



## **REPORT TO THE MEETING OF CABINET – 17 JULY 2024**

### **PORTFOLIO: ENVIRONMENT - CLLR M FULLER**

### **REPORT FROM ASSISTANT DIRECTOR WASTE & RECYCLING**

### **SUBJECT: CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL DRAFT WASTE AND RECYCLING STRATEGY AND ISSUES AND OPTIONS REVIEW**

#### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To set out the process for reviewing the Council's approach to waste collection and recycling. This is necessary due to legislative changes and the need to modernise the Council's waste vehicles and buildings.
- 1.2 The Council needs to review all aspects of the waste service and has begun this process by creating a draft waste and recycling strategy.
- 1.3 The Council proposes to seek the views of the community regarding the draft strategy and the future issues and options impacting the service.

#### **2 LINKS TO COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1 The report supports the delivery of the Council's priorities and objectives, as set out in the Corporate Plan 2012 -2024 as follows:

##### **Environment**

- We are proud of where we live and want to keep our local neighbourhoods looking clean and green.
- We want to help improve the local environment by reducing waste and reusing and recycling more.

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- We also want to help combat climate change by making choices in our lives that reduce CO<sup>2</sup> emissions.

### 3 RECOMMENDATION

#### 3.1 It is proposed that Cabinet **RESOLVES**

- (1) That in respect of its previous decision on 21 June 2023:
  - a. To revoke its endorsement of option 6b as its preferred collection option as set out in the report to Cabinet dated 21 June 2023;
  - b. To revoke the requirement to undertake public consultation on that preferred option; and
  - c. To revoke the requirement to undertake detailed financial costings of that preferred option.
- (2) To note the Castle Point Borough Council draft Waste and Recycling Strategy 2024-2029 (Appendix 1).
- (3) To approve the undertaking of a public consultation on the Council's draft Waste and Recycling Strategy (2024-2029) and future considerations of the waste and recycling service in order to meet legislative and operational demands.
- (4) To delegate the preparation, curation, methodology, commissioning and delivery of the public consultation to the Assistant Director Waste & Recycling, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment.
- (5) To approve the draw down from the General Reserve of up to £25,000 to be spent on the public consultation process.
- (6) To refer the results of the public consultation to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for its review and consideration of any recommendations to Cabinet.

### 4 WASTE COLLECTIONS OPTIONS REVIEW

4.1 Previously, the Environment Policy and Scrutiny Committee ("the PSC") was tasked with evaluating potential waste collection options with a view to improving service efficiency/environmental benefits and recommending its preferred collection option to Cabinet for approval. The findings of the PSC were reported to Cabinet on 21 June 2023. The Cabinet resolved:

- To note the work of the PSC and its recommended option for adoption;
- To endorse option 6b as its preferred collection option;
- To undertake public consultation on the preferred option with the results to be reported back to Cabinet; and

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- To establish detailed financial costings are established for the proposed new collection service to be reported back to Cabinet.
- 4.2 Following that decision, the commencement of the public consultation was paused because the Government indicated that it would imminently be producing new guidance which would directly affect the subject matter of the public consultation. Since that date, DEFRA has published the Simpler Recycling Guidance:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/exemptions-and-statutory-guidance-for-simpler-recycling-in-england/outcome/government-response>
- 4.3 As a result of the Simpler Recycling Guidance, it is now necessary to reconsider all waste collection options available to the Council to take into consideration changes within the guidelines and how these would affect the current provision of waste and recycling services by the Council.
- 4.4 The clarifications provided by the Simpler Recycling Guidance are summarised below:
- By 31 March 2025, businesses and non-domestic premises (except micro-firms who will need to comply by 2027) will be required to recycle all recyclable waste streams: metal, glass, plastic, paper, card and food waste (excluding garden waste and plastic film).
  - By 31 March 2026, local authorities will be required to collect all six recyclable waste streams (excluding plastic film), from all households. Local authorities must collect food waste weekly (except where a transitional arrangement applies).
  - A universal exemption for all local authorities to allow for the co-collection of dry recyclable waste streams in one bin, without the need for a written assessment.
  - A universal exemption for all local authorities to allow food and garden waste to be co-collected in one bin from households and non-household municipal premises.
  - A requirement for flexible waste contracts to enable new recyclable materials to be added will not be included in statutory guidance – local authorities will, however, be provided with suggestions and recommendations on how to achieve this.
  - Statutory guidance will recommend a minimum of 36 garden waste collections per year and operating at least between March-October (inclusive).
  - Statutory guidance will state that local authorities should provide a minimum standard of a fortnightly collection for residual waste (alongside a weekly food waste collection).

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4.5 Consequently, the decisions taken by the Cabinet on 21 June 2023 are now no longer valid and need to be revoked.

