



Town Hall | 61 Newland Street | Witham | CM8 2FE
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witham.gov.uk

AGENDA

Meeting of: **Environment Committee**

Date: **Monday, 16th October 2023** Time: **7.30 p.m.**

Place: **Town Hall, 61 Newland Street, Witham.**

Members are hereby summoned to attend the above Meeting to transact the following business. Members are respectfully reminded that each item on the Agenda should be carefully examined. If you have any interest, it must be duly declared.

To be present:

S.	Ager (Chairman)	L.	Headley
J.C.	Coleman (Vice Chairman)	J.	Martin
E.	Adelaja	R.	Ramage
J.M.	Coleman	A.	Sloma
B.	Fleet	B.	Taylor

Nikki Smith
Town Clerk & Proper Officer
10th October 2023

1. APOLOGIES

To receive and approve apologies for absence.

2. MINUTES

To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held 24th July 2023 (previously circulated).

3. INTERESTS

To receive any declarations of interests that Members may wish to give notice of on matters pertaining to any item on this Agenda.

4. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

An opportunity to enable members of the press and public present to comment.

Order Note: A maximum of 30 minutes is designated for public participation time with no individual speaker exceeding three minutes unless otherwise granted an extension by the Chairman under Standing Order 3(F) & 3(G)

5. CLERK'S REPORT

To receive the Clerk's Report on matters arising attached at page 4.

6. COMMITTEE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

To receive the income and expenditure report for the period 1st April 2023 to 30th September 2023 attached at page 5.

7. 2024 – 2025 DRAFT BUDGET AND CORPORATE STRATEGY

An opportunity for members to comment upon the proposed Environment Committee Budget and Strategy for 2024-2025 attached at page 7.

8. OPEN SPACES MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

To receive the Minutes of the Open Spaces Management Sub-Committee meeting held on 5th September 2023 attached at page 9.

9. CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

To receive the Minutes of the Climate Change Working Group meeting held on 15th August 2023 attached at page 12.

10. SECTION 106 STEERING GROUP

To receive the Minutes of the Section 106 Steering Group meeting held on 9th August and 28th September 2023 attached at page 14.

11. WITHAM TREE GROUP

To receive the Tree Group minutes for the meetings held August and September 2023 attached at page 20.

12. ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

To receive an Allotment Management report attached at page 24.

13. ESSEX'S WASTE STRATEGY FOR ESSEX CONSULTATION

To consider the Town Council's response to the Essex Waste Strategy for Essex consultation attached at page 25.

14. PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP

To receive a verbal report on Essex Highways' Parish Paths Partnership.

SS/HA/10.10.2023



ITEM NO: 5

Officer Report: Clerk's Report

Issue:

- The final part of the Whetmead Nature Reserve Section 106 improvement project has now been approved by Braintree District Council. Work is now being carried out to finalise the nature posts and interpretation design details and plants are due to arrive this month for the scheme.
- The planned town centre street furniture improvement scheme is due to be carried out in the coming months. Officers are also currently working on the design details of the wayfinding monoliths which will be installed as part of the project.
- Braintree District Council are currently consulting with Witham Town Council on the next phase of the Town Park improvements, which includes landscaping and signage. The contract for the project has now gone out to tender with a closing date of 10th November, with plans for works to start in January 2024, and full completion by May 2024.

Advice:

To receive and note.

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Annual Budget - By Centre (Actual YTD Month 6)

		<u>2022/2023</u>		<u>2023/2024</u>						
		<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Projecte</u>	<u>Committ</u>	<u>Agreed</u>	<u>EMR</u>	<u>Carried</u>
400	Environment									
1401	Dog & Bench Sponsorship Scheme	1,650	4,650	1,650	2,610	5,220	0	0	0	0
	Total Income	<u>1,650</u>	<u>4,650</u>	<u>1,650</u>	<u>2,610</u>	<u>5,220</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
4400	Operations PAYE/LGPS	126,714	150,656	177,454	79,206	177,454	0	0	0	0
4420	Equipment Supplies & Maintenanc	4,000	4,035	8,000	186	8,000	0	0	0	0
4425	Lighting Maintenance & Utility	4,000	5,268	4,000	1,226	4,000	0	0	0	0
4431	Toilet Block - Town Park	7,650	7,396	10,500	591	10,500	0	0	0	0
4432	New Tree Planting	2,000	2,001	2,000	0	2,000	0	0	0	0
4433	Tree Maintenance	9,000	8,870	5,000	2,471	5,000	0	0	0	0
4435	River Walk Project Management	0	0	10,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
4436	Dog Bin Maintenance	600	430	600	0	600	0	0	0	0
4437	Dog & Bench Schemes	1,200	4,490	1,200	2,112	2,112	0	0	0	0
4444	Fleet	4,000	4,997	6,000	2,426	6,000	0	0	0	0
4445	Open Spaces General	1,500	1,810	2,500	1,335	2,500	0	0	0	0
4446	James Cooke Wood	2,000	1,597	2,000	296	2,000	0	0	0	0
4447	River Walk	3,000	2,781	3,000	1,814	3,000	0	0	0	0
4448	Whetmead LNR	2,000	574	2,000	4,682	2,000	0	0	0	0
4452	River Walk Signage	3,000	1,044	3,000	2,075	3,000	0	0	0	0
4453	Litter Bins	3,000	1,963	3,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
4455	Witham in Bloom	12,200	13,038	12,700	8,715	14,140	0	0	0	0
4457	Waste Disposal	1,000	1,946	1,200	0	1,200	0	0	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	<u>186,864</u>	<u>212,895</u>	<u>254,154</u>	<u>107,134</u>	<u>243,506</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(185,214)</u>	<u>(208,245)</u>	<u>(252,504)</u>	<u>(104,524)</u>	<u>(238,286)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Continued on next page

