible dog ownership and to provide authorised Officers with the tools and powers to educate and enforce where necessary. The proposed PSPO would enable officers to take swift and direct action when it is required.

### **Other Options for Action:**

To continue with the current process and not introduce a district wide PSPO.

### **Report:**

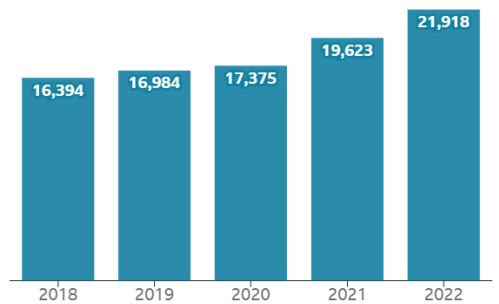
1. Dog Fouling and dog control has always been a concern for residents of the district and indeed the nation; however, a lot of incidents go unreported.
2. Dog fouling is not only unpleasant and inconvenient to anyone that encounters it, but it can also be dangerous, although rare, contact with excrement can cause toxocariasis an infection that can lead to dizziness, nausea, asthma, blindness, or seizures.
3. Keep Britain Tidy has estimated there to be more than 8 million dogs in the UK which produce more than 1000 tonnes of mess every day and unfortunately not all dog owners are responsible and pick up after their animals, that results in a large amount of excrement is left on our streets and within our parks which the Council and other landowners must clear up.
4. In 2022 EFDC received 22 complaints of frequent dog fouling, each complaint related to a different area and build-up of fouling in the district. At the time of writing this report 19 complaints of frequent dog fouling have been received.
5. In September 2022, the Corporation of London made EFDC aware of issues they were having with a professional dog walker who was regularly walking 6 dogs some were not kept on leads. 3 incidents occurred, two were a dog on dog attack the third being 2 dogs attacking a deer. Following these incidents, they had received reports that the dog walker has started to walk the dogs in a different area of EFDC.
6. Agencies such as the Dogs Trust, Pet Industry Federation, The Canine & Feline Sector Group and RSPCA have endorsed a document entitled "Professional Dog Walkers' Guidelines" that recommends that no more than 4 dogs are to be walked simultaneously, and that dog walkers should avoid areas that are heavily populated with children such as playgrounds.
7. Over the last few years media outlets have reported on several incidents relating to out-of-control dogs, these reports range from dog-on-dog attacks or dog on human attacks. On 8th March 2023 the BBC reported that dog attacks are on the increase in England and Wales. Stating that the number of offences of out-of-control dogs



causing injury over the last 5 years has increased by 34%. The graph below is taken from the report and shows the year-on-year increase.

#### Police record 34% rise in dog attacks over 5 years

Number of offences of out-of-control dogs causing injury



Source: Freedom of Information requests • Based on data from 37 forces in England and Wales



8. The Guardian published an article on 4th June 2023, stating “that typically, about 3 people a year die from dog related incidents in England and Wales, but 10 people were killed in 2022. So far in 2023 four people have been killed”.

### Scrutiny Comments

*To be added following Place Scrutiny 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023*

*Please insert where its relevant to the report a paragraph entitled, e.g. “Scrutiny Comments” as above. Any pre-scrutiny and/or consultation undertaken can be included here. It can also be summarised below under “Resource Implications” in the “Consultation / Scrutiny Undertaken” section.*

### Resource Implications:

None, enforcement is within BAU

### Legal and Governance Implications:

A local authority may make a Public Spaces Protection Order if satisfied on reasonable grounds that two conditions are met:

- I. That activities carried on in a public place within the authority’s area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or it is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect, and
- II. that the effect, or likely effect, of the activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature, is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.

There is no prescribed consultation period, it is proposed that the consultation period is for a minimum of 28 days, to allow for the proposal to be properly considered and sufficient time for responses to be made.

A person who fails to comply with any obligation imposed by this order is guilty of a criminal offence by virtue of section 67(1) of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and liable to fine on summary conviction not exceeding level 3 of the standard Scale. Local Authorities are the designated enforcement agency.

The PSPO lasts for 3 years, but at any point before it expires the PSPO can be extended for a further 3 years. A PSPO can be varied at any point, variations are most likely to be made to close any legal loopholes which offenders may be exploiting to avoid enforcement action.

The penalty for breaching a PSPO is a £100 fixed penalty notice or prosecution in the Magistrates Court, although in line with good practice informal and formal warnings will also be used when enforcing the PSPO.

Proposed implementation 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### **Safer, Cleaner and Greener Implications:**

The proposed conditions will enable residents and visitors of EFDC to enjoy a cleaner and safer district while allowing authorised officers to support reasonable dog ownership across the district and to help tackle the minority who are not responsible pet owners/ dog walkers.

### **Consultation / Scrutiny Undertaken:**

Public consultation will take place as required under the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 for a period of 28 days between 16<sup>th</sup> October to 17<sup>th</sup> November. The consultation will be published on the EFDC website as well as direct consultation with all stakeholders, including Town and Parish Councils, PFCC, The Kennel Club and Housing Providers.

The proposed conditions are as follows:

- (i) Fail to remove dog faeces deposited on any publicly accessible land within the district.
- (ii) Fail to put a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer, on any publicly accessible land within the district.
- (iii) Fail to limit the number of dogs which a person may take onto publicly accessible land within the district to four dogs.
- (iv) Fail to produce a receptacle for picking up dog faeces when requested to do so by an authorized officer, while walking a dog on any publicly accessible land within the district.
- (v) Fail to exclude a dog from specified fenced areas within the district.

A notice must be published in at least one local newspaper and at the Council Offices, setting out the proposed PSPO conditions and the date on which the PSPO will come into force. The notice must also specify the period and manner in which objections can be made.

**Background Papers:** [LGA Public Space Protection Orders: Guidance for Councils.](#)

### **Risk Management:**

There is no minimum statutory consultation period, it is proposed that we consult for period to 28 days, to allow for the proposal to be properly considered and sufficient time for responses to be made.

Where objections are received Cabinet will consider concerns raised and determine whether to agree the proposal or modify the proposal.

### **Equality:**

An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out and there was no significant impact, there is a positive impact.

### Report to Place Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: **19<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Portfolio:** Regulatory & Technical Services – Cllr K Williamson

**Subject:** Public Space Protection Order (Debden Broadway) (Antisocial Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014)

**Officer contact for further information:** Melissa Faux: [mfaux@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:mfaux@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)

**Service Director:** Mandy Thompson: [mthompson@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:mthompson@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)

**Democratic Services Officer:**

L Kirman: [DemocraticServices@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:DemocraticServices@eppingforestdc.gov.uk) tel:01992 564243)

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### Recommendations/Decisions Required:

To consider the Cabinet Report: Public Space Protection Order (Debden Broadway) (Antisocial Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014) and comment as required.

### Cabinet Recommendations/Decisions Required:

1. Cabinet agrees a 28-day public consultation on the proposed Public Space Protection Order (PSPO).
2. Cabinet agrees that where no objections are made or a majority of 60% of responses are positive that the proposed PSPO be implemented on the date specified in the public notice.
3. Cabinet agrees that where more than 40% objections are made, it will reconsider the proposal in light of those objections within 2 months of the date specified in the public notice.

### Executive Summary:

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced a variety of powers for local authorities to deal with anti-social behaviour including Public Spaces Protection Orders. PSPO's are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone. The order can be used to deal with likely future problems.

PSPOs are designed to make public spaces more welcoming to the majority of law-abiding people and communities.

### Reasons for Proposed Decision:

The Broadway is a well-used area which consists of both residential and commercial premises. There are several schools and a college in the vicinity of the area. Debden tube station is also in close proximity. It is an area that is used by people for local shopping, restaurants as well as other local amenities.

The Broadway has been highlighted as an area of focus for the Home Office 'ASB hotspot patrols' within the Epping Forest District. ASB hotspots have been introduced as a result of the Prime Ministers new ASB action plan.

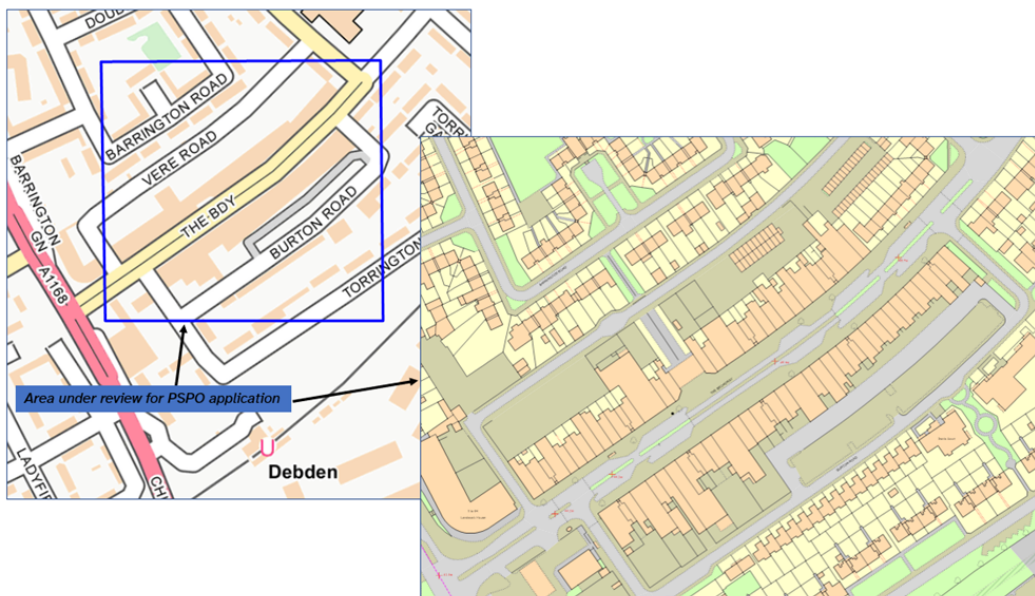
It is proposed to introduce a PSPO thereby providing a safe environment for residents, workers and the community when frequenting The Broadway.

## Other Options for Action:

Not to proceed with the making of the Public Spaces Protection Order.

### Report:

1. The Broadway has been highlighted due to the volume of anti-social behaviour incidents and reports that have been made in the area.
2. The below data has been taken from Essex Police systems. During the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2023, there were 324 ASB incidents reported, and 1273 crimes recorded within the area.
3. During the most recent year (2022 to 2023), there were 61 ASB incidents reported. Over half of the incidents referred to groups of youths causing a nuisance. This involved a variety of acts including noise, smoking cannabis/inhaling nitrous oxide, intimidation and fighting. A further 26% (16) relate to a homeless female causing a nuisance and a male begging outside BP in The Broadway.
4. The map below details the area that the PSPO will relate to:



5. The below table shows the ASB incidents over the last 5 years:

Final Call Type	2018 to 2019	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	Grand Total
NUISANCE	20	19	42	23	30	134
DISTURBANCE	16	7	15	18	17	73
DRUG RELATED INCIDENT	5	9	8	6	3	31
COVID RELATED			24			24
FIREWORK RELATED INCIDENT	2	3	3	3	4	15
INFORMATION	1	3	1	2	1	8
FIGHT	1	2	1	2	1	7
OFFENSIVE WEAPON		2	3	1	1	7
SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES	1		1	2	1	5
ABANDONED VEHICLE	1		1	1		3
ATTENTION TO	1	1	1			3
OBSTRUCTION	2		1			3
TRESPASS		1		1		2
ABANDONED 999 CALL		1				1
ARSON					1	1
HATE CRIME		1				1
MENTAL HEALTH INCIDENT					1	1
PREVENT BREACH OF PEACE		1				1
ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISION		1				1
STALKING				1		1
SUSPECTS MAKING OFF			1			1
THEFT					1	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>324</b>

Table 1 - breakdown of ASB Final Closing Descriptions

Final Call Type	2018 to 2019	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	Grand Total
NUISANCE	19	17	35	20	29	120
NUISANCE NEIGHBOUR		1	3	2	1	7
NUISANCE- VEHICLE	1	1	4			6
NUISANCE DUE TO NOISE				1		1

Table 1a - breakdown of ASB incidents closed as Nuisance

There were 121 ASB incidents reported during the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2023, evenly split over the forementioned two years. 44% (53) were closed as 'nuisance'.