## **5 OPTIONS AND ISSUES**

5.1 The Council will now need to consider a wide range of options for the future needs of the waste and recycling service.

5.2 This includes but is not limited to the following:

- Different container/receptacle options for kerbside collection;
- Segregation of recycling, whether increased or reduced as compared to the current collection regime;
- Frequency of collections for different types of refuse;
- Different vehicle options (Single chamber refuse collection vehicle, spilt back refuse collection vehicle and multi sort vehicle); and
- Different fuel power options (Diesel, Electric, Bio-Fuel and Hydrogen).

5.3 The Council has significant discretion in how it organises and delivers its waste and recycling service and, as a consequence, it is the right time for all of these options to be considered. In addition, the waste and recycling service is in need of significant modernisation in terms of its operational working needs and requirements and decisions which the Council makes in relation to this service will influence and shape the Council's investment decisions in fleet, workforce and buildings.

5.4 This does not mean that the Council is bound to make any change to current waste and recycling arrangements – the Council could agree to make no change, but even a “Do Nothing” option requires the Council to have actively considered all its options before reaching a conclusion.

## **6 DRAFT WASTE AND RECYCLING STRATEGY**

6.1 Essex County Council, as the Waste Disposal Authority is due to publish the Essex Waste Strategy (2024 -2054) for adoption across all Essex Boroughs and Districts later in this municipal year. Against that backdrop, the Council proposes to bring forward its own Waste and Recycling Strategy to ensure the service meets the needs of the community and is modern and future proofed.

6.2 The Council's draft Waste and Recycling Strategy will take direction from the Essex Waste Strategy and focus its attention on the needs and the key areas directly impacting our residents.

6.3 The draft Castle Point Waste and Recycling Strategy will target the environmental and waste issues that matter the most to the residents of Castle Point.

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- 6.4 To that end, residents' views are sought on the Castle Point draft Waste and Recycling Strategy through public consultation. Asking residents what they think will mean that the Council is able to understand and, where possible, target the issues that affect the lives of our residents and present opportunities to improve the quality of living while operating within the framework of the Essex Waste Strategy (once adopted).

## **7 KEY PRINCIPLES**

- 7.1 The Key Principles of The Council's draft Waste and Recycling Strategy are:
- Improving our recycling rates and minimising waste;
  - Educating residents, starting with young people;
  - Partnership working;
  - Reducing cost for our taxpayers; and
  - Reducing our carbon footprint

## **8 RATIONALE FOR THE STRATEGY**

- 8.1 With many environmental, operational and legislative challenges to be faced over the coming years the Council has taken a proactive view in bringing forward a review of all aspects of the waste service and has begun this process by creating a draft Waste and Recycling strategy.
- 8.2 How the Council collects kerbside waste and recycling influences the fleet specification strategy and other strategic decisions such as the need to ensure the Council's depot and workshop buildings are fit for purpose, and future proofed.

## **9 PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

- 9.1 Waste is a universal service used by all residents; as such the Council anticipates a significant response to the public consultation. The Council will co-design the strategy and engage with the community to seek its views. The Council will properly resource the engagement to ensure it is accessible and meaningful. This will include a range of opportunities for the community to respond, including online, paper based and in person.
- 9.2 The consultation is scheduled to take place over a 6-week period in late summer or early autumn and after the Castle Point Plan consultation has closed. The results of the public consultation will be referred to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee before further consideration by Cabinet.

## **10 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 The cost of the proposed consultation is expected to be up to £25,000, covering campaign design and implementation costs, including media

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purchases, as well as some printing and postage. As there is no budget provision for this, it is proposed that a supplementary estimate in the current year is agreed, to be funded from the Council's General Reserve. In line with the Council's Financial Regulations, spend against the £25,000 will be monitored and any unspent funding will be returned to the General Reserve.

- 10.2 The responses to the consultation will help the Council formulate and shape its Waste and Recycling Strategy and the consequential decisions which need to be taken regarding facilities and fleet. It is likely that additional costs will be incurred as part of these decisions and the financial implications will be set out as part of those decisions at the appropriate time.

## 11 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The Council has a statutory duty to arrange collections for household waste under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The Environment Act 2021 aims to increase recycling rates across England and to deliver comprehensive, frequent waste and recycling collections. A summary of the requirements set out in DEFRA's Simpler Recycling Guidance is set out above in paragraph 4.4.

## 12 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been completed as no decision has been made at this time. However, an Equality Impact Assessment will be completed as part of the consultation proposals.