Annual Budget - By Centre (Actual YTD Month 6)

	<u>2022/2023</u>		<u>2023/2024</u>				Agreed	EMR	Carried
	Budget	Actual	Total	Actual	Projecte	Committ			
Total Budget Income	1,650	4,650	1,650	2,610	1,650	0	0	0	0
Expenditure	186,864	212,895	254,154	107,134	243,506	0	0	0	0
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(185,214)</u>	<u>(208,245)</u>	<u>(252,504)</u>	<u>(104,524)</u>	<u>(238,286)</u>		<u>0</u>		

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PROPOSED ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE BUDGET FOR 2024/2025						
Environment	2023/2024		2024/2025			
	Current Budget	Forecast Inc/Exp	Proposed Budget	Difference		
Dog & Bench Sponsorship Scheme	1650	2560	1650			
Total Income	1650	4650	1650	0		
Operations - Salaries & Employer N.I & LGPS	177454	177454	190913	13459		
Equipment Supplies & Maintenance	8000	8000	8400	400	Increase in cost of equipment	
Dog & Bench Schemes	1200	2112	1200	0		
Lighting Maintenance & Utility	4000	4000	6000	2000	Contract expires Sept 2024	
Tree Planting	2000	2000	3000	1000	Increase to fund community orchard scheme & 500 increase tree group	
RW Project Management	10000	0	0	-10000	Being dealt with through S106	
Tree Maintenance	5000	5000	5000	0		
Toilet Block - Town Park	10500	12500	20000	9500	Increased maintenance costs	
Dog Bin Maintenance	600	600	600	0		
Litter Bins	3000	3000	2500	-500		
Open Spaces General	2500	2500	2500	0		
River Walk Signage	3000	3000	2000	-1000	Replaced some with Safer Streets Funding	
James Cooke Wood	2000	2000	3000	1000	Increased to support event to mark anniversary	
River Walk	3000	3000	3000	0		
Whetmead LNR	2000	4611	2000	0		
Witham in Bloom	12700	14000	14000	1300	Increase in testing costs	
Fleet	6000	6000	6000	0		
Waste Disposal	1200	1200	1200	0		
Overhead Expenditure	254154	250977	271313	17159		

Environment Committee Responsibilities and Objectives

**James Cooke
Wood Scheme
Improvement**

**All Matters Relating to
the Council's Owned
Open Spaces**

**Allotment and
Community Orchard
Management**

**Path & Cycleway
Programme and Parish
Paths Partnership**

**Open Spaces
Management
Plans**

**Review of Floral
Displays and
Witham in Bloom**

**Linking
Whetmead & The
River Walk**

**Climate
Change**

**All Matters
Relating to
Trees**

**Scrutiny of
Section 106
Obligations**



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MINUTES

Meeting of: **Open Spaces Management Sub-Committee**

Date: **5th September 2023**

Present:	Councillors	B	Fleet	(Chairman)
		P.	Barlow	
		P.	Heath	
		R.	Ramage	
	Co-optees	S.	Black	(Witham and Countryside Society)
		J.	Casement	(Witham Wombles)
		J.	Palombi	(CPRE)
		P.	Shuttleworth	(Local Wildlife Interests)
	Officers	S	Dyer	(Operations Manager)
		S	Puckey	(Open Spaces Administrative Assistant)

One member of the public was present.

13. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Ager, Cllr Hewitt and S Brailey.

14. INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

15. CO-OPTION

It was **AGREED** that Mr John Goodman be appointed as a co-opted member of the Open Spaces Management Sub-Committee.

16. MINUTES

The minutes were **AGREED** and subsequently signed by the Chairman.

17. OPERATIONS MANAGER'S REPORT

The Operations Manager provided a verbal update. Following the breakdown of the larger mower (Ransomes Parkway) and also the trailer, combined with the wet warm weather encouraging grass growth, it has been a challenging period, however the team are up-to-date with their maintenance schedule.

On the River Walk there has been a spate of vandalism around the Ebenezer entrance which the team have rectified throughout the summer, while close to Luard Way a new bench has been installed.

At James Cooke Wood, regular maintenance has continued and our Tree Surgeon has cut back a Willow Tree overhanging the fishing lake, while at Whetmead, the frequency of grass cutting has increased on the top and the paths have been widened to allow two people to walk side-by-side.

At the Churchyard, the small wild flower project has been a success and it will be continued next year, however the general maintenance schedule is currently under review as it is outdated.

At the allotments there has been a series of difficult plot clearances which have been undertaken by the team, and at the station, the planters have been filled for the summer season and will be refreshed at the end of September ready for Winter.

Members were advised that working without the Ransomes Parkway mower meant that the grass cutting was slower but options were being explored for future grass cutting on Witham's open spaces.