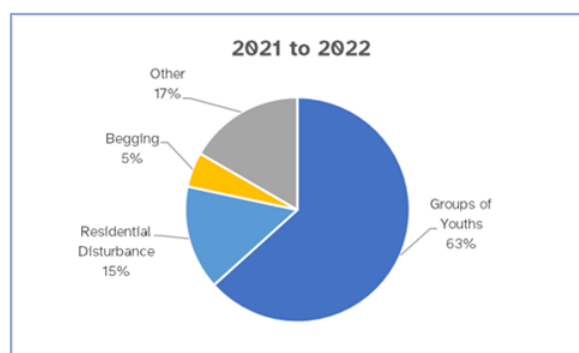


Chart 1 – Categorisation of ASB incidents 2021 to 2022

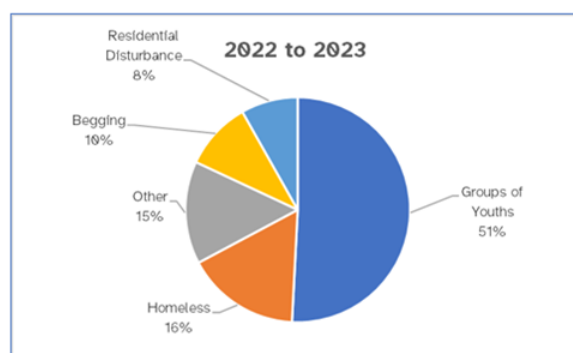


Chart 2 – Categorisation of ASB incidents 2022 to 2023

6. Charts 1 and 2 show the breakdown of ASB incidents. Groups described as 'youths' congregating and causing a nuisance (noise, drug taking, intimidation, fireworks and fighting) accounted for the highest percentage of ASB in both years. In the 2022 to 2023 data, this percentage was slightly lower due to the increase of begging and homeless incidents. There were 10 reports of a homeless female with mental health issues committing ASB on The Broadway between April and November 2022. The Essex Police Athena record now shows this female to have a home address in Waltham Abbey which may be the reason for no further sightings and reports. The six incidents relating to begging involved a male in his 60s asking customers for money outside BP on The Broadway. The last incident within the data was in March 2023 however there may have been further during the period April to July 2023.
7. The category 'other' consists of incidents not covered in the main groupings such as road related nuisance, group of adults congregating, mental health episodes, concern for welfare and fighting
8. Data from Epping Forest District Council system M3 relate to reports received in the location from April 2018- April 2022 is below:

Date	Report
04.2018	Alleged Brothel
06.2018	ASB/Nuis Youth
11.2019	Nuis Youth/ Drug Taking behind shop
11.2019	Nuis Youth/ Drug Taking in stairwell
12.2019	Neighbour Dispute
12.2019	Nuis Youth/ Drug Taking in stairwell
01.2020	Graffiti Brick clamps path
05.2020	General ASB/Nuis Youth
09.2020	Nuis Youth/ Drug Taking brick clamps path
10.2020	ASB/Nuis Youth
10.2020	Nuis Youth/ Drug Taking/Knife
12.2020	Drug Use
02.2021	Alleged Brothel
03.2021	Knife/Colleague Student
03.2021	Offensive Graffiti
05.2021	Assault
05.2021	Youth Nuisance on Balcony
06.2019	Drug Use In garages
07.2021	ASB/Nuis Youth/Weapon

08.2021	Drunken Behaviour
09.2021	General ASB/Nuis Youth
11.2021	Nuis Youth/ Drug Taking in stairwell
11.2021	ASB/Nuis Youth
11.2021	Offensive Graffiti
02.2022	Weapon and Youth Nuisance
02.2022	Youth Nuisance on Balcony
04.2022	Damage to EFDC CCTV
04.2022	General Youth Nuisance
07.2022	Harassment by Neighbour
08.2022	Drug dealing and Vandalism
08.2022	ASB/Nuis Youth
08.2022	Cannabis Odour
09.2022	Youth Nuisance
10.2022	Youth Nuisance on Balcony
10.2022	Youth Nuisance on Balcony
10.2022	General ASB/Nuis Youth
10.2022	Offensive Graffiti
11.2022	Fireworks Incident
11.2022	Cannabis Odour
11.2022	Nuis Youth/ Drug Taking in stairwell
11.2022	Youth Nuisance on Balcony
02.2023	Harassment by Neighbour
02.2023	Nuis Youth/ Drug Taking in stairwell
03.2023	Vandalism
03.2023	Harassment by Neighbour

## Scrutiny Comments

*To be added following Place Scrutiny 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023*

Please insert where its relevant to the report a paragraph entitled, e.g. “Scrutiny Comments” as above. Any pre-scrutiny and/or consultation undertaken can be included here. It can also be summarised below under “Resource Implications” in the “Consultation / Scrutiny Undertaken” section.

### Resource Implications:

None, enforcement is within BAU. The Home Office have provided funding of £45,354.00 to deliver the ASB Action Plan project.

### Legal and Governance Implications:

A local authority may make a Public Spaces Protection Order if satisfied on reasonable grounds that two conditions are met:

- I. That activities carried on in a public place within the authority’s area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or it is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect, and
- II. that the effect, or likely effect, of the activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature, is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.

There is no prescribed consultation period, it is proposed that the consultation period is for a minimum of 28 days, to allow for the proposal to be properly considered and sufficient time for responses to be made.

A person who fails to comply with any obligation imposed by this order is guilty of a criminal offence by virtue of section 67(1) of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and liable to fine on summary conviction not exceeding level 3 of the standard Scale. Local Authorities are the designated enforcement agency.

The PSPO lasts for 3 years, but at any point before it expires the PSPO can be extended for a further 3 years. A PSPO can be varied at any point, variations are most likely to be made to close any legal loopholes which offenders may be exploiting to avoid enforcement action.

The penalty for breaching a PSPO is a £100 fixed penalty notice or prosecution in the Magistrates Court, although in line with good practice informal and formal warnings will also be used when enforcing the PSPO.

Proposed implementation 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

#### **Safer, Cleaner and Greener Implications:**

There have been numerous complaints that relate to the behaviour that would be a contravention of the Order if agreed. If the public spaces protection order is in place, it would allow officers to deal appropriately with the behaviour which will make the area a safer place to live, work and visit.

#### **Consultation / Scrutiny Undertaken:**

Public consultation will take place as required under the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 for a period of 28 days between 16<sup>th</sup> October to 17<sup>th</sup> November. The consultation will be published on the EFDC website as well as direct consultation with all stakeholders, including local businesses and residents within the designated area as well as in the immediate vicinity. The local schools and college will also be consulted. Epping Forest District Council Housing and Essex County Council will be consulted as the landowners.

The proposed conditions are as follows:

- (i) Loitering by persons in council housing blocks and estates (including but not limited to any stairwell, lobby area, and communal balconies) causing nuisance, intimidation, harassment, alarm or distress or using or dealing drugs directly or indirectly causing damage or other ASB. For the purposes of this PSPO the term "loitering" shall include (without prejudice to the generality of its ordinary meaning) the actions of standing sitting, or lingering (i) aimlessly or without an obvious reason; or (ii) for the purpose of begging, drug taking, or drug dealing.
- (ii) Any person in possession of an open vessel(s) of alcohol / intoxicating liquor in a public place
- (iii) Any person sitting or loitering on the highway or any pedestrian area of the Restricted Area demanding or begging or perceived to be begging by an authorised person for money or any other item, whether placing any item before them for receipt of money or otherwise.
- (iv) Any person flyposting (including the unlawful affixing of any placard, notice or sign to street furniture) or any person permitting and / or benefitting from such flyposting.
- (v) Any person using a Skateboard, Bicycle, scooter, skates or any other self-propelled wheeled vehicle in such a manner as to cause damage to property or that causes or is likely to cause intimidation, harassment, alarm, distress, nuisance or annoyance to any person.

A notice must be published in at least one local newspaper and at the Council Offices, setting out the proposed PSPO conditions and the date on which the PSPO will come into force. The notice must also specify the period and manner in which objections can be made.

**Background Papers:** [LGA Public Space Protection Orders: Guidance for Councils.](#)

**Risk Management:**

There is no minimum statutory consultation period, it is proposed that we consult for period to 28 days, to allow for the proposal to be properly considered and sufficient time for responses to be made.

Where objections are received Cabinet will consider concerns raised and determine whether to agree the proposal or modify the proposal.

**Equality:**

An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out and there was low impact and there is a positive impact for residents, visitors and businesses in the area.



## Report to Place Scrutiny Committee

**Date of meeting: 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Portfolio: Contracts, Service Delivery, and Improvements  
(Councillor Ray Balcombe)**

**Subject: Waste Strategy for Essex**

**Officer contact for further information: James Warwick: email: [jwarwick@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:jwarwick@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)  
(01992 564350)**

**Democratic Services Officer:**

L Kirman: email: [DemocraticServices@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:DemocraticServices@eppingforestdc.gov.uk) tel:01992 564243)



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### Recommendations/Decisions Required:

- (1) To note the draft waste strategy for Essex (Appendix 1) and consultation survey (Appendix 2).
- (2) To note and respond to the 10-week public consultation that will take place on the draft waste strategy for Essex.

### Report:

1. The Waste Strategy for Essex sets out the vision and objectives of the Essex Waste Partnership (EWP), which consists of the 12 District/Borough/City and County Council in Essex. It provides a framework detailing how we will manage the waste that is produced by homes and businesses in the county for the next 30 years. The draft strategy has been developed collectively by all 13 councils of the EWP. The draft strategy is a consultative document, no decisions have been made; the EWP wishes to seek the views of others before developing a final strategy.
2. The previous waste strategy for Essex was developed in 2007 and whilst much of it is relevant today, a great deal has changed since then. It is important we refresh and review our plans to ensure we have the right approaches to deliver the best outcomes for Essex.
3. This new strategy, covering the period up to 2055, brings a new focus on how we will deliver an effective, efficient, and sustainable service for the future. Following the Environment Act 2021, national policy and the findings of the Essex Climate Action Commission 2020, the new strategy updates the EWP's approach to reducing the impact that waste management has on climate change. The strategy is research based and sets out the reasons for our approach; the principles of what we will do; and the targets that we will strive to meet.
4. The Waste Strategy for Essex (WSfE) is the first step on delivering better waste outcomes for Essex. It is a high-level general framework for waste. It will help shape services in Essex over the next 30 years to achieve higher performance and more joined up working to deliver a shared vision, targets, and ambitions. The WSfE is a joint strategy for Essex County Council (ECC) and the 12 Borough, City and District Councils and is being jointly developed. The WSfE does not prescribe the adoption of operational services or require partner authorities to make service changes. The WSfE is not a timed or costed action plan for delivery and does not identify

infrastructure requirements.

5. The WSfE's strategic vision is to aspire to be a zero-waste county. By working together, we will reduce waste to protect the environment and conserve resources. Zero waste in Essex means maximising the reuse, recycling, and recovery of resources, rather than treating them as waste. Targets and ambitions are jointly owned rather than needing to be individually achieved.

6. To deliver the overarching strategy vision, the EWP has identified the following priorities:

#### **Move to a Circular Economy:**

- Realise the opportunities arising from the circular economy model that will bring wider benefits to Essex.

#### **Deliver the Waste Hierarchy:**

- Deliver a system that puts waste reduction at its centre.
- Work together to encourage and support reuse and repair initiatives.
- Increase recycling by delivering comprehensive services and supporting residents to recycle as much as possible.
- Use technologies for the treatment of food and non-recyclable waste that aim to minimise the environmental impact of waste and maximise energy and material recovery.

#### **Collaborate and Innovate:**

- Innovate and work collaboratively with each other and with the Government, business, and institutions to create a more sustainable waste system.

#### **Educate and Engage:**

- Listen to residents and deliver information and initiatives to encourage changes in attitudes and behaviour to reduce waste and recycle more.

7. Within the draft WSfE, the EWP propose to adopt the government's national targets as a minimum standard together with stretch ambitions and aspirations to deliver greater change and impact more quickly:

#### **Net Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions:**

- We will contribute to reducing the county's greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

#### **Waste Reduction**

- We will halve the amount of residual waste produced per person by 2042.
- We aim to reduce waste by 10% by 2030.
- We aspire that Essex will be a zero-waste county by 2055.