## 13 LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Draft Castle Point Borough Council Waste and Recycling Strategy (2024-2029)



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### Background Papers:-

Cabinet decision 21 June 2023

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**DRAFT**

**Waste & Recycling Strategy 2024-2029**

**Castle Point Borough Council**

**July 2024**

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## 1. Strategy at a glance

This strategy outlines Castle Point Borough Council’s approach to waste and recycling, which we will consult on. It will support the delivery of the Council’s priorities and objectives as set out in the Corporate Plan 2012 -2024 as follows:

### Environment

- We are proud of where we live and want to keep our local neighbourhoods looking clean and green.
- We want to help improve the local environment by reducing waste and reusing and recycling more.
- We also want to help combat climate change by making choices in our lives that reduce CO2 emissions.

A key part of our strategy is our aim to reduce waste and as such will adhere to the ‘waste hierarchy’ which ranks waste management according to what is best for the environment, with waste prevention ranked as the most preferred option at the top and disposal ranked as the least preferred option at the bottom.



## 2. Welcome & introduction

Involving residents in the design and delivery of our services is a fundamental principle of how Castle Point Borough Council operates. Our waste and recycling service is one which serves all of our residents, and as such is it vital that we involve our communities in the future design of the service.

### 3. Setting the scene

#### 3.a Our current service

Waste collection services are provided to all residents in both houses and communal properties.

In 2023/24 we collected a total of 33,000 tonnes of waste, of which 48% was collected as recycling. A further 5,900 tonnes of garden waste were collected, as well as 2,700 tonnes of food waste.

Castle Point Borough Council currently undertakes fortnightly collections for separated recycling of glass in a box and dry mixed recycling (plastic, cans, paper & cardboard) in a pink plastic bag.

General waste is collected fortnightly in black sacks.

Food waste is collected weekly in a food waste container.

Garden waste is collected as part of our chargeable service, currently at a cost of £39 per year for a wheeled bin or £8 for 20 sacks, which are available from our leisure centres and local libraries.

#### 3.b Our existing infrastructure

Castle Point Borough Council has its own Waste and Recycling depot and vehicle workshop within the borough. However, the current infrastructure limits opportunities to develop the service, with limited space for redevelopment and expansion, and limitations including an aging fleet of waste collection vehicles and a reliance on non-environmentally friendly fuels.

#### 3.c Our performance

Office for Local Government (Oflog) data shows that in comparison to similar local authorities, Castle Point has more contaminated recycling. However, the borough has a higher recycling rate and less residual household waste per household when compared to similar local authorities. Source: <https://oflog.data.gov.uk/>

#### 3.d Our targets

- To increase our Recycling Rate to the current National set target of 55%.
- To ensure that all residents have access to recycling services for plastic, paper, card, metal, glass and garden waste.
- To reduce the amount of residual waste produced per person to under 110kg.
- To divert all residual waste away from Landfill.
- To halve the amount of fly tipping in the borough.

#### 3.e The local demographic

- Our Waste Collections Services currently collect from over 90,000 residents.

- With approximately 36,000 houses receiving a kerbside collection and 3,000 receiving communal collections from flats or multiple occupancy properties

## **4. How we will develop this strategy**

We will develop our strategic approach to waste management by setting out the facts and considerations to our communities and explaining our targets and environmental aims. A six-week consultation will offer residents multiple opportunities to find out more about our proposals, how they would be affected, how we are considering our local environment, and how to get involved and have their say. Following this, a final strategy will be developed, ensuring it considers and reflects the view of our residents.

## **5. Our Key Principles**

### **5.a Improving recycling rates and minimising waste.**

Supporting our residents to recycle more through education and promotion alongside simplifying our collection services will bring about the cultural change needed to combat illegal waste disposal, littering, fly tipping etc.... We will seek to utilise the waste hierarchy and by designing services that prioritise waste reduction and increased recycling.

### **5.b Educating residents, starting with our young people.**

We will initiate a programme of education and engagement ensuring that we listen to feedback and deliver information and initiatives that support residents and businesses to reduce waste and recycle more. We believe that education and promotions is the cornerstone of taking forward the Council's recycling and waste minimisation plans and by working with schools on promoting sustainable waste management issues, supporting practical programmes and examining the viability of new sustainable waste initiatives we will achieve the behavioural change needed to improve our future.

### **5.c Partnership working.**

We will strive to work with all of our partner services and collaborate on initiatives with the neighbouring boroughs within the Essex Waste Partnership and seek opportunities to drive improvements and efficiencies in the services we provide our residents.

**5.d Reducing cost for our taxpayers.**

We will seek to deliver efficient and value driven services and continue explore the opportunities to introduce innovative systems and operating methods to ensure we can continue to provide high quality services at the lowest possible cost to our residents.

**5.e Reducing our carbon footprint.**

We will work to reduce the carbon impact of our waste collection operations by exploring the use of alternative fuels for our vehicles and equipment.

Additionally, we will look for ways to offset the impact of unavoidable greenhouse gas emissions.

## **6. Measuring success**

- We will report and publish our performance indicators on a quarterly basis to track the progress on achieving our goals.
- We will produce an annual report to Cabinet.