Members were advised that the Operations Team would have access to Whetmead for most of the A12 widening scheme and Members **RECOMMENDED** that this be monitored to ensure regular access is maintained.

18. DUCKPOND ENHANCEMENTS

The report was received. Members were interested in potentially adding to the reeds in the duck pond and it was **AGREED** that this would be investigated in more detail.

It was also **AGREED** that the floating islands would be researched further as it was considered a potential haven for wildlife which might currently be detrimentally impacted by the heavy footfall of the area. Members felt that although funding may be an immediate issue, it would be beneficial to have the information for future planning and that sponsorship by local business could potentially be considered.

The Operations Manager advised that a list of small manageable jobs is kept aside for local volunteers who contact the Council offering their assistance.

The Operations Manager left the Chamber at 14.29

19. QUESTIONS & STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

A member of the public expressed concern that Whetmead would be closed to the public from 2024 to 2027 and wanted to know if alternative access had been considered and whether it could not be included. Furthermore, concern was expressed about the flora and fauna and whether they had been logged as part of the planning process, of particular concern was the Lizard Orchid, the only example in central Essex. Finally, the member of the public would like reassurance that this would not become a brown field site and therefore considered for building land. The concerns were noted.

It was **AGREED** that the environmental surveys conducted on behalf of Essex Highway would be reviewed.

20. CONSIDERATION OF WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS

No written representations were received by the Council.

21. CLERK’S REPORT

The Clerk’s report was received by Members. Members were further informed that some trenching work would begin on farmer’s field next to Whetmead during the week commencing 11th September 2023 and that a welfare unit would be sited at the A12 bridge entrance. Members were also advised that National Highways would be clearing the silt under the A12 bridge on behalf of Witham Town Council.

Members **AGREED** to receive the report.

22. RIVER WATER POLLUTION

Members **AGREED** to receive the report and wanted to see the layman summary when it was available. It was **AGREED** that the water pollution level report should be requested annually.

23. RIVER WALK LAND BY LIDL

Members **AGREED** to receive the report. Members were keen for Witham Town Council to take ownership of the land between the old Bramston site and Newland Street from Braintree District Council. Members further requested clarity on the Lidl sign planning application and the time allowed for Churchills for sale signage.¹

24. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the date of the next Open Spaces Management Sub-Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 5th December 2023 at 2pm.

Meeting concluded at 2.56pm

SP/06.9.23

Signed by Chairman.....

¹ Further investigation has revealed that Lidl’s retrospective planning permission for there was refused and it is currently going through appeal. Churchill’s signage can remain until the last property is sold.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP AT WITHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD 15TH AUGUST 2023 AT 6:30PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

PRESENT: - Councillors: S. Ager, J. C. Coleman, B. Fleet, L. Headley, A. Sloma.

CO-OPTEES: - Jack Robertson and John Palombi.

STAFF:
H. Andrews - Deputy Town Clerk
S. Puckey - Open Spaces Admin Assistant

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from Cllrs L Barlow, E Williams and J M Coleman were received and approved.

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was **AGREED** that Cllr S Ager be appointed Chairman of the Climate Change Working Group.

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was **AGREED** that Cllr B Fleet be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Climate Change Working Group.

4. CO-OPTION

It was **AGREED** that Jack Robertson and John Palombi be appointed as co-opted members of the Climate Change Working Group.

5. TERMS OF REFERENCE

John Palombi entered the Chamber at 18.38pm.

The terms of reference were reviewed. It was felt that they needed to be more ambitious and involve the wider community not just the Council itself. It was suggested that the Deputy Town Clerk will put forward an amendment on this basis to be reviewed at the next meeting.

6. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record and subsequently signed by the Chairman.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE VIDEO

The video was watched and Members noted the importance of working towards reducing carbon emissions and what part the Town and Parish Councils could play towards achieving this. Members felt that Witham's Neighbourhood plan would be key to help Witham's Climate Change Group ambitions.

8. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

It was noted that Witham Town Council do not provide a grant to The Tree Group and it was agreed that this would be rephrased.

19.45pm Cllr B Fleet and Mr J Palombi left the Chamber.

Members **AGREED** to review the current action plan and bring new ideas to the next meeting.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Meeting to be set for the end of September, prior to the next Environment Committee meeting on 16th October 2023.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

.....
Councillor S Ager
Chairman

SP/HA/21.08.2023

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SECTION 106 STEERING GROUP AT WITHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD 9TH AUGUST 2023 AT 3.00PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

Members present: - Councillors P Barlow, J.C. Coleman, B Fleet, P Heath, and R Playle.

Also present: - Councillors S Ager and L Headley

Staff:- N. Smith (Town Clerk), H Andrews, (Deputy Town Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs L Barlow and B Taylor.

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was **AGREED** that Cllr P Barlow be elected as Chairman of the Section 106 Steering Group.

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was **AGREED** that Cllr Jack Coleman be elected as the Vice-Chairman of the Section 106 Steering Group.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members were asked to consider the terms of reference for the Group. It was noted that the Group would report to Environment Committee but that the work from the Group could overlap with other Committees. It was **AGREED** that the terms of reference would include *'the Group may wish to also make recommendations to other Committees on relevant projects'*.