#### **Recycling**

- We will reuse, recycle, or compost 65% of waste by 2035.
- We aim to reuse, recycle or compost at least 70% of waste by 2030.

## **Waste Disposal**

- We will send no more than 10% of waste to landfill by 2035.
- We aim to send zero waste to landfill by 2030.

## **Collection Services**

- We will ensure that all Essex residents have access to separate food waste collections by 2026.
- We will ensure that all Essex residents have access to comprehensive recycling services for plastic, paper and card, metal, glass, food, and garden waste, by 2026.

8. The proposed WSfE targets have been transposed from the national strategy targets. The principle behind this is that as a minimum Essex (ECC together with the 12 Borough, City and District Councils) should collectively achieve the national targets set for England/UK. Some of these target dates remain in draft as they are dependent on the publication of regulations/Statutory guidance. Stretch targets are ambitions and look to move Essex further and/or faster than national policy. Achieving these targets and ambitions will place Essex as one of the leading waste authorities in the UK and a world class exemplar.

9. The draft WSfE has been developed to align with current and emerging legislation, national policy and local targets and considers climate challenges, deliverability, and behaviour change. The draft WSfE allows the EWP to work together to minimise the impact that waste management has on the environment, whilst offering value for money to the taxpayer. Through this draft WSfE, the members of the EWP will coordinate the design and delivery of services to achieve the vision and aspiration to be a zero-waste county. By working together, we will reduce waste, protect the environment, and conserve resources. By setting ambitious and measurable targets, residents will be able to hold the EWP to account for achieving its aims.

10. In developing this draft WSfE, the EWP has considered a range of research to help inform priorities and to assess deliverability of the vision, targets, and ambitions. The EWP has used national and local research on current attitudes and behaviours towards recycling and considered different approaches to waste management.

11. Essex County Council will facilitate public consultation on the strategy on behalf of all members of the Essex waste partnership. The consultation will be delivered in line with Gunning Principles and HM Government Code of Practice. The Consultation questions will test the level of agreement with vision, proposals, targets, and ambitions through a mix of non-mandatory multiple-choice and free text questions. The consultation will be Online by default with paper versions and supported survey completion available. ECC will support the consultation with robust communications plans. Communications will be augmented with engagement plans for key audiences and special interest groups.

12. Essex County Council will take a report to Cabinet on 12<sup>th</sup> September to seek approval to undertake consultation on the draft joint Waste Strategy for Essex on behalf of the Essex Waste Partnership. Seeking the view of residents, business and local communities on this ambition and approach will ensure a fully rounded and robust final strategy is developed which draws on a wide range of views and expertise.

13. The consultation period will open on Wednesday 13 September 2023 and closes on Wednesday 22 November 2023. Paper copies will be accepted by post for a further five working days, closing on Wednesday 29 November 2023.

14. ECC will appoint an independent organisation to collate and analyse consultation responses and produce a report for publication on Citizen space. The revised version of the draft strategy will be prepared by the Essex Waste Partnership following the consultation process which will then be considered for adoption by ECC. The adoption of a Waste Strategy for Essex will be subject to a separate formal decision which will be taken independently by each Essex Waste Partnership member authority.

**Reason for decision:**

N/A

**Options considered and rejected:**

N/A

**Consultation undertaken:**

10-week public consultation will commence in September facilitated by Essex County Council.

**Resource implications:**

N/A – Consultation is being lead and run by Essex County Council.

**Legal and Governance Implications, Relevant Statutory Powers:**

ECC will take a report to Cabinet on 12<sup>th</sup> September to seek approval to undertake consultation on the draft joint Waste Strategy for Essex on behalf of the Essex Waste Partnership. Seeking the view of residents, business and local communities on this ambition and approach will ensure a fully rounded and robust final strategy is developed which draws on a wide range of views and expertise.

ECC has a statutory responsibility with the Borough, City and District Councils to maintain a joint waste strategy for the management of local authority collected waste. The updated draft strategy allows the EWP to drive significant change to reach ambitious targets and ensure alignment with national policy.

**Corporate Plan Implications:**

N/A

**Background Papers:**

Draft waste strategy for Essex (Appendix 1)  
Consultation survey (Appendix 2)

**Risk Management:**

N/A

**Equality:**

An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out and there was no significant impact.

**Key Decision:** (if required):

N/A

DRAFT

# WASTE STRATEGY



# FOR ESSEX

2024 - 2054

**RETHINKING**  
OUR WASTE

Working together for Essex

Essex County Council,  
Essex District, Borough  
and City Councils

# CONTENTS

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# 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Waste Strategy for Essex sets out the vision and objectives of the Essex Waste Partnership (EWP). It provides a framework detailing how we will manage the waste that is produced by homes and businesses in the county for the next 30 years.

## WHAT IS A WASTE STRATEGY AND WHY DO WE NEED ONE?

The previous waste strategy for Essex was developed in 2007 and while much of it is relevant today, a great deal has changed since then. It is important we refresh and review our plans to ensure we have the right approaches to deliver the best outcomes for Essex.

This new Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) covering the period up to 2054, brings a new focus on how we will deliver an effective, efficient and sustainable service for the future. Following the Environment Act 2021, national policy and the findings of the Essex Climate Action Commission 2020, the new strategy updates the EWP’s approach to reducing the impact that waste management has on climate change. The strategy is research-based and sets out the reasons for our approach, the principles of what we will do and the targets we will strive to meet.



The Essex Waste Partnership is made up of the 12 district, borough and city councils in Essex and the county council. The partnership aims to ensure cost-efficient and sustainable waste management across the county.



## THE ESSEX WASTE PARTNERSHIP’S VISION

### RETHINKING OUR WASTE

We aspire to be a zero-waste county. By working together we will reduce waste to protect the environment and conserve resources.

## OUR STRATEGY



**Zero waste in Essex means maximising the reuse, recycling and recovery of resources, rather than treating them as waste.**

This strategy commits the Essex Waste Partnership to work together to minimise the impact that waste management has on the environment, while offering value for money to the taxpayer. The best way of doing this is through embracing the circular economy. This means minimising our waste, recycling more and rethinking how we will manage the waste that cannot be recycled to conserve resources. Through this strategy the members of the EWP will coordinate the design and delivery of services to achieve the vision, targets and ambitions of this strategy. The EWP will support residents and businesses to reduce their waste and recycle more. The EWP will be an active voice in influencing government and encouraging businesses to adopt this approach. By setting ambitious and measurable targets, residents will be able to hold the partnership to account for achieving our aims.

## OUR PRIORITIES

To deliver our vision, the EWP has identified the following priorities for Essex:

### Move to a circular economy

- Realise the opportunities arising from the circular economy model that will bring wider benefits to Essex.

### Deliver the waste hierarchy

- Deliver a system that puts waste reduction at its centre.
- Work together to encourage and support reuse and repair initiatives.
- Increase recycling by delivering comprehensive services and supporting residents to recycle as much as possible.
- Use technologies for the treatment of food and non-recyclable waste that aim to minimise the environmental impact of waste and maximise energy and material recovery.

### Collaborate and innovate

- Innovate and work collaboratively with each other and with government, business and institutions to create a more sustainable waste system.

### Educate and engage

- Listen to residents and deliver information and initiatives to encourage changes in attitudes and behaviour to reduce waste and recycle more.



## OUR TARGETS, AMBITIONS AND ASPIRATIONS



The targets are things we are committed to doing. They are the government's current national targets and are the minimum we need to achieve.



We would like to go beyond these targets. Therefore we have added further ambitions and aspirations to help us have a bigger impact more quickly.

### Net zero greenhouse gas emissions



We will contribute to reducing the county's greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

### Waste reduction



We will halve the amount of residual waste produced per person by 2042.



We aim to reduce waste by 10% by 2030.



We aspire that Essex will be a zero waste county by 2055.

### Recycling



We will reuse, recycle, or compost 65% of waste by 2035.



We aim to reuse, recycle or compost at least 70% of waste by 2030.

### Waste disposal



We will send no more than 10% of waste to landfill by 2035.



We aim to send zero waste to landfill by 2030.

### Collection Services



We will ensure that all Essex residents have access to separate food waste collections by 2026.



We will ensure that all Essex residents have access to comprehensive recycling services for plastic, paper and card, metal, glass, food and garden waste, by 2026.

The EWP will create plans, publish our progress and regularly review this strategy to ensure it is fit for purpose. The EWP will seek further involvement from residents throughout the life of this strategy.

## 2. WHY DO WE NEED TO ACT?

### RETHINKING OUR WASTE


We aspire to be a zero waste county. By working together we will reduce waste, protect the environment and conserve resources.

In Essex, we need to rethink waste to meet our ambitious targets designed to minimise the environmental impact and cost of waste management.

Several drivers will influence what we need to do:

- climate change
- the circular economy
- we have too much waste
- people and lifestyles
- cost and affordability
- managing what can't be recycled
- government legislation

## NO TIME TO WASTE



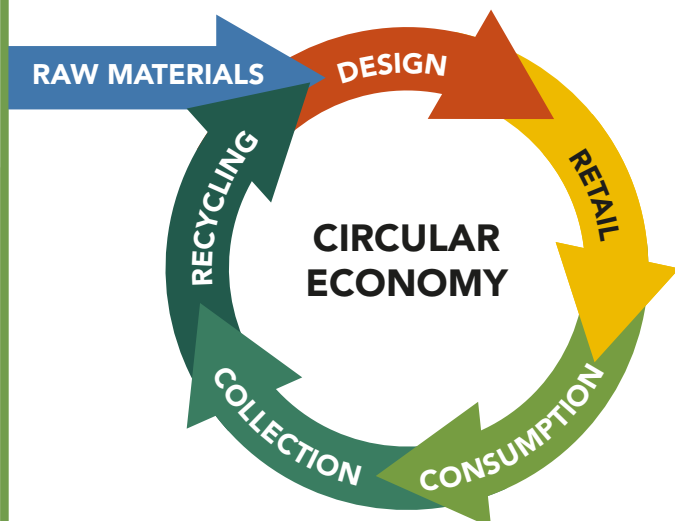
### CLIMATE CHANGE

A significant climate change challenge lies ahead. We need to take action now to address the impacts of climate change and achieve the goal of Essex becoming a net zero county by 2050.

Waste management is a major contributor to climate change and is currently responsible for about 4% of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK. Improving environmental efficiency by making different choices about how we collect and treat waste will help reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions generated. Waste prevention can also deliver benefits by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in other sectors, such as agriculture, transport and manufacturing.

## THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The best way to deliver change is to move towards a circular economy where our finite resources are conserved and used efficiently. Most products are still designed and created using a linear economy model where resources are taken, manufactured, used and disposed of. We have moved into a recycling economy where a proportion of materials are recycled but not retained at their highest quality.



The transition to a circular economy requires us all to rethink how resources are valued and managed. The model relies on designing products that are durable, easy to maintain and repair. This encourages and enables individuals to reuse products many times. Finally, products should be designed to enable straightforward recycling when they can no longer be reused or repaired.

## WE HAVE TOO MUCH WASTE

Despite improvements to recycling services and greater awareness about the need to reduce, reuse and recycle we still produce too much waste. Although we have increased the proportion of waste recycled from 21% in 2000/01 to 52% in 2020/21 this has plateaued over recent years and in some areas is falling. We also continue to produce more waste than other areas in the country. A significant change is needed to achieve our targets. Although we need to recycle more, we also need to address the problem that we create too much waste.

To read more about where we are now, visit [Appendix 1: Current performance summary and key data](#)



## PEOPLE AND LIFESTYLES

Residents have told us they are becoming more concerned about climate change and the environment. They want to see real change from businesses to help them reduce their waste.

An increasing number of smaller properties and flats – with limited space and facilities for recycling – will require us to consider the future design of waste collection services.

Multi-generational living and an ageing population may also impact both waste collection and the types of waste we need to manage. Overall, the population in Essex is forecast to grow by 6% from around 1.5 million to 1.6 million. Higher population levels equal greater amounts of waste produced and disposed of in the county.

It is important that waste services respond to these trends and changing attitudes and behaviours, so we can deliver improvements in the way we manage waste.



