



COMMITTEE TITLE: Clean & Green Committee

DATE: 26 June 2023

REPORT TITLE:	Waste Strategy
REPORT OF:	Marcus Hotten, Director of Environment

REPORT SUMMARY

This report proposes to establish a working group to develop, with the assistance of a suitable consultant, a waste collection strategy for the Borough's residents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to:

R1. Agree a budget of £30,000 is made available for the appointment of a suitable consultant to support the development of a waste strategy.

R2. Establish a Waste Strategy Working Group to undertake the work as set out in the body of the report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure that the Council's waste collection service can adapt to anticipated changes that may be required by the Government.

To ensure that procurement of Waste Collection Vehicles and the future of design and location of any operational depot consider longer term strategic needs,

To explore opportunities to minimise waste collection and maximise kerb-side recycling.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Environment Act legislation received Royal Assent on 9 November 2021.

The Environment Act operates as the UK's new framework of environmental protection. The Environment Act allows the UK to enshrine some environmental

protection into law. It offers new powers to set new binding targets, including for air quality, water, biodiversity, and waste reduction.

The Act is a vehicle for several Departments for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (Defra) different environmental policies and sets out the legal framework for significant reforms to local authority waste and recycling services. Taken together, the Act establishes a new relationship between central and local government on environmental improvement.

The need for a waste strategy

Typically, the purchase of waste collection vehicles and supporting infrastructure represent significant long-term investment to a local authority. Therefore, it is important that a strategic view is taken to determine how the Council may wish the collection service to operate and identify potential changes that may be required to address longer term strategic goals.

It is important we refresh and review our waste collection policies to ensure we have the right approaches to deliver the best outcomes for Brentwood.

The strategy will bring 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 emerging Essex Waste Management Plan.

Development of a Draft Waste and Recycling Strategy

To assist in the development of a strategy it is proposed that a Working Group is established that will take the following approach:

- To identify and discuss strategic drivers and key principles that are likely to shape the strategy; these key principles will include reducing the impact that waste management has on climate change.
- To commission the modelling of a range of contrasting waste collection options with accompanying estimated costs and recycling rates;
- To identify any options that satisfy the previously identified key principles;
- To draw up a draft strategy based on the outcomes of the modelling and testing.

The strategy will be research based and data-driven, setting out the reasons for our approach; the principles of what we will do; and the targets that we will strive to meet.

Expert consultancy advice will be required to support the approach set out above, at an estimated cost of £30,000.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Tim Willis, Director – Resources & Section 151 Officer
Tel & Email: 01277 312500 / tim.willis@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

The £30,000 estimated cost of the consultancy advice will be funded from a budget held against a vacant post in the service.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Claire Mayhew, Joint Acting Up Director People & Governance & Monitoring Officer

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The Council has a statutory duty under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

None, the report is currently, effectively setting out the scope of the proposed project.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Consultation with relevant stakeholders will be considered as set out in the report to follow, once the business case for the different options has been established

9.0 EQUALITY & HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Kim Anderson, Corporate Manager - Communities, Leisure and Health

Tel & Email 01277 312500 kim.anderson@brentwood.gov.uk

The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:

- a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act. In summary, the Act makes discrimination etc. on the grounds of a protected characteristic unlawful
- b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, gender, and sexual orientation. The Act states that 'marriage and civil partnership' is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a).

The proposals in this report will not have a disproportionate adverse impact on anybody with a protected characteristic, however consideration will need to be given to those who currently have assisted kerbside collections within any new Waste Strategy.

10.0 ECONOMIC AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Phil Drane, Director - Place

Tel & Email 01277 312500 / phil.drane@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

There are no direct economic implications. More generally, the upkeep of a clean and pleasant environment in the borough positively contributes to the local economy.

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APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

None