The number of Members of the Group was considered and it was **AGREED** that the terms of reference should show that it would be formed of 8 Members of Witham Town Council. Cllr Ager requested to join the Group.

The terms of reference were **AGREED** with the noted amendments.

5. SECTION 106 CONTRIBUTIONS HELD AND DUE FOR WITHAM

Members were advised that it had taken some considerable time to obtain the breakdown of information from Braintree District Council showing all Section 106 contributions held and due which related to Witham. Officers had also recently discovered that other Parish Councils were carrying out their own projects to spend Section 106 funds while Witham Town Council had previously understood that Section 106 funding projects were carried out by Braintree District Council.

It was noted that following Officers liaison with Braintree District Council, Witham Town Council will now proceed with completing open spaces projects on Witham Town Council owned land to use Section 106 funding available, with Whetmead Nature Reserve improvements being the first project.

Cllr Headley joined the meeting at 3.10pm.

A copy of the Potential Open Spaces Improvements document, previously known as the Open Spaces Action Plan, was also circulated to those present at the meeting. It was explained that Section 106 funding could be utilised to complete suggested improvements shown on the Potential Open Spaces Improvements document.

Members reviewed the contributions list provided and discussed expiry dates shown. An entry shown for £2,650 funds held showed an expiry date of August 2020. It was noted that this had already been highlighted with BDC Officers who advised that it should be possible to still proceed with a project for landscaping works in the River View area. Following recent discussions with WTC Open Spaces Team, it had been suggested that a bee-friendly planting scheme could be installed on River Walk land near to Helen Court with these funds.

Members **RECOMMENDED** that proposals to explore a bee-friendly planting project on River Walk land by Helen Court bridge should go ahead.

Various entries on the contributions list were discussed and the expiry date for cycle parking funding was highlighted as being September 2023 and it was noted that the Deputy Town Clerk was already making enquiries regarding this with BDC Officers. It was suggested that a list should also be provided in order of expiry date which the Deputy Town Clerk agreed to circulate.

6. POTENTIAL SECTION 106 OPEN SPACES PROJECTS

Members discussed suggested projects to utilise Section 106 funds held by Braintree District Council.

Whetmead improvements – It was noted that this project was currently in progress.

Forest Road Pond improvements – Members were advised that Witham Town Council would be involved with spending funds of £34,596 allocated for the improvement of the pond area although the expiry date for this was not until May 2027. A focus group was being planned with the Forest Road Residents' Association to discuss ideas.

Cut Throat Lane allotments – The suggestion to look at improving the car park and communal paths at the allotment site had already been discussed with members of the Allotment Association.

Cllr Playle declared an interest as his father is the Chairman of Witham Allotment and Leisure Garden Association.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to proceed with the proposal to improve the car park and communal paths at Cut Throat Allotment site.

River Walk – Members discussed improvements required to the River Walk paths and bridges. It was noted that various Section 106 funding streams could be utilised to complete some works. Line markings had been completed earlier in the year and priorities need to be established regarding which areas are most in need of improvements.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to proceed with River Walk paths and bridges improvements project.

James Cooke Wood – It was noted that there were various Section 106 funds available that could be used for improvements to James Cooke Wood which had been previously

suggested but not progressed due to lack of resources. The proposal to install a boardwalk in the swampy area of the Wood was welcomed and there were some potential Section 106 funds available which had an expiry date of January 2024 that could be used.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to proceed with a James Cooke Wood improvement project.

It was **AGREED** that initial enquiries should commence with the recommended projects as a starting point for the Town Council undertaking Section 106 projects.

7. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was suggested that it would be useful to have the next meeting in 4 to 6 weeks' time. Members were advised that Officers were due to meet BDC Section 106 Officers on 12th September 2023 so would be in a position to provide further feedback after this date. A date for the next meeting would be circulated to Members shortly.

.....
Councillor P. Barlow
Chairman

NS/HA/10.08.2023

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SECTION 106 STEERING GROUP AT WITHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD 28TH SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 2.00PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

Members present: - Councillors P Barlow, L Barlow, B Fleet, L Headley, and P Heath,

Staff:- N. Smith (Town Clerk), H Andrews, (Deputy Town Clerk)

8. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs S Ager and R Playle and late apologies from Cllr J.C. Coleman who all had prior engagements.

9. INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

10. MINUTES

The minutes of the Section 106 Steering Group held on 9th August 2023 were agreed and subsequently signed by the Chairman.

11. CLERK'S REPORT

The Deputy Town Clerk provided feedback from the recent Clerks' meeting with Braintree District Council Section 106 Officers. It was noted that the final part of the Whetmead improvement project had now been approved and the proposed open spaces projects from the previous Steering Group had also been agreed.

Members were advised that the Blackwater Rail Trail bridge project was still being considered but it was also noted that Essex County Council were commissioning a study on the Blackwater Rail Trail with Sustrans.

The Town Park improvement project was progressing with Braintree District Council with the landscaping phase due to go to tender during October 2023. Members were also advised that Braintree District Council were commencing with the playground enhancement plans and it was requested that consultation takes place with Witham Town Council.

It was also noted that there would be a public art project associated with the Maltings Lane Community Building to be involved in at a later date.