## COST AND AFFORDABILITY

If we avoid producing waste altogether or recycle it, it is much cheaper than trying to treat or dispose of it. Waste generated by Essex residents costs the taxpayer more than £130 million a year. Without changing how we operate, waste management will cost more in future. All council budgets are facing significant pressures and this compels us to look at what we do and to consider whether we should do things differently.

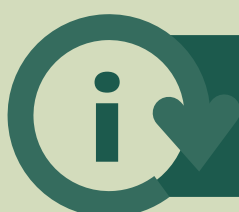




## MANAGING WHAT CAN'T BE RECYCLED

Essex still relies too heavily on landfill as the main method for disposing of waste. In 2022 we sent around 350,000 tonnes of residents' waste to landfill.

Even if we achieve our reduction and recycling targets, we will still have large amounts of non-recyclable waste. It is important we have a suitable approach for this. Landfill is the least preferred option and we must act now to ensure that the impact of waste disposal is minimised for future generations.



**350,000 tonnes of residents' waste is taken to landfill sites per year – that's almost as heavy as the Empire State building in New York.**

## GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

In recent years, the government has introduced new policy and legislation, the most important being the Environment Act 2021, to guide the management of waste and help us realise the benefits of a circular economy. Although these measures will take time to be fully embedded – and further changes are expected – they will change the type and amount of waste we manage and place new requirements on councils and businesses.

The government's legislative and policy changes will help the UK transition to a more circular economy by:

- encouraging residents to reduce and recycle their waste
- incentivising businesses that use packaging to design out waste and take greater responsibility for the environmental impact of their packaging
- promoting closed-loop recycling

To read more about relevant policy and legislation, visit **Appendix 4: Summary of national policy & legislation**



# 3. WHAT DOES OUR RESEARCH TELL US?

To develop this draft strategy, the Essex Waste Partnership (EWP) has considered a range of research to help inform our priorities and to test the deliverability of our vision, targets and ambitions.

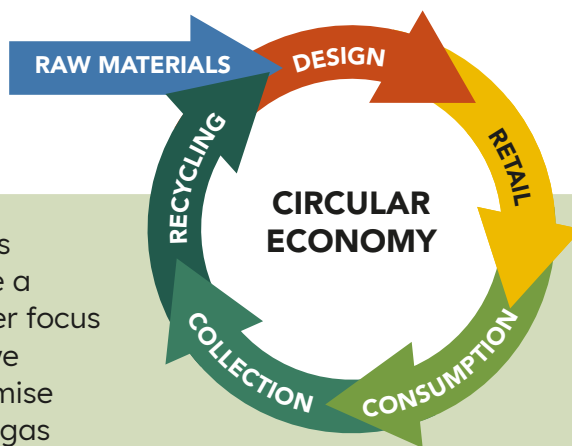
## TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges we face, both globally and locally. The Climate Change Committee (CCC), an independent body that advises government and the Essex Climate Action Commission (ECAC) agree that changing waste management approaches can have a significant impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



The CCC report can be found at: [www.theccc.org.uk](http://www.theccc.org.uk)

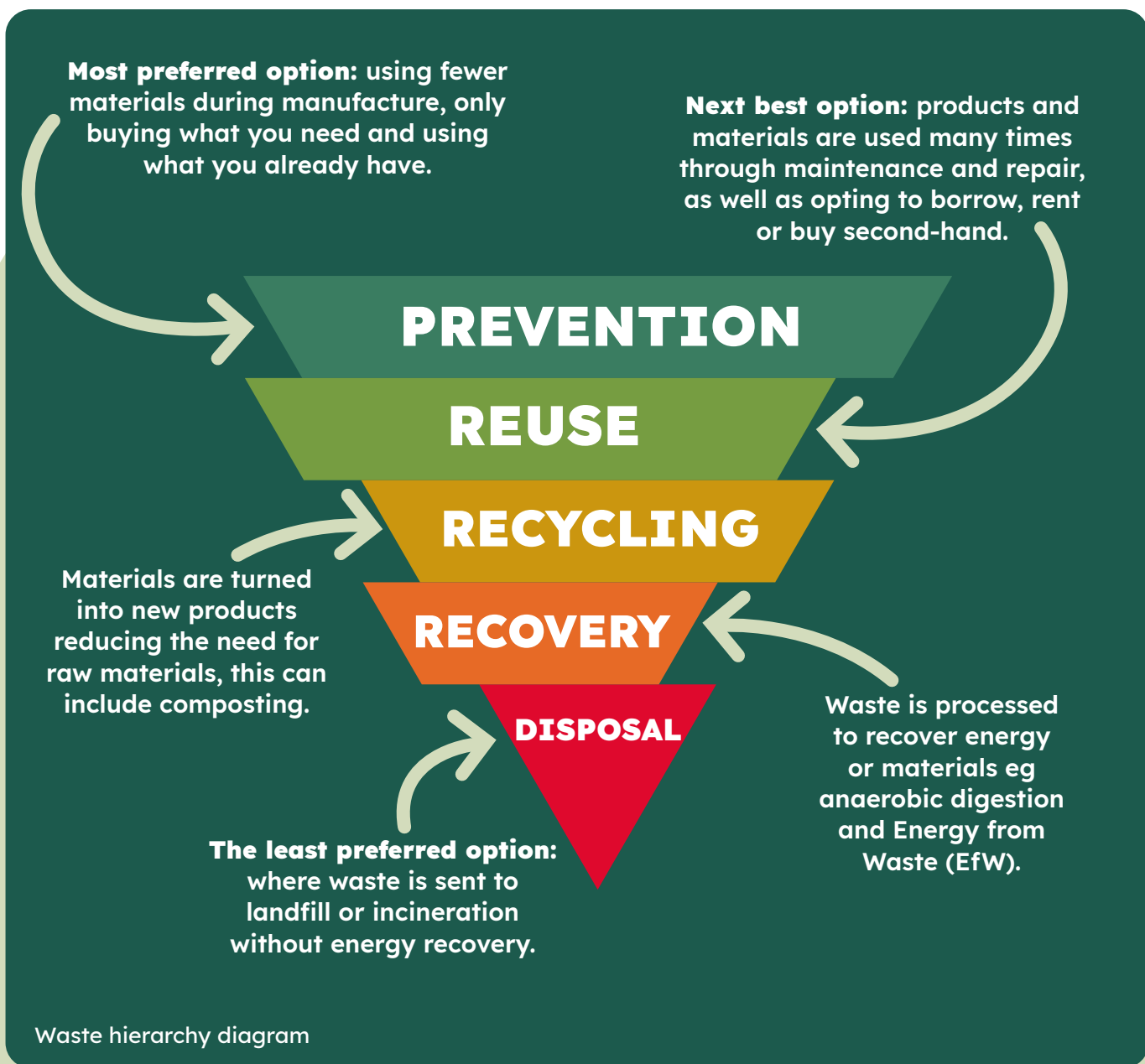
The ECAC Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral Report, includes several policy statements on how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the waste sector. [www.essexclimate.org.uk/reports](http://www.essexclimate.org.uk/reports)



The EWP has reviewed these reports and recognises that reducing greenhouse gas emissions will require a transformational approach in waste. A much greater focus is needed on delivering a circular economy where we use resources efficiently, minimise waste and maximise recycling. These studies also recognise greenhouse gas emissions are impacted by the composition of waste and the type of waste treatment used. It is important that we send less waste to disposal, phase out the use of landfill and reduce the amount of biodegradable and plastic waste sent for recovery and disposal. The use of Energy from Waste (EfW) to treat residual waste will be required. Energy from Waste is a recovery process that takes residual waste and turns it into electricity. However, these facilities need to be correctly and flexibly sized, efficient and designed with emerging technologies in mind, to ensure we further reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve efficiency in the future.

## THE WASTE HIERARCHY

We are committed to managing waste in an efficient way that reduces the environmental impacts. The waste hierarchy is a legal framework that ranks waste management options according to what is better for the environment. The waste hierarchy ranks waste prevention as having the least impact and disposal having the most. In line with the waste hierarchy, products and materials should be kept in use, recycled when they are no longer useable and only sent for recovery or disposal as a last resort.



Adopting the waste hierarchy will ensure we take the correct decisions about waste and the services we develop.

Reducing waste through prevention and increasing reuse and recycling will bring benefits to environmental sustainability by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, through economic opportunities and efficient, value-for-money service delivery.

## BEHAVIOUR CHANGE INSIGHT

We have used national and local research on current attitudes and behaviours towards recycling and waste to inform our priorities, targets and ambitions.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) Recycling Tracker Report (Autumn 2022) available at [www.wrap.org.uk/resources/report/recycling-tracker-report-autumn-2022](http://www.wrap.org.uk/resources/report/recycling-tracker-report-autumn-2022) provides insights through an annual survey of UK recycling attitudes, knowledge and behaviour. The research shows that recycling is a day-to-day activity for most citizens. However, opportunities are missed to recycle common items and many people place items in the recycling that are not accepted. Better communications help to increase correct use of recycling services.



In 2022, the EWP commissioned research on Essex residents’ attitudes and behaviours to waste and recycling, prevention and reuse. The findings showed that the impact of waste on the environment is not fully understood. Many residents find reducing their waste difficult and want to see real change from businesses and the wider economy – for example, to change the amount of packaging used. However, almost all residents told us they had recently engaged in some form of reuse or repair, often using online marketplaces. Using the waste hierarchy to explain the priorities for waste reduction, recycling and recovery – and clearly stating the environmental impact of waste and benefits of waste reduction – will be important to future information and education programmes.

For full details of the research undertaken by the EWP, “Resident attitudes towards waste and recycling” visit [Appendix 9](#).

SMALL  
CHANGES,  
**BIG  
DIFFERENCE**





## SYSTEMS MODELLING

The EWP has completed systems modelling activity to look at the type and volume of waste currently in Essex, how this may change in the future and different ways of managing waste. The systems modelling has examined waste collection and disposal methods and the environmental and cost implications of alternative scenarios.

The systems modelling shows that although the EWP’s draft strategy is ambitious, the targets are achievable. Further opportunities exist in Essex to reduce waste and recycle more, providing residents and business are fully engaged and services are well designed. However, the systems modelling shows non-recyclable waste will continue to be produced. The methods for dealing with non-recyclable waste are limited and landfill is not a viable long-term solution.

This systems modelling has helped to inform the priorities, targets and ambitions within the draft strategy. We will need to undertake further detailed work as part of any future service design changes and decision making.

Further details of the systems modelling undertaken by the partnership can be found at **Appendix 5: Executive Summary of Technical Options** and **Appendix 6: Full report on Technical Options**

The partnership has undertaken a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on this strategy. The purpose of a SEA is to evaluate the likely effects of a strategy to ensure environmental considerations are incorporated into planning and decision making. Our approach to the SEA process can be found at **Appendix 7: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report** and **Appendix 8: Strategic Environmental Report (SEA) - Full report**.



## RESEARCH FINDINGS

The key findings of our research and analysis are that:

- although our targets and ambitions are challenging, they can be achieved if councils, residents and businesses all play their part
- following the waste hierarchy and embracing a circular economy is the best approach to minimise the environmental impact of managing Essex’s waste
- supporting residents and businesses to reduce and reuse is essential to achieving our environmental ambitions and tackling rising costs
- collecting a comprehensive range of recyclables from all households is necessary if we are to reach our recycling targets and that these services should be accessible for residents and enable the collection of high-quality materials for recycling
- offering a comprehensive range of recycling services to businesses will be necessary to reduce the environmental impact of business waste in Essex
- recycling garden waste into compost and recovering energy and materials from unavoidable food waste, is the best approach for these material streams
- although we can recycle more, we cannot recycle everything
- some non-recyclable waste will persist and this has the biggest impact on the environment, as well as costing the most to deal with
- we need to design our future waste collection services to reduce the amount of non-recyclable waste
- landfill is not a long-term option for non-recyclable waste – being environmentally the worst option and likely to continue to cost more than other waste management options
- once we have reduced, reused and recycled all we can, using Energy from Waste (EfW) with heat capture to recover energy is likely to be the best remaining option for what is left
- taking opportunities to decarbonise waste management operations and treatment technologies will further reduce the climate impact of managing Essex’s waste

New research and best practice will emerge over time and the EWP will carry out further research in future reviews of this strategy and the planning that will sit alongside it.

