

# ***Report to the Council***

**Committee:** Full Council  
**Date:** 5 October 2023  
**Subject:** Contracts, Service Delivery, and Improvements  
**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Ray Balcombe

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## **Recommending:**

**The report of the Contracts, Service Delivery, and Improvements Portfolio Holder be noted.**

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## **Leisure Management:**

Places Leisure offered Summer Social Value initiatives this summer which included:

- Free swimming to children in receipt of free school meals.
- Half price courts.
- 1-month free gym membership for parent / guardians of children on courses.

Places Leisure is supporting the side-by-side dementia initiative by offering selected drop-in days and times in which an adult who has dementia can come along to any of our leisure centres to grab a coffee and have a talk with one of our Mental Health First at Work Instructors. The aim is to build up these sessions into a small community group in which they can then offer gym, swim, or other activities available at the centre.

Places Leisure is delivering a new physical activity session outside of our leisure centres and in our local NHS health care clinics. Targeting underrepresented groups from the community, it has helped individuals to stay active, maintain a healthy lifestyle, provide an opportunity for social interaction and the promotion of mental well-being.

Places Leisure has set up a new group 'Social Active' classes at Epping Sports Centre and Waltham Abbey. The classes are a falls prevention class serving our local community.

## **Waste Management:**

### Draft Waste Strategy for Essex Consultation

A 10-week public consultation commenced in September 2023 on the draft Waste Strategy for Essex on behalf of the Essex Waste Partnership. Essex County Council (ECC) will facilitate the consultation asking for views and feedback from Essex residents, communities, businesses, and councils that use waste services or are affected by the proposals in the draft strategy.

The consultation period opened 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.

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.

The Waste Strategy for Essex (WSfE) 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.

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.

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.

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.