The Forest Road Pond improvement project is starting to be considered with initial conversations taking place with the Forest Road Residents' Association and a future site meeting planned with Eastlight and Essex Wildlife Trust.

It was noted that the Section 106 funding available for cycle parking facilities was due to expire in September 2023 but BDC will be making an application to vary the Section 106 agreement.

The Deputy Town Clerk also advised that the Section 106 Officers agreed to assist with the Rivenhall Park Allotments transfer completion as this was still delayed.

12. PROPOSED OPEN SPACES PROJECTS

An update was provided to Members on the current proposed Section 106 open space projects being carried out by Witham Town Council –

Bee-friendly planting- The Bee Friendly Trust had provided a quote within budget of the funding available for planting near River View bridge. This will also include an interpretation board and bug hotels. A further quote has also been produced and it is hoped that the project will soon progress.

James Cooke Wood - Initial research has been made by staff for installing a boardwalk in the boggy area of James Cooke Wood. Two quotes had been provided which ranged from approximately £18k to £60k. Further investigations to be carried out including suitable material to be used. It was noted that boardwalks at RSPB Rainham Marshes could be reviewed as part of research.

Members discussed the necessary tree felling required on the site and it was considered that the possibility of providing bundles of firewood for sale should be explored. Further improvements also to be considered taking into account the 30th anniversary of the James Cooke Wood.

Cut Throat Lane Allotments - An initial quote had been obtained to improve the car parking area which would use the total allotment Section 106 funding currently available. Further research is currently taking place to explore surface material options and obtain additional quotes.

River Walk paths and bridges - It was noted that the original condition report for River Walk paths had now been shared with BDC Officers. Prioritisation of areas requiring maintenance now needs to be carried out.

13. SECTION 106 CONTRIBUTIONS HELD AND DUE FOR WITHAM

Members reviewed the Witham Section 106 data available.

Reassurances were given that expiry dates were being monitored. Clarification was required from BDC regarding the funds available that are being allocated to the latest Town Park project.

The sustainable transport entry for £2.9m was discussed. Members would like to explore whether a better bus service with different routes could be considered when this project is reviewed in the future.

14. TOWN PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The design of the next phase of the Town Park was presented to the Group. Options were provided for comment to feedback to Braintree District Council's Landscape Officer. Members **RECOMMENDED** option 1 for the text detail of the timeline.

The shade sail option over the entertainment area was discussed and Members **AGREED** that there would be more disadvantages than advantages with installing the sail in the Town Park. Concerns were raised regarding vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

15. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk were next meeting with Braintree District Council Section 106 Officers in January and so it was suggested that the Steering Group next meet at the end of January. Suggested dates will be circulated to Members.

.....
Councillor P. Barlow
Chairman

NS/HA/29.09.2023

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Our August 2023 minutes are as follows:

Present: Richard Hawkes, Eric Teverson, Stanley Brailey, Mark Austin, Allan Waight, Barry Fleet

! Apologies - Ken Davies, Graham Wingrove, Steve Harris

2 Minutes of the 11th July accepted.

3 Matters arising - none.

4 Planning 2023/24

- a] Latest re ECC/Forestry Commission - Tom Moat had confirmed that they had all they needed at this stage; we will need to order as soon as funding confirmed; we need to visit the cyclepath site to agree tree positioning; possibly plant potentially larger trees and smaller ones that may be shorter lived on an alternate basis so that the result is an avenue of large trees; 35 to be planted this winter, balance the year after plus 25 at Spa Road;
- b] WTC budget - Barry had chased Joe Beznosiuk re site behind Ramsden Mills. We are considering 3 or 4 trees there plus replacements at Bramble Road, Forest Road, The Avenue & 2 at Luard Way. Could also plant at Powers Hall End to extend existing planting;
- c] Sponsored tree, utilities check - Allan is investigating the power network, probably just need to avoid the Cadent gas main;
- d] Lawrence Avenue - as expected, this is too difficult because of utilities, now including broadband; it was noted that Eastlight had removed an ash tree towards Maldon Road some years ago and not replaced it, where there is presumably no utility issue;
- e] It was agreed that there would be a site visit on Friday, 1st September;
- f] Planting help - we have been approached by Popcorn Community Ltd asking to be involved in a planting day, preferably at a weekend. It was agreed that we would suggest a Saturday in November, to be agreed once we have the confirmation of ECC funding. The Spa Road site is preferable;
- g] Whip planting - it was suggested that we obtain some whips from the Conservation Volunteers, which could be planted on the railway side near the cyclepath from Rivenhall; to be decided after the site visit.

5 Developer sites

- a] Rivenhall Oaks - Mark has responded to Bellway, no reply yet; he will do another tree count in September to check the survival rate;
- b] Gimsons - Allan advised that a large sycamore covered by a TPO has died, likely to be the developers' fault; needs to be reported to BDC Planning Enforcement [post meeting note: this has been investigated by the Assistant Town Clerk];
- c] Redrow - it had previously been noted that they had moved four newly planted trees alongside Hatfield Road in the middle of summer and, unsurprisingly, it is likely that several of these have died.

6 Report to the Town Council - Allan reported on the meeting at the Town Hall where he spoke around our report on our activities, which was warmly received by the councillors.