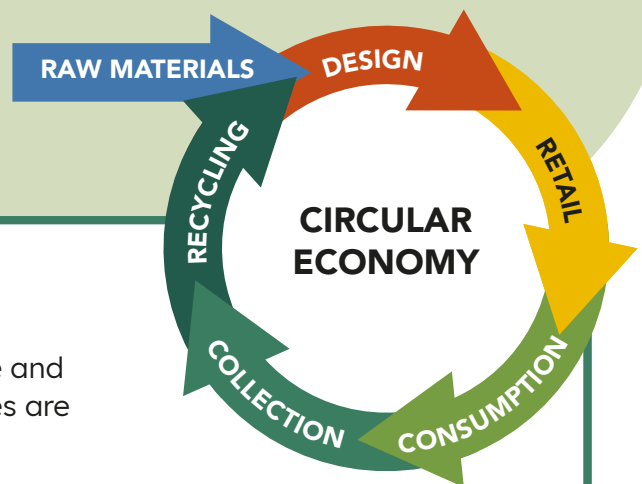


## 4. WHAT IS OUR APPROACH?

Our approach to addressing the waste management challenge and to achieve the vision, targets and ambitions of the Essex Waste Partnership (EWP) is built upon:

- supporting the move to a circular economy
- services that deliver the waste hierarchy
- driving down cost and environmental impacts
- partnership working to maximise the impact of our work
- supporting residents to reduce their waste and recycle more

The EWP is committed to continuously reviewing good practice to inform our approach and publishing our plans, progress and performance.



### MOVE TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The best way to deliver change is to rethink our waste and embrace a circular economy where our finite resources are conserved and used efficiently.

There are clear environmental benefits from reducing waste during manufacture and by designing products that are easy to repair and recycle. The transition to a circular economy can also deliver opportunities for green growth and jobs.

**Realise the opportunities arising from the circular economy model that will bring wider benefits to Essex.**

To deliver this priority, the EWP will:

- encourage the growth of the green business sector and jobs in Essex to deal with waste in innovative ways
- support businesses to adopt circular economy principles and practices
- integrate the principles of the circular economy in council strategies and policies
- support communities to reduce their waste and reuse and repair more
- design services that increase closed-loop recycling where waste is collected and recycled to make the same type of product

## DELIVER THE WASTE HIERARCHY

The best environmental approach to waste management is to apply the principles of the waste hierarchy. When designing services and making decisions, the EWP will apply the waste hierarchy prioritising waste prevention and minimising disposal. Applying the waste hierarchy will help us achieve our vision of a zero-waste county.

### PREVENTION

**The preferred option on the waste hierarchy is to prevent waste being produced in the first place.**

**Deliver a system that puts waste reduction at its centre.**

Businesses can help by reducing the amount of packaging used in products and services to improve circularity and increase reuse of products and materials.

Residents can help by only buying what they need and reusing what they already have.

To deliver this priority, the EWP will:

- develop and deliver information and activities to help and inspire residents to reduce their waste
- design future waste collection services to encourage residents to reduce their waste
- work with government to seek stronger legislation and regulation to hold businesses to account
- support local businesses that operate sustainably or encourage waste reduction



#### Case study:

Through microgrants and promotional activity, we have supported local organisations, individuals and schools with projects that create or inspire a reduction in household waste. Refill shops, clothes swaps and repair services across the county are just some of the activities that have received support. These initiatives help and inspire people and communities to reduce their waste and be more sustainable.



## REUSE

The next best option is to reuse products as much as possible.

**Work together to encourage and support reuse and repair initiatives.**

Businesses can help by designing products that are durable, easy to maintain and repair.

Residents can help by using repair services, borrowing rather than buying and renting or buying second-hand.

To deliver this priority, the EWP will:

- support business to deliver reuse and repair services
- support communities to deliver local reuse and repair initiatives
- develop and deliver information and activities to help and inspire residents to reuse and repair more
- support sharing platforms that promote reuse
- develop enhanced reuse services through Essex County Council’s network of recycling centres
- lobby government to accelerate a repair and reuse culture within business



### Case study:

The Essex Waste Partnership has funded and promoted the provision of a free-to-use online platform for reuse that enables residents to give and get items for free. With nearly 90,000 members in Essex, this initiative helped households swap 14,000 items in 2022-23.





## RECYCLING

If waste cannot be prevented or products and materials reused, then turning materials into new products by recycling is the next option on the waste hierarchy.

**Increase recycling by delivering comprehensive services and supporting residents to recycle as much as possible.**

Businesses can help by designing products and packaging using materials that can be easily recycled and by providing community collection points and return initiatives.

Residents can help by making full use of the recycling services provided at home, in community collection points, out and about and at recycling centres.



To deliver this priority, the EWP will:

- provide collection services, recycling centres and local community recycling facilities that deliver high quality material for recycling
- ensure that all Essex residents have access to separate food waste collections
- ensure that all Essex residents have access to frequent and comprehensive services for recycling plastic, paper and cardboard, metal, glass, food and composting garden waste
- continue to explore extending the range of materials that can be collected for recycling
- ensure residents have the right information to recycle as much as possible
- continue to support home composting

### Case study:

In January 2023 Maldon District Council launched a pilot for the collection of plastic bags and wrapping as part of normal recycling collections. Plastics such as plastic bags, confectionary wrappers, foil-lined packaging, plastic film, bubble wrap, pet food pouches and more will be collected from approximately 6,500 households. If successful, the service will expand to all residents in the district by 2025. This trial will help make recycling plastic bags and wrapping more convenient, increase the amount of plastic packaging recycled and reduce the amount of plastics going to landfill.



## RECOVERY

The waste hierarchy shows that if we can't prevent, reuse or recycle, then recovery of energy and materials from the waste is preferable to disposal. By rethinking our waste and recovering energy, we can ensure that the climate impact of managing food and non-recyclable waste is minimised and reduce our reliance on disposal by landfill.

**Use technologies for the treatment of food and non-recyclable waste that aim to minimise the environmental impact of waste and maximise energy and material recovery.**

To deliver this priority, the EWP will:

- reduce our reliance on disposal by landfill
- use anaerobic digestion as the most viable technology for the treatment of unavoidable food waste to recover energy and fertiliser
- use Energy from Waste (EfW) as the most viable technology for the treatment of residual waste to recover energy and materials
- aim to capture and use heat from Energy from Waste (EfW) facilities to improve the efficiency of treatment facilities for residual waste
- continue exploring new technologies to improve the efficiency of treatment facilities, such as carbon capture, utilisation and storage
- continue working to reduce the amount of plastic material in residual waste



### Energy from Waste (EfW)

Energy from Waste is a recovery process that takes residual waste and turns it into electricity. Capturing and using the heat generated significantly increases the overall efficiency of the process and the environmental benefits.

### Case study:

If you recycle food waste in your kitchen caddy, we send it to anaerobic digestion plants. Recycling food creates renewable energy for homes and businesses and fertiliser for agriculture. Food recycling also eliminates greenhouse gas emissions released by food waste in landfill.



## Collaborate and innovate

The partnership will look beyond the operation of collection and treatment services to identify innovative opportunities to reduce waste, recycle more and reduce the environmental impact of waste management. We can achieve more when we work together and in partnership with others, learning from each other and trying new things.

**Innovate and work collaboratively with each other and with government, business and institutions to create a more sustainable waste system.**

To deliver this priority, the EWP will:

- work to reduce the carbon impact of waste operations by increasing use of alternative fuels for our vehicles and equipment and making waste transport routes as efficient as possible
- work together to make the network of recycling centres, waste transfer stations and depots as efficient as possible
- explore carbon capture, utilisation and storage, and carbon offsetting to mitigate unavoidable greenhouse gas emissions
- stay abreast of innovation, trends and examples of best practice to shape service design
- work together and maximise opportunities to increase recycling in public spaces and reduce litter
- be an active voice striving to shape government policy, legislation and regulation through engagement, consultations and lobbying
- work together to develop opportunities for employment, environmental benefit and reduced costs



## Case study:

In 2023, the partnership is working together to tackle food waste. Roughly 25% of waste thrown away in the general rubbish bin is food. Throwing away food that could have been eaten adds £60 a month to the average food shopping bill. Not only is this a waste of money but it also damages the environment. Funded and delivered by the partnership, households in Essex will receive support to reduce food waste and recycle more.

Through the year-long Love Essex, Love Food campaign, the partnership is providing ideas and inspiration to help residents reduce food waste at home. By replacing lost food caddies, providing a roll of free caddy liners and providing information and tips, the partnership aims to increase the proportion of food waste recycled. We have also secured long-term treatment options for separately collected food recycling, so we can generate renewable energy from this waste.



## Educate and engage

Supporting residents with information and education that inspires changes in attitudes and adoption of new behaviours is essential to achieving our vision for a zero-waste county.

**Listen to residents and deliver information and initiatives that encourage changes in attitudes and behaviour to reduce waste and recycle more.**

To deliver this priority, the EWP will:

- engage regularly with residents to understand barriers, improve service design and increase participation in waste prevention and recycling services
- examine the composition of recycling and waste to identify which initiatives to target and how to better design services
- provide service information and develop and deliver a programme of activities and education to embed waste as an environmental issue and inspire residents to make changes



### Case study:

The Love Essex brand created for the Essex Waste Partnership enables the partner councils to deliver better results for residents through cost effective campaigns and services. With consistent messages, the Love Essex campaigns and services inspire behaviour change with the goal of reducing waste, recycling more and making Essex a better place to live.



## RESEARCH, PLAN AND PERFORMANCE MONITOR



The targets are things we are committed to doing. They are the government's current national targets and are the minimum we need to achieve.



We would like to go beyond these targets. Therefore we have added further ambitions and aspirations to help us have a bigger impact more quickly.

### Net zero greenhouse gas emissions



We will contribute to reducing the county's greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

### Waste reduction



We will halve the amount of residual waste produced per person by 2042.



We aim to reduce waste by 10% by 2030.



We aspire that Essex will be a zero waste county by 2055.

### Recycling



We will reuse, recycle, or compost 65% of waste by 2035.



We aim to reuse, recycle or compost at least 70% of waste by 2030.

### Waste disposal



We will send no more than 10% of waste to landfill by 2035.



We aim to send zero waste to landfill by 2030.

### Collection Services



We will ensure that all Essex residents have access to separate food waste collections by 2026.



We will ensure that all Essex residents have access to comprehensive recycling services for plastic, paper and card, metal, glass, food and garden waste, by 2026.

We know our targets and goals are ambitious and we expect our progress towards achieving them to fluctuate and to take time to accelerate. However, we want residents to be able to hold the partnership to account for achieving our aims, therefore we will:

- create action plans to set out clear milestones and pathways to delivering our vision, targets and ambitions
- adopt best practice indicators to monitor performance and track progress
- review and publish performance and progress annually against the vision, targets and ambitions of this strategy

We recognise things will change during the life of this strategy. New national policies and legislation will arise. Waste composition and the volume of our waste will be different. New technologies will emerge and our attitudes to waste will change. As a result, this strategy and the services and initiatives delivered by the EWP should be updated to reflect this.

The EWP will seek further involvement from residents throughout the life of this strategy. The EWP will comprehensively review this strategy every five years to ensure we are aligned with any changes in national policy and legislation, trends in waste generation and the development of new approaches and technologies.



## 5. CONSULTATION AND NEXT STEPS

This document is a draft version of the Waste Strategy for Essex 2024-2054.

On behalf of the Essex Waste Partnership (EWP), Essex County Council is facilitating a consultation asking for views and feedback from residents, communities, businesses and councils that use the services or are affected by the proposals in this strategy.

### WHAT IS A CONSULTATION?

Consultations are a way for you to tell us your views about a proposed project or change to services. Public participation is very important to how we develop our services, projects and policies. Feedback is carefully considered and can have a big effect on the direction we take.

This consultation on the draft Waste Strategy for Essex 2024-2054 and The Strategic Environmental Assessment is carried out in line with the best practice guidelines from the Consultation Institute (see The Consultation Charter at [www.consultationinstitute.org](http://www.consultationinstitute.org)) and the Gunning Principles at [www.local.gov.uk](http://www.local.gov.uk).