7 7 Publicity

- a] Website - the problem should now be resolved but when tested didn't appear to be working properly; would it be simpler to show our email address ? It was suggested that a new website could be designed ;
- b] Leaflet - Richard has completed the text. Once printed it could possibly be offered to the Information Centre and the Hub. Allan will supply Richard with the logo ; Richard will liaise with Jane who knows a printer.

8 Watering & maintenance - it was noted that some maintenance needs doing, e.g. Luard Way , Forest Road. Eric has altered several cages in The Avenue.

9 Memorial Park signage etc - Stanley reported that Louise Harvey of BDC has confirmed that signs for each end of the planting can be made [by Mencap at Ipswich] but was querying the preferred wording; also a bench for the centre was to be provided. It was agreed that Barry would email Louise regarding this and also raise the question of the interpretation board that was originally intended for the centre of the area.

10 Finance

- a] The HSBC form for the new signatories remains to be sorted out;
- b] We are to receive a donation from BDC as a thank you for watering their trees at Windsor Close, amount unknown.

11 BDC mapping project - a plan for new tree planting sites across the district. This will be copied to Mark by BDC once available. It will be interesting to see what is suggested for Witham.

12 Any other business

- a] Allan has written a paper on the importance of trees with climate change, which can go on our website, and we will ask if it can appear in the Witham Voice. Forestry England have a link on their website 'calculating carbon in a tree' which is very useful;
- b] Shaun Taylor's replacement at BDC is Ana Patriarca;
- c] There may be a tree missing in Armond Road ?;
- d] it was agreed that Stanley will purchase an inexpensive walnut tree he has seen at Oliver's nursery, about 10 foot tall, possibly for Spa Road in due course.

13 Next meeting - 19th September, 7.30 pm at Eric's.

Tree Group Minutes – 19th September 2023

Present: Eric Teverson, Allan Waight, Richard Hawkes, Stanley Brailey, Barry Fleet.

- 1 Apologies: Jane Noble, Ken Davies, Steve Harris, Mark Austin, Graham Wingrove.
- 2 Minutes of the 15th August - Allan has written to Braintree District Council regarding the tree loss on the Gimsons site.
- 3 Matters arising - none, although it was noted with pleasure that a tree preservation order has been placed on Magistrates Court, which means that a tree we have planted is now protected by a TPO !
- 4 Planning 2023/24
 - a) ECC/Forestry Commission funding
 - i] we are being paid £126.44 by ECC, being the surplus for the cost of the trees we planted at Templars, they having received the grant from the FC;
 - ii] the site visit for the new locations was discussed and Richard clarified the type of black poplar referred to in his report; it was agreed that along the cyclepath, we should aim to alternate tree types, possibly sweet chestnut and lombardy poplar or fastigiata aspen; at the lower end of the cyclepath, grouping of trees rather than an avenue effect would be more appropriate and a variety of species can then be used; a final pacing out would be needed to confirm the planting positions [once ECC confirm that the funding is being provided]; for the Spa Road site, Barry will notify BDC that we are planning to continue the planting there as agreed with Shaun Taylor, including planting between the play areas to provide shade protection for children. It was agreed that cultivars of Norway maple are to be preferred to the parent plant or sycamore;
 - iii] Allan has obtained a map of the cyclepath area from the Town Hall;
 - iv] Aegon have approached us to offer staff help with planting this winter as in previous years, which is much appreciated;
 - b) Town Council budget - Barry is still trying to get hold of Joe Beznosiuk for permission to plant on ECC land; if that is not forthcoming, we need alternatives and sites off Spa Road , Bramble Road, Constance Close & Saul's Bridge area were suggested; we will need to check exactly where to plant the two trees for Luard Way;
 - c) Sponsored tree - Allan will contact Cadent to obtain their confirmation that there will be no problem with the planting site for both an initial tree and subsequent ones;
 - d) Popcorn group - Barry advised that it had been agreed that a planting day in November would be appropriate on a Saturday; we don't know how many would be coming yet and this would need to be checked; he also pointed out that they would not have any tools or gloves so we would need to provide both;
 - e] Whips - Eric will order from TCV;
 - f] Walnut tree - Stanley has purchased this as agreed. It is around 11' tall and it was agreed that it could be planted opposite Paul Ryland's tree at Spa Road [which is also a walnut]; Stan also has a 12' oak in a pot that will need planting out.

5 Developers - re Rivenhall Oaks, Mark's survival survey was received; he will do another in October;

Allan advised that for Phase IV, land north-east of Rectory Lane, there is a variation of planning permission re a 5 year aftercare plan for trees. Allan has written to three BDC councillors on the Planning Committee to find out about it. How is it to be enforced ?

Re Gimsons - WTC has flagged up to BDC the tree problems there with long established mature sycamores failing through developer incompetence presumably.

6 Publicity

a) Website - Jane has been trying to deal with the problem with TCV; Eric sent a test message during the meeting which appeared to go through to our website, so Allan will check;

Leaflet - Richard to add the logo & a photo; a suitable printer needs to be found.

7 Watering & maintenance - agreed to water for at least another week; subsequent maintenance to start at the Memorial park.

8 Memorial park signage - Barry reported on his discussion with Loiuise Harvey of BDC; the end signs and bench are to proceed; she asked if we could draft the wording for an interpretation board while she checks who can create the board; Richard will work on the wording.

9 Finance

a) the current bank balance was noted, which is before the ECC payment and a donation from BDC [re watering at Windsor Close]is received;

b) Stanley volunteered to be our new Treasurer;

c) it was resolved that:

The signatories for the HSBC cheque account would be Barry Fleet, Allan Waight, Stanley Brailey, Eric Teverson & Richard Hawkes.

The HSBC form was completed accordingly.

10 Witham's Voice - Allan's article on trees and climate change should appear in the next edition.

11 Any other business

a) Red acers at Forest Road - possibly not replace the dead one this year;

b) Trent Road - there are trees with broken ties that need sorting; one has had fairy lights strung on it !;

c) query re replacement tree for Spa Road.

12 Next meeting - 17th October, 7.30 pm, Eric's house.

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ITEM NO: 12

Officer Report: Allotment Management

Issue:

(1) Allotment rent

Tenants are required to receive 12 months' notice before any changes to rent. Rent is currently charged at £0.45p per square metre and will not increase in the year 2024/2025. It is proposed that the rent is increased for the year 2025/2026 by 3p to £0.48. This will increase the average annual rent by £3.26.

If agreed, tenants will be advised in March 2024 of the increase.

(2) Appeals Panel

In February 2022, an Allotments Appeal Panel was created to deal with any unusual scenarios or complaints from allotment holders, for example about inspection notices or tenancy breaches. Disagreements between allotment holders and local councils can make for negative press and so it was felt that procedures should be in place to reduce the risk of this occurring.

It was agreed in 2022 that a panel of two Members would meet, when required, to make a joint decision on controversial situations. Since the panel was created, there has, fortunately, not been a requirement for the panel to sit, however with the new Council, there is now a need for the idea of a panel to be reviewed and a new panel to be put in place if it still considered to be necessary.

Impact Assessment

The Town Council has a statutory duty to consider the effects of its decisions on biodiversity, and crime and disorder in the area. As the Council has also formed a Climate Change Working Group, this should also be considered –

- (a) Biodiversity – No negative impact.
- (b) Crime and disorder – No negative impact.
- (c) Climate – No negative impact.

Advice:

- (1) Members to consider and approve the proposed rent increase for 2025/2026.
- (2) Members to consider whether to continue with the creation of an Allotments Appeal Panel and appoint a suitable number of members if agreed.

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Essex Waste Partnership

DRAFT

WASTE STRATEGY



FOR ESSEX

2024 - 2054

RETHINKING
OUR WASTE

Working together for Essex
Essex County Council,
Essex District, Borough
and City Councils

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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



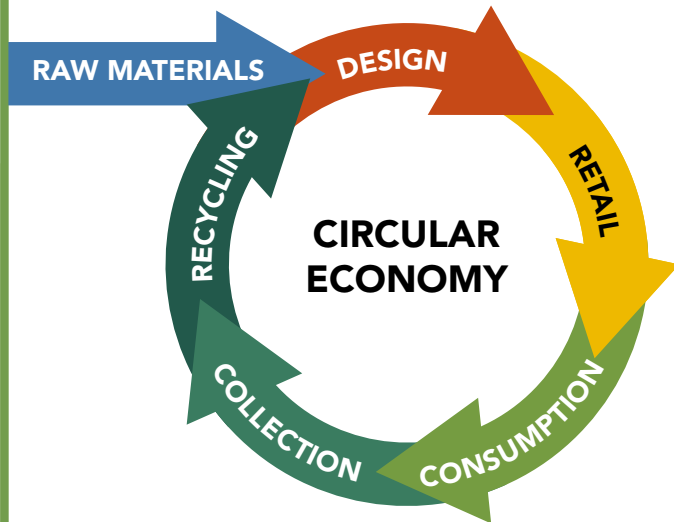
CLIMATE CHANGE

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.

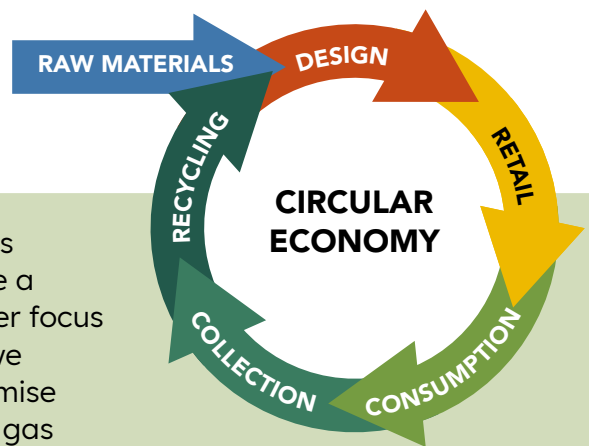
TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