Visit [www.consultations.essex.gov.uk/rci/waste-strategy-for-essex-consultation](http://www.consultations.essex.gov.uk/rci/waste-strategy-for-essex-consultation) where you will find the draft strategy documents and the Public Consultation Questionnaire. You can also read copies in your local library. The questionnaire is available for 10 weeks. If you wish to request another format of the strategy and questionnaire, please email [wastestrategyforessex@essex.gov.uk](mailto:wastestrategyforessex@essex.gov.uk) or call 0345 603 7625.

**The consultation period will open on 13 September and closes on 22 November 2023. Paper copies will be accepted via post for a further five days, closing on 29 November 2023.**

### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

A summary report of the consultation feedback will be published on Citizen Space after consultation is complete and responses have been analysed.

The feedback obtained from responses to the Public Consultation Questionnaire and other consultation mechanisms will be used to develop and publish a final version of the Waste Strategy for Essex and Strategic Environmental Assessment. The councils in the EWP will take local decisions on adoption of the final version of the strategy.

The Waste Strategy for Essex will act as a framework for waste management in Essex informing the design of local collection services and disposal arrangements. Collection arrangements will continue to be managed by district, borough and city councils in a way that is appropriate to their residents and communities. The EWP will seek further involvement from residents throughout the life of this strategy.

## 6. GLOSSARY

### **Anaerobic digestion (AD)**

A process where biodegradable material (typically food) is enclosed in a container and the oxygen is removed, which encourages the material to break down. The process produces biogas, a renewable energy which can be used to generate heat and electricity and it can produce solids/liquid known as digestate which can be used as fertiliser and compost.

### **Carbon capture, utilisation and storage**

Carbon capture, utilisation and storage is a technology to prevent carbon emissions produced by industrial activity being released into the atmosphere. Carbon captured is either stored deep underground where it cannot enter the atmosphere, or used in other industrial processes.

### **Carbon offsetting**

Carbon offsetting can help individuals and organisations to compensate for any emissions they cannot avoid or reduce by paying for an equivalent amount of emissions to be reduced or removed elsewhere.

### **Circular economy**

A circular economy is an economic system designed with the intention that maximum use is extracted from resources and minimum waste is generated for disposal.

### **Climate change**

Climate change refers to a change in the state of the climate, causing changes in weather patterns on a global scale and for an extended period. Effects include changes in rainfall patterns, sea level rise, potential droughts, habitat loss and heat stress.

### **Closed-loop recycling**

Closed-loop recycling is a process where waste is collected and recycled to make the same type of product. For example, glass bottles can be remade into more glass bottles.

### **Composting (windrow)**

Shredded waste is placed in elongated heaps, called windrows, normally outdoors. The windrows are turned mechanically periodically to push air into the composting waste. The process takes at least 16 weeks. At the end, the compost weighs around half of the original waste and is distributed for agricultural and domestic use.

### **Decarbonisation**

Decarbonisation is the term used for removal or reduction of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) output into the atmosphere. We achieve decarbonisation by switching to low carbon energy sources derived from fossil fuels.

### **DEFRA – Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

The government department responsible for the environment, food and rural affairs. DEFRA's remit within the environment includes waste management.

### **Energy from Waste (EfW) with heat capture**

Energy from Waste is a recovery process that takes residual waste and turns it into electricity. Capturing and using the heat generated significantly increases the overall efficiency of the process and the environmental benefits.

## Essex Waste Partnership (EWP)

A partnership comprising all 12 district, borough and city councils and the county council in Essex (see **Appendix 12: Essex Waste Partnership Terms of Reference**). The partnership was set up to ensure cost-efficient and sustainable waste management across the county.

## Fossil fuels

Fuels such as coal, petroleum and natural gas, which contain carbon and release energy in combustion.

## Greenhouse gas

Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere and contribute to climate change. This causes the greenhouse effect. Water vapour, carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, methane and ozone are the primary greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

## Home composting

The manufacture of compost material at home (from the breakdown of food and garden waste) using a compost heap, a purpose-made container or a wormery.

## Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS)

A JMWMS is a joint strategy which sets out how county, district, borough and city councils will work together to manage waste. It is a legal requirement under the Waste Emissions and Trading Act 2003.

## Landfill or landfill sites

Land in which waste is deposited, often disused quarries.

## Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW)

Local Authority Collected Waste is household waste and any other waste that is collected for treatment and disposal by a local authority. LACW comprises of waste from households, recycling centres for household waste, street sweepings and local authority-collected commercial waste.

## Non-recyclable waste

Materials that are not collected for recycling at kerbside, recycling centres, through take back schemes or at community collection points.

## Procurement

The process of buying goods, works and services from third parties and in-house providers. This refers to all stages of the process from identifying what is needed, to the end of a service contract or the end of the useful life of an asset.

## Recovery

In recovery, a waste treatment process is used to recover energy and new raw materials from the waste. Recovery waste treatment processes include anaerobic digestion and Energy from Waste (EfW).

## Recycling

The reprocessing of waste materials into the same products or different ones.

## Residual waste

Waste that is not reused, recycled, composted or anaerobically digested.

## Resources

Materials that can be used to create products. Resources can be virgin materials or secondary raw materials.

## Reuse

In the commercial sector - using products designed to be used many times, such as reuseable packaging.

In homes, reuse includes buying products that use refillable containers or reuse plastic bags. It contributes to sustainable development and can save raw materials, energy and transport costs.

## **SEA – Strategic Environmental Assessment**

SEA is the environmental assessment of plans, programmes, or strategies. It seeks to provide high level protection for the environment; integrate the environment and sustainable development into planning processes; promote sustainable development; and promote a more open, transparent and evidence-based planning culture.

## **Waste hierarchy**

The waste hierarchy sets out the order in which options for waste management should be considered based on environmental impact. It is a legal framework that has become a cornerstone of sustainable waste management.

## **Waste reduction (waste prevention)**

Action to prevent waste being produced to reduce or minimise the amount of waste requiring final disposal. Minimising waste saves on collection and disposal costs and helps to reduce the demand for raw materials.

## **Waste treatment**

The mechanical, chemical, thermal or biological processing of certain wastes to make them harmless, reduce volumes before landfilling or recycle them.

## **Zero waste**

Zero waste means minimising the population's demand on primary resources and maximising the reuse, recycling and recovery of resources, rather than treating them as waste.



This information is issued by:  
Essex County Council (on behalf of Essex Waste Partnership)  
Recycling and Waste

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Published September 2023

## WORKING TOGETHER FOR ESSEX





# WASTE STRATEGY FOR ESSEX

## CONSULTATION SURVEY

### Why Your Views Matter

We want to know what you think to help us make sure we get things right for the future management of waste in Essex and understand what our strategy means for residents of Essex.

This is an opportunity for you to have your say on the draft strategy and Strategic Environmental Assessment. We want to understand whether you think the vision, priorities, targets and ambitions in the strategy are the right ones. We want to know if there is anything else you think we should consider.

We will review all the feedback we receive. Each response will help to shape the final version of the Waste Strategy for Essex.

We want to ensure that everyone who wants to have their say is able to do so. If you would like a large print version of this document, a paper copy, or to discuss alternative options, please contact 0345 6037625 or email [wastestrategyforessex@essex.gov.uk](mailto:wastestrategyforessex@essex.gov.uk).

### Data protection

Essex County Council is facilitating this consultation on behalf of the Essex Waste Partnership. Essex County Council fully complies with information legislation. If you would like the full details of how we use personal data, and the rights you have about its use, please go to [www.essex.gov.uk/privacy-adults](http://www.essex.gov.uk/privacy-adults) or call 03457 430430.

### Taking Part

You can fill in our online feedback form at:  
[www.consultations.essex.gov.uk/rci/waste-strategy-for-essex-consultation](http://www.consultations.essex.gov.uk/rci/waste-strategy-for-essex-consultation)

You can send back a paper feedback form to: Freepost RTKH-XUBZ-CJZS, Essex County Council, Waste Strategy for Essex, County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH. However, if you want to help the council save money, please use a stamp, and send to this address: Waste Strategy for Essex, Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH. You may wish to keep a copy of your response to our consultation for your own records.

The consultation period will open on **Wednesday 13 September 2023** and closes on **Wednesday 22 November 2023**. Paper copies will be accepted by post for a further five working days, closing on Wednesday 29 November 2023.

Your opinions are valuable to us. Thank you for taking the time to read this and respond. Please ignore any questions that you do not wish to answer.

# WASTE STRATEGY FOR ESSEX

## CONSULTATION SURVEY

**1. Are you completing the consultation**

- as an individual                       on behalf of an organisation (please state below)

**2. If you are responding as an individual, which of the following best describes you?**

Then continue from Question 8

- private citizen                       an elected councillor or office holder  
 other

**If you are responding on behalf of an organisation:**

**3. Please select which organisation type (Please select only one item)**

- Town or parish council     Registered charity                       Community group  
 Special interest group (please specify)                       Private business  
 Public service organisation (e.g. Police, NHS)                       Other (please specify)

**4. Does your organisation primarily work with or represent people from any of these groups?**

- Older people                       Children/ young people                       Disabled people  
 Pregnant people and new mothers                       Black and ethnic minority people                       Religious or faith communities  
 Transgender people                       Women                       Men  
 Lesbian, gay or bisexual people                       Other (please specify)

**5. Which district(s), borough(s) or city does your organisation cover? Please tick all that apply**

- Basildon                       Colchester                       Tendring  
 Braintree                       Epping Forest                       Uttlesford  
 Brentwood                       Harlow                       Southend  
 Castle Point                       Maldon                       Thurrock  
 Chelmsford                       Rochford                       Another neighbouring county  
 Other (please state)                       Prefer not to say

**6. What is the name of your organisation?**

**7. Please provide an email address for your organisation:**

# Our Vision

To help us move towards our net zero targets, the partnership has drafted a vision for the future:

*We aspire to be a zero waste county. By working together we will reduce waste, protect the environment and conserve resources.*

Achieving zero waste in Essex means reusing and recycling as much as possible, and recovering as many resources as possible from the waste that remains.

## What is the Essex Waste Partnership?

A partnership comprising all 12 district, borough and city councils and the county council in Essex (see appendix 13). The partnership was set up to ensure cost-efficient and sustainable waste management across the county.

**Net Zero** means a state where there is a balance between the amount of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere by a human activity, and the amount which is removed. A commitment to net-zero carbon is associated with a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to achieve this balance.

**Resources** means materials that can be used to create products. Resources can be virgin materials or secondary raw materials.

**Recovery** means a waste treatment process that is used to recover energy and new raw materials from the waste. Recovery waste treatment processes include anaerobic digestion and Energy from Waste (EfW).

## 8. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this vision statement for the Waste Strategy for Essex?

Strongly  
Disagree

Mostly  
Disagree

Not sure

Mostly  
Agree

Strongly  
Agree

## 9. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about the vision?

## Our Targets

We believe we should, as a minimum, commit to achieving national waste targets set by the government. Therefore, our proposed targets are:

### Net zero greenhouse gas emissions

We will contribute to reducing the county's greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050

### Waste disposal

We will send no more than 10% of waste to landfill by 2035

### Waste reduction

We will halve the amount of residual waste produced per person by 2042

### Collection Services

We will ensure that all Essex residents have access to separate food waste collections by 2026. We will ensure that all Essex Residents have access to comprehensive recycling services for plastic, paper and card, metal, glass, food and garden waste by 2026.

### Recycling

We will reuse, recycle, or compost 65% of waste by 2035

## Current Performance

In 2020 Essex councils collected over 725,000 tonnes of waste and recycling, the equivalent weight of roughly 58,000 London buses.

On average, each resident in Essex produces around 463 kg of waste per year which is 16% more than the national average. In 2020/21 the recycling rate in Essex was 52% which is higher than the national average of 44%.

As one of the largest waste partnerships in the country, the EWP recognises it has a key role to play in delivering a more circular economy in the UK and contributing to the achievement of national waste and recycling targets. Setting targets enables the partnership to track its performance against its vision and strategic aims. To find out more about national targets, please visit **Appendix 4 National Legislation**.

**Greenhouse gas** means gases that trap heat in the atmosphere and contribute to climate change. This causes the greenhouse effect. Water vapour, carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, methane and ozone are the primary greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

### 10. Which of the following statements best describes your thoughts on the targets in the draft strategy?

I would prefer more ambitious targets

I think the targets are about right

I would prefer less ambitious targets

I would prefer no targets at all

I'm not sure

11. If you answered “more ambitious” targets, which of the following best describes your view?

I would prefer higher targets

I would prefer the targets to be achieved sooner

I would prefer higher targets that are achieved sooner

12. If you answered “less ambitious” targets, which of the following best describes your view?

I would prefer lower targets

I would prefer the targets to be achieved at a later date

I would prefer lower targets that are achieved at later date

13. Is there anything else you’d like to tell us about the targets

## Our Ambitions

The strategy also sets out stretching ambitions and aspirations that the partnership will aim for to deliver greater change and impact more quickly.

### Waste reduction

We aim to reduce waste by 10% by 2030  
We aspire that Essex will be a zero waste county by 2055

### Waste Disposal

We aim to send zero waste to landfill by 2030.

### Recycling

We aim to reuse, recycle or compost at least 70% of waste by 2030

Achieving zero waste in Essex means reusing and recycling as much as possible, and recovering as many resources as possible from the waste that remains.

The partnership will create plans, publish our progress, and regularly review this strategy to ensure it is fit for purpose.

To find out more about how our targets and ambitions are defined, please visit **Appendix 10 Targets and Ambitions Definitions**.

**14. Which of the following statements best describes your thoughts on the ambitions in the draft strategy? Please select only one item**

- |                                 |                                       |                                |                                    |                       |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/>           | <input type="radio"/>                 | <input type="radio"/>          | <input type="radio"/>              | <input type="radio"/> |
| I would prefer higher ambitions | I think the ambitions are about right | I would prefer lower ambitions | I would prefer no ambitions at all | I'm not sure          |

**15. If you answered "higher ambitions", which of the following best describes your view? Please select only one item**

- |                                 |  |  |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/>           | <input type="radio"/>                              | <input type="radio"/>                                    |
| I would prefer higher ambitions | I would prefer the ambitions to be achieved sooner | I would prefer higher ambitions that are achieved sooner |

**16. If you answered "lower ambitions", which of the following best describes your view?**

- |                                |   |  |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/>          | <input type="radio"/>                                       | <input type="radio"/>  |
| I would prefer lower ambitions | I would prefer the ambitions to be achieved at a later date | I would prefer lower ambitions that are achieved at later date |

**17. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about the ambitions**

## Approach to Partnership Vision

The next section of the consultation survey asks you questions about the approach the partnership proposes to follow to deliver the partnership's vision, targets and ambitions.

The priorities cover:

- Supporting the move to a circular economy
- Partnership working to maximise the impact of our work
- Services that deliver the waste hierarchy
- Supporting residents to reduce their waste and recycle more



## What is the waste hierarchy?

The Waste Hierarchy sets out the order in which options for waste management should be considered based on environmental impact. It is a legal framework that has become a cornerstone of sustainable waste management.

## What does it mean in practice?

Under the waste hierarchy, activities that prevent waste and increase recycling are shown to have the least impact. Applying the waste hierarchy when designing services and making decisions will help the partnership take the right decisions and achieve our vision of a zero waste county.

Achieving zero waste in Essex means reusing and recycling as much as possible, and recovering as many resources as possible from the waste that remains.

## Move to a Circular Economy

The best way to reduce the environmental impact of waste is to embrace a circular economy. In a circular economy, our finite resources are conserved and used efficiently. That's why the circular economy is a priority in this strategy and the partnership proposes to:

*Realise the opportunities arising from the circular economy model that will bring wider benefits to Essex*

To deliver this priority, the EWP will:

- Encourage the growth of the green business sector and jobs in Essex to deal with waste in innovative ways
- Support businesses to adopt circular economy principles and practices
- Integrate the principles of the circular economy in council strategies and policies
- Support communities to reduce their waste and reuse and repair more
- Design services that increase closed loop recycling where waste is collected and recycled to make the same type of product.

## What is a circular economy?

A circular economy is an economic system designed with the intention that maximum use is extracted from resources and minimum waste is generated for disposal.

## Why is the circular economy a good thing?

There are clear environmental benefits from reducing waste in manufacturing, and designing products that are easy to repair and recycle. The transition to a circular economy can also provide opportunities for green growth and jobs.

## Where are we now?

Most products are still designed and created using a linear economy model where resources are taken, manufactured, used and disposed of. We have moved into a recycling economy where a proportion of materials are recycled but not retained at their highest quality.

## How do we get to a circular economy?

The transition to a circular economy requires us all to rethink how resources are valued and managed. The model relies on designing products that are durable, easy to maintain and repair. This encourages and enables individuals to reuse the products many times. Finally, the products should be designed to enable straightforward recycling when they can no longer be reused or repaired.

## What is closed loop recycling?

Closed-loop recycling is a process where waste is collected and recycled to make the same type of product. For example, glass bottles can be remade into more glass bottles.

18. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this priority?

Strongly  
Disagree

Mostly  
Disagree

Not sure

Mostly  
Agree

Strongly  
Agree

19. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about the priority or approach to delivering this priority?

## Services that Deliver the Waste Hierarchy - Prevention

The best way to reduce the impact of waste is to prevent waste being produced in the first place. We can do this by using less materials during manufacture, only buying what we need, and using what we already have. The partnership is proposing to deliver services that follow the waste hierarchy with priority given to waste prevention:

*Deliver a system that puts waste reduction at its centre*

To deliver this priority, the EWP will:

- Develop and deliver information and activities to help and inspire residents to reduce their waste
- Design future waste collection services to encourage residents to reduce their waste
- Work with government to seek stronger legislation and regulation to hold businesses to account
- Support local businesses that operate sustainably or encourage waste reduction

### What is waste prevention (waste reduction)?

Action to prevent waste being produced to reduce or minimise the amount of waste requiring final disposal. Minimising waste saves on collection and disposal costs and helps to reduce the demand for raw materials.

### Why is waste prevention important?

Although we need to recycle more, we need to address the problem that we create too much waste. On average, each resident in Essex produces around 463kg of waste per year (equivalent to roughly half the weight of a Fiat 500) that's almost 8% less waste per person compared to 2010-11, but 16% more than the national average.

### What is the waste hierarchy?

The Waste Hierarchy sets out the order in which options for waste management should be considered based on environmental impact. It is a legal framework that has become a cornerstone of sustainable waste management.

### What does it mean in practice?

Under the waste hierarchy, activities that prevent waste and increase recycling are shown to have the least impact. Applying the waste hierarchy when designing services and making decisions will help the partnership take the right decisions and achieve our vision of a zero waste county.

Achieving zero waste in Essex means reusing and recycling as much as possible, and recovering as many resources as possible from the waste that remains.

**20. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this priority?**

Strongly  
Disagree

Mostly  
Disagree

Not sure

Mostly  
Agree

Strongly  
Agree

**21. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about the priority or approach to delivering this priority?**

## Services that deliver the Waste Hierarchy - Reuse

The waste hierarchy shows that the next best option is to re-use products as much as possible by maintenance and repair, as well as borrowing, renting or buying second-hand. That's why Reuse is a priority in this strategy and the partnership proposes to:

*Work together to encourage and support reuse and repair initiatives*

To deliver this priority, the EWP will:

- Support business to deliver reuse and repair services
- Support communities to deliver local reuse and repair initiatives
- Develop and deliver information and activities to help and inspire residents to reuse and repair more
- Support sharing platforms that promote reuse
- Develop enhanced reuse services through Essex County Council's network of Recycling Centres
- Lobby government to accelerate a repair and reuse culture within business

### What does reuse mean?

For businesses, reuse means designing products to be used many times, such as reusable packaging. In homes, reuse includes buying products that use refillable containers or reuse plastic bags. It contributes to sustainable development and can save raw materials, energy and transport costs.

### Why is re-use important?

Although we need to recycle more, we need to address the problem that we create too much waste. On average, each resident in Essex produces around 463kg of waste per year (equivalent to roughly half the weight of a Fiat 500) that's almost 8% less waste per person compared to 2010-11, but 16% more than the national average. If we reuse more products, we can reduce the amount of waste generated.

### **What is the waste hierarchy?**

The Waste Hierarchy sets out the order in which options for waste management should be considered based on environmental impact. It is a legal framework that has become a cornerstone of sustainable waste management.

### **What does it mean in practice?**

Under the waste hierarchy, activities that prevent waste and increase recycling are shown to have the least impact. Applying the waste hierarchy when designing services and making decisions will help the partnership take the right decisions and achieve our vision of a zero waste county. Achieving zero waste in Essex means reusing and recycling as much as possible, and recovering as many resources as possible from the waste that remains.

### **22. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this priority?**

- |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Strongly<br>Disagree  | Mostly<br>Disagree    | Not sure              | Mostly<br>Agree       | Strongly<br>Agree     |

### **23. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about the priority or approach to delivering this priority?**

# Services that deliver the Waste Hierarchy - Recycle

If waste cannot be prevented or products and materials reused, then turning materials into new products by recycling is the next option on the waste hierarchy. That's why Recycling is a priority in this strategy and the partnership proposes to:

*Increase recycling by delivering comprehensive services and supporting residents to recycle as much as possible*

To deliver this priority, the EWP will:

- Provide collection services, recycling centres, and local community recycling facilities
- Ensure that all Essex residents have access to separate food waste collections
- Ensure that all Essex residents have access to frequent and comprehensive services for recycling plastic, paper and cardboard, metal, glass, food, and composting garden waste
- Ensure residents have the right information to recycle as much as possible
- Continue to support home composting

## What does recycling mean?

The reprocessing of waste materials into the same products or different ones.

## Where are we now?

Our recycling rate varies in each area of Essex and has plateaued over recent years. A significant change is needed to achieve our targets.

By improving recycling collections and the introduction of kerbside food collections, we have increased the proportion of waste recycled from 21% in 2000/01 to 52% in 2020/21. But our recycling rate varies in each area of Essex and has plateaued over recent years.

Roughly 25% of waste thrown away in the general rubbish bin is food waste. Not only is this a waste of money but it's also damaging the environment. When food waste is sent to landfill, it doesn't just safely breakdown. Instead, it lets off harmful greenhouse gases which contribute to climate change. However, when food waste is recycled at the kerbside, it is transformed into energy and fertiliser. It's amazing to think that recycling just six tea bags generate enough energy to boil a kettle to make another cuppa!

Disposing of food waste in the general rubbish is also costly. In fact, it's costing Essex taxpayers £9 million a year to dispose of! Currently not all households in Essex have access to a separate food waste collection.

## 24. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this priority?

Strongly  
Disagree

Mostly  
Disagree

Not sure

Mostly  
Agree

Strongly  
Agree

## 25. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about the priority or approach to delivering this priority?

# Services that deliver the Waste Hierarchy - Recovery

The waste hierarchy shows that if we can't prevent, reuse or recycle, then recovery of energy and materials from the waste is preferable to disposal. By rethinking our waste and recovering energy, we can ensure that the climate impact of managing food and non-recyclable waste is minimised and reduce our reliance on disposal by landfill. That's why Recovery is a priority in this strategy and the EWP proposes to:

*Use technologies for the treatment of food and non-recyclable waste that aim to minimise the environmental impact of waste, and maximise energy and material recovery*

To deliver this priority, the EWP will:

- Reduce our reliance on disposal by landfill
- Use anaerobic digestion as the most viable technology for the treatment of unavoidable food waste to recover energy and fertiliser
- Use Energy from Waste (EfW) as the most viable technology for the treatment of residual waste to recover energy and materials
- Aim to capture and use heat from Energy from Waste (EfW) facilities to improve the efficiency of treatment facilities for residual waste
- Continue exploring new technologies to improve the efficiency of treatment facilities, such as carbon capture and storage
- Continue working to reduce the amount of plastic material in residual waste

## **What does landfill mean?**

Landfill or Landfill sites means land in which waste is deposited, often disused quarries. Essex still relies too heavily on landfill as the main method for disposing of waste. In 2022 we sent around 350,000 tonnes of resident's waste to landfill. Landfill is not a long-term option for non-recyclable waste. According to the waste hierarchy, it is environmentally the worst option and is likely to continue to cost more than other waste management options.

## **What does Anaerobic Digestion mean?**

Food waste in the majority of Essex is collected by waste and recycling crews and taken to local processing plants. Anything that is not food waste, such as caddy liner bags or packaging, is separated from the load.