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

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

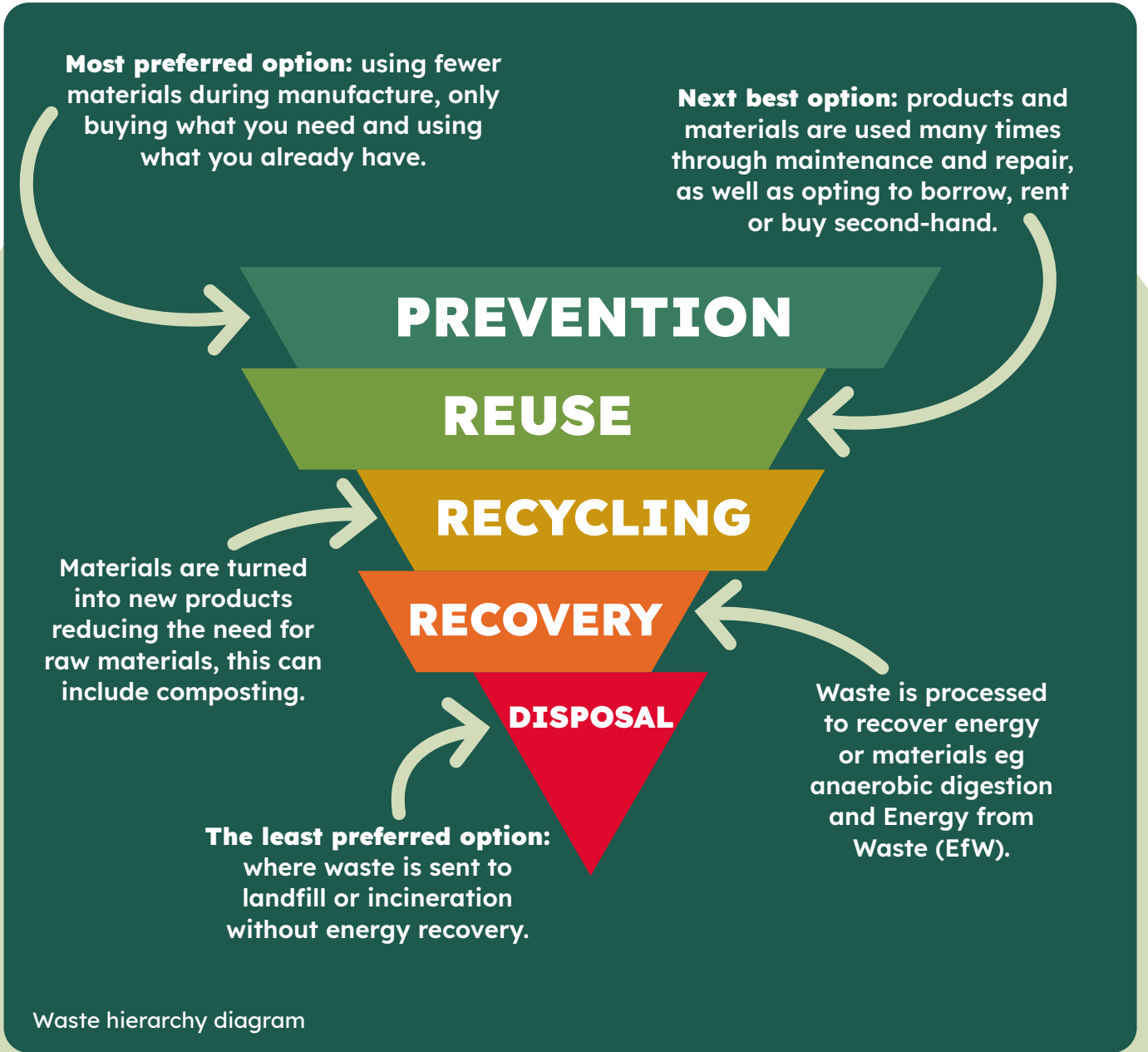


LINEAR ECONOMY

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 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.

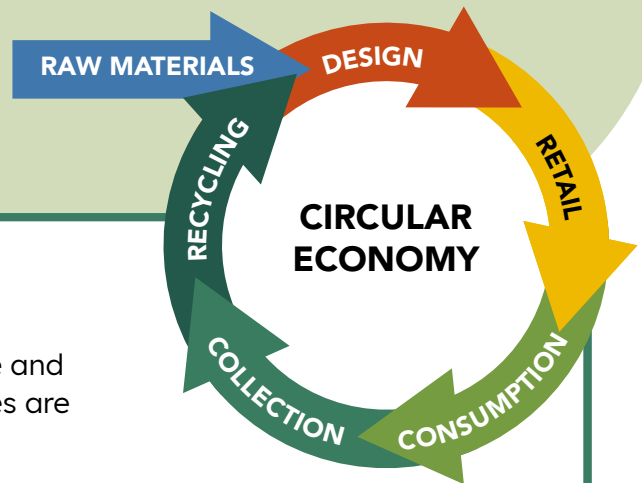


4. WHAT IS OUR APPROACH?

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.



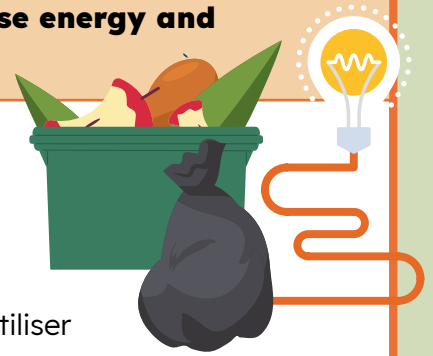
RECOVERY

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) and the Gunning Principles at www.local.gov.uk

Visit 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 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 (CO₂) 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:
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Recycling and Waste

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The information contained in this document can be translated and/or made available in alternative formats, on request.

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WORKING TOGETHER FOR ESSEX



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