Food waste is then processed and transformed into a biogas that is rich in methane, and fertiliser. This biogas is used to generate green energy that can be used across Essex. By using this green energy, it reduces our need to use fossil fuels.

## **What does recovery mean?**

In recovery, a waste treatment process is used to recover energy and new raw materials from the waste. Recovery waste treatment processes include anaerobic digestion and Energy from Waste (EfW).

## **What does Energy from Waste (EfW) mean?**

Energy from waste is a recovery process that takes residual waste and turns it into electricity.

Energy from Waste facilities need to be correctly and flexibly sized, efficient and be designed with emerging technologies in mind, to ensure we further reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve efficiency in the future. Capturing and using the heat generated from EfW processes significantly increases the overall efficiency of the process and the environmental benefits.

## **What does Carbon capture, utilisation and storage mean?**

Carbon capture, utilisation and storage is a technology to prevent carbon emissions produced by industrial activity being released into the atmosphere. Carbon captured is either stored deep underground where it cannot enter the atmosphere, or used in other industrial processes.



**26. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the EWP should reduce the use of landfill?**

- |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Strongly<br>Disagree  | Mostly<br>Disagree    | Not sure              | Mostly<br>Agree       | Strongly<br>Agree     |

**27. To what extent do you agree or disagree that adopting the use of anaerobic digestion for the treatment of food waste is the right solution?**

- |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Strongly<br>Disagree  | Mostly<br>Disagree    | Not sure              | Mostly<br>Agree       | Strongly<br>Agree     |

**28. To what extent do you agree or disagree that, after recycling everything we can, adopting Energy from Waste (EfW) for residual waste is the right solution?**

- |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Strongly<br>Disagree  | Mostly<br>Disagree    | Not sure              | Mostly<br>Agree       | Strongly<br>Agree     |

**29. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about the priority or approach to delivering this priority?**

## Collaborate and Innovate

We can achieve more when we work together and in partnership with others, learning from each other and trying new things. That's why collaboration and innovation is a priority in this strategy and the partnership proposes to:

*Innovate and work collaboratively with each other and with government, businesses and institutions to create a more sustainable waste system*

To deliver this priority we will

- Work to reduce the carbon impact of waste operations by increasing use of alternative fuels for our vehicles and equipment, and making waste transport routes as efficient as possible.
- Work together to make the network of recycling centres, waste transfer stations and depots as efficient as possible
- Explore carbon capture and carbon offsetting to mitigate unavoidable greenhouse gas emissions.
- Stay abreast of innovation, trends and examples of best practice to shape service design
- Work together and maximise opportunities to increase recycling in public spaces and reduce litter.
- Be an active voice striving to shape government policy, legislation, and regulation through engagement, consultations, and lobbying.
- Work together to develop opportunities for employment, environmental benefit, and reduced costs.

### **What is the Essex Waste Partnership?**

A partnership comprising all 12 district, borough and city councils and the county council in Essex (see appendix 13). The partnership aims to ensure cost-efficient and sustainable waste management across the county.

### **What does carbon offsetting mean?**

Carbon offsetting can help individuals and organisations to compensate for any emissions they cannot avoid or reduce by paying for an equivalent amount of emissions to be reduced or removed elsewhere.

### **What does carbon capture, utilisation and storage mean?**

Carbon capture, utilisation and storage is a technology to prevent carbon emissions produced by industrial activity being released into the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide is captured and either stored deep underground where it cannot enter the atmosphere, or used in other industrial processes.

### **30. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this priority?**

Strongly  
Disagree

Mostly  
Disagree

Not sure  
Page 82

Mostly  
Agree

Strongly  
Agree

**31. To what extent do you agree or disagree that Collaboration and Innovation should be achieved through the following means:**

Work to reduce the carbon impact of waste operations by increasing use of alternative fuels for our vehicles and equipment, and making waste transport routes as efficient as possible.

- |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Strongly Disagree     | Mostly Disagree       | Not sure              | Mostly Agree          | Strongly Agree        |

Work together to make the network of recycling centres, waste transfer stations and depots as efficient as possible

- |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Strongly Disagree     | Mostly Disagree       | Not sure              | Mostly Agree          | Strongly Agree        |

Explore carbon capture, utilisation and storage, and carbon offsetting to mitigate unavoidable greenhouse gas emissions

- |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Strongly Disagree     | Mostly Disagree       | Not sure              | Mostly Agree          | Strongly Agree        |

Stay abreast of innovation, trends and examples of best practice to shape service design

- |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Strongly Disagree     | Mostly Disagree       | Not sure              | Mostly Agree          | Strongly Agree        |

Work together and maximise opportunities to increase recycling in public spaces and reduce litter.

- |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Strongly Disagree     | Mostly Disagree       | Not sure              | Mostly Agree          | Strongly Agree        |

Be an active voice striving to shape government policy, legislation, and regulation through engagement, consultations, and lobbying

- |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Strongly Disagree     | Mostly Disagree       | Not sure              | Mostly Agree          | Strongly Agree        |

Work together to develop opportunities for employment, environmental benefit, and reduced costs

- |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Strongly Disagree     | Mostly Disagree       | Not sure              | Mostly Agree          | Strongly Agree        |

**32. Is there anything else that you'd like to tell us about the priority or approach to delivering this priority?**

# Educate and Engage

Supporting residents with information and education that inspires changes in attitudes and adoption of new behaviours is essential to achieving the partnership's vision, targets and ambitions for a zero waste county. That's why education and engagement is a priority in this strategy and the partnership proposes to:

*Listen to residents and deliver information and initiatives to encourage changes in attitudes and behaviour to reduce waste and recycle more*

To deliver this priority, the EWP will:

- Engage regularly with residents to understand barriers, improve service design and increase participation in waste prevention and recycling services
- Examine the composition of recycling and waste to identify opportunities to target initiatives and design of services
- Provide service information and develop and deliver a programme of activities and education to embed waste as an environmental issue and inspire residents to make changes

The Love Essex brand created for the Essex Waste Partnership enables the partner councils to deliver better results for residents through cost effective campaigns and services. Providing consistent messages, the Love Essex campaigns and services inspire behaviour change with the goal of reducing waste, recycling more and making Essex a better place to live.

### 33. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this priority?

Strongly  
Disagree

Mostly  
Disagree

Not sure

Mostly  
Agree

Strongly  
Agree

### 34. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about the priority or approach to delivering this priority?

## Research, planning and performance monitoring

We want residents to be able to hold the partnership to account for achieving our aims. Therefore the partnership will:

- Create action plans to set out clear milestones and pathways to delivering our vision, targets and ambitions
- Adopt best practice indicators to monitor performance and track progress
- Review and publish performance and progress annually against the vision, targets, and ambitions of this strategy

We recognise that national policy and legislation, the composition and volume of our waste, and the attitudes and behaviours toward waste will change over time. As a result, this strategy and the services and initiatives delivered by the partnership will need to be updated to reflect this.

The partnership will:

*Comprehensively review this strategy every five-years to ensure alignment with any changes in national policy and legislation, trends in waste generation, and the development of new approaches and technologies.*

To find out more about national targets, please visit Appendix 4 National Legislation.

To find out more about how our targets and ambitions are defined, please visit Appendix 10 Targets and Ambitions Definitions.

**35. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this approach to research, planning and performance monitoring?**

- |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Strongly Disagree     | Mostly Disagree       | Not sure              | Mostly Agree          | Strongly Agree        |

**36. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about the approach to research, planning and performance monitoring?**

**Final opportunity to comment on the content of the strategy**

**37. Is there anything else that needs to be considered around the draft Waste Strategy for Essex?**

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## Strategic Environment Assessment Questions

The partnership has commissioned a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The Environmental Report (Appendix 8) presents the findings of the SEA and has been prepared in accordance with the SEA regulations. This assessment ensures a high level of protection for the environment and that sustainability is at the forefront of the strategy.

In this section of the survey, you have the opportunity to give us your views on the Environmental Report on the Strategic Environmental Assessment. If you don't wish to provide feedback on the SEA, you can click 'no' to move to the final section of the survey.

**To view the Environmental Report (SEA) in full, please view Appendix 8 which can be found at [www.consultations.essex.gov.uk/rci/waste-strategy-for-essex-consultation](http://www.consultations.essex.gov.uk/rci/waste-strategy-for-essex-consultation)**

**38. Do you wish to provide any comments on the Environmental Report?**

Yes

No

*If 'Yes', proceed to question 39.*

*If 'No', proceed to question 42.*

**39. Does the Environmental Report correctly identify the likely significant effects of the draft Strategy?**

Yes

No

*If 'Yes', proceed to question 41.*

*If 'No', proceed to question 40.*

**40. What are your views on the likely significant environmental effects of the draft Strategy?**

**41. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the Environmental Report?**

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# Equality and Diversity Monitoring Questions

Thank you for answering the questions so far. In this final section we ask you to let us know a bit more about you, so we understand who we are hearing from.

All responses are anonymous and your answers will be kept completely confidential. It is voluntary to disclose this information. If you choose not to answer these questions, it will not affect your participation

## 42. Which district(s), borough(s) or city does your organisation cover? Please tick all that apply

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Basildon             | <input type="radio"/> Colchester        | <input type="radio"/> Tendring                              |
| <input type="radio"/> Braintree            | <input type="radio"/> Epping Forest     | <input type="radio"/> Uttlesford                            |
| <input type="radio"/> Brentwood            | <input type="radio"/> Harlow            | <input type="radio"/> Southend                              |
| <input type="radio"/> Castle Point         | <input type="radio"/> Maldon            | <input type="radio"/> Thurrock                              |
| <input type="radio"/> Chelmsford           | <input type="radio"/> Rochford          | <input type="radio"/> I live in another neighbouring county |
| <input type="radio"/> Other (please state) | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say |   |

## 43. Which age group do you belong to? Please select only one option.

- |                                |                               |   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Under 16 | <input type="radio"/> 35 - 44 | <input type="radio"/> 65+               |
| <input type="radio"/> 16 - 24  | <input type="radio"/> 45 - 54 | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="radio"/> 35 - 34  | <input type="radio"/> 55 - 64 |   |

## 44. What is your gender?

- |   |   |                                  |
|---|---|----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Male  | <input type="radio"/> Female            | <input type="radio"/> Non-binary |
| <input type="radio"/> Prefer to self-describe (option to state below) | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say |                                  |

## 45. What is your ethnicity? Please tick all that apply

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> White British               | <input type="radio"/> Black or Black British African   | <input type="radio"/> Asian or Asian British        | <input type="radio"/> Chinese             |
| <input type="radio"/> White Irish                 | <input type="radio"/> Black or Black British Caribbean | <input type="radio"/> Pakistani                     | <input type="radio"/> Mixed Other         |
| <input type="radio"/> White Other                 | <input type="radio"/> Mixed White/Black African        | <input type="radio"/> Asian or Asian British Indian | <input type="radio"/> Not Known           |
| <input type="radio"/> Gypsy/ Roma                 | <input type="radio"/> Mixed White/Black Caribbean      | <input type="radio"/> Asian or Asian British Other  | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say   |
| <input type="radio"/> Traveller of Irish Heritage | <input type="radio"/> Black Other                      | <input type="radio"/> Mixed White/Asian             | <input type="radio"/> Other, please state |
|   |  | <input type="radio"/> Asian Other                   |   |

## 46. What is your religion/ faith? Please select only one option

- |                                 |                                |   |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Christian | <input type="radio"/> Buddhist | <input type="radio"/> None                  |
| <input type="radio"/> Muslim    | <input type="radio"/> Sikh     | <input type="radio"/> Not sure              |
| <input type="radio"/> Hindu     | <input type="radio"/> Jewish   | <input type="radio"/> Other, please specify |

## 47. Do you consider yourself to have an impairment? Please select all that apply.

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> No impairment           | <input type="radio"/> Mental Health Needs                | <input type="radio"/> Autism spectrum disorder |
| <input type="radio"/> Hearing impairment/deaf | <input type="radio"/> Drug or alcohol addiction          | <input type="radio"/> Other (please specify)   |
| <input type="radio"/> Visual impairment/blind | <input type="radio"/> Physical impairment                | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say        |
| <input type="radio"/> Deafblind               | <input type="radio"/> Learning difficulties/disabilities |  |