



Resources and Waste Strategy

Foreword

I am pleased to introduce West Northamptonshire Council's first Resources and Waste Strategy. This Strategy has been produced by a Working Group of Elected Members and Council officers, with expert advice from a team of technical consultants and informed by the views of our residents, following formal public consultation.

A key priority for West Northamptonshire, endorsed by our residents is ensuring we have a sustainable approach to dealing with our waste, and that we minimise the waste we produce whilst maximising the waste we recycle. We want to become more efficient and build on what is already a valued service, reflecting the needs of our very different communities.

Through the production of the Strategy, we have created a vision of how we see West Northamptonshire Council's waste services developing in the future. The vision incorporates ten principles which cover all aspects of the service, and which are described in full in this document.

The Strategy will be used in the forthcoming years to inform our decision making on waste services matters, as we harmonise and develop services to meet the needs of our residents, customers and the requirements of central government. There will be an enhanced focus on waste prevention which, our residents have told us is important to them. Waste prevention provides the maximum environmental and economic benefits of all waste management options. We will be exploring how we can maximise the reuse of waste items and materials, through both our own services and working in partnership with others. We will be looking at how and when we collect the household and commercial waste from our residents and customers for reuse, recycling, composting, treatment and disposal, to provide a harmonised service which increases recycling, reduces the amount of waste sent for treatment and disposal and reduces carbon emissions. In Street Cleansing we will be reviewing services and working with partner organisations and voluntary groups to better co-ordinate efforts to make West Northamptonshire a clean and green place to live, work and visit.

Although a new authority in 2021, West Northamptonshire, through its legacy councils has a proven track record in providing high performing and cost-effective waste management services. We have been in the top 10 in the national league tables for recycling performance and received industry recognition for innovative and ambitious service provision. Through our new Resources and Waste Strategy we wish to build on this legacy; levelling up examples of good practice across all waste services in West Northamptonshire. Now that we are a unitary authority, we have the ideal opportunity to make holistic decisions for both waste collection and disposal. Residents are already experiencing better customer service, more comprehensive waste communications and more materials collected for recycling than ever before. For example, a new waste electricals and battery collection service was introduced in Daventry, and all residents have waste services information at their fingertips with a new 'West Northants App' and residents' magazine.

We aim to be ambitious but realistic, taking the views of our residents and the financial constraints in which the Council operates into consideration.

We currently recycle or compost 47 % of all the household waste that we collect and 3 % is reused (soil and hardcore). A further 38 % going to waste treatment facilities and 12 % landfilled. Through this Strategy we are setting targets to reduce the tonnage of general waste, boost recycling and further reduce the need to send waste to landfill. Each year we will review and update an Action Plan, detailing how these targets will be achieved and what resources are required to do so.

I would like to thank the Members, officers and consultants for their hard work in researching and drafting this Resources and Waste Strategy. Most of all I would like to thank our residents and customers for diligently separating your waste for recycling and to the over 3,000 interested people who took the time to respond to our Resources and Waste Strategy Consultation. We hope that you will continue this journey with us as we transform services and deliver the Strategy Vision.

Cllr Phil Larratt

Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste

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Executive Summary

A Resources and Waste Strategy for West Northamptonshire has been developed. The purpose of the Strategy is to provide a sustainable 15-year vision for waste and street cleansing services, which will inform decision making related to these services. The result will see services becoming harmonised over the West Northamptonshire area as current arrangements end.

The Strategy is a set of 10 principles, which will be used to guide the development of waste services in West Northamptonshire as they evolve and harmonise, and to ensure waste services are delivered in accordance with the wider ambitions and objectives of the Council.

The 10 principles are:

1. To provide appropriate, harmonised waste services;
2. To move waste up the waste hierarchy;
3. To support local prevention initiatives and increase waste education;
4. To deliver high performing services, recycle more and achieve other targets;
5. To ensure waste services are value for money;
6. To invest in West Northamptonshire's waste infrastructure to support performance and value for money;
7. To consider future changes when designing services;
8. To work with partners to improve street cleansing;
9. To consider carbon emissions and sustainability in our decisions regarding waste services;
10. To align waste services with West Northamptonshire Council's wider values and strategies.

The development of the Strategy has been steered by a cross-party Members Waste Working Group, with expert input and verification by independent consultants, and has been tailored using the feedback from a public consultation.

The Strategy does not seek to answer all possible questions about how services might change in the next 15 years. As contracts and existing arrangements expire, the vision and 10 principles will inform decisions about replacement arrangements. If significant changes to services are proposed, these will be the subject of a separate business case, consultation and Cabinet decision as required.

An action plan is included within the Strategy which gives an overview of the projects and work that will be carried out to implement the vision. Progress against the action plan will be reviewed and the action plan will be updated annually.

1. Introduction

West Northamptonshire's 425,000 residents receive waste services on a weekly basis and many residents will list waste as one of the key services they receive from the Council. This high level recognition of waste as a Council service and the scale of the operation means it is essential that we have a robust plan for developing these services for the future.

West Northamptonshire Council's Resources and Waste Strategy has been produced by a team of Officers and a working group of Members, with expert advice from external consultants and informed by the views of our residents and our commercial customers.

In developing this Strategy, a public consultation exercise was completed during the summer of 2023. The feedback received has been incorporated into this Strategy and its action plan.

The purpose of this Strategy is to set out the strategic approach that West Northamptonshire Council will take in managing the 183,500 tonnes of local authority collected municipal solid waste we collect annually, covering the fifteen-year period from 2024 to 2039.

The Strategy builds upon the work of our predecessor councils and takes account of potential changes in Government policy in waste collection, disposal, the wider circular economy and carbon reduction. As the first Resources and Waste Strategy we have published as a unitary authority, the Council is able to take a holistic approach to waste management from waste prevention, collection, treatment through to disposal ensuring the best economic and environmental outcomes for our residents.

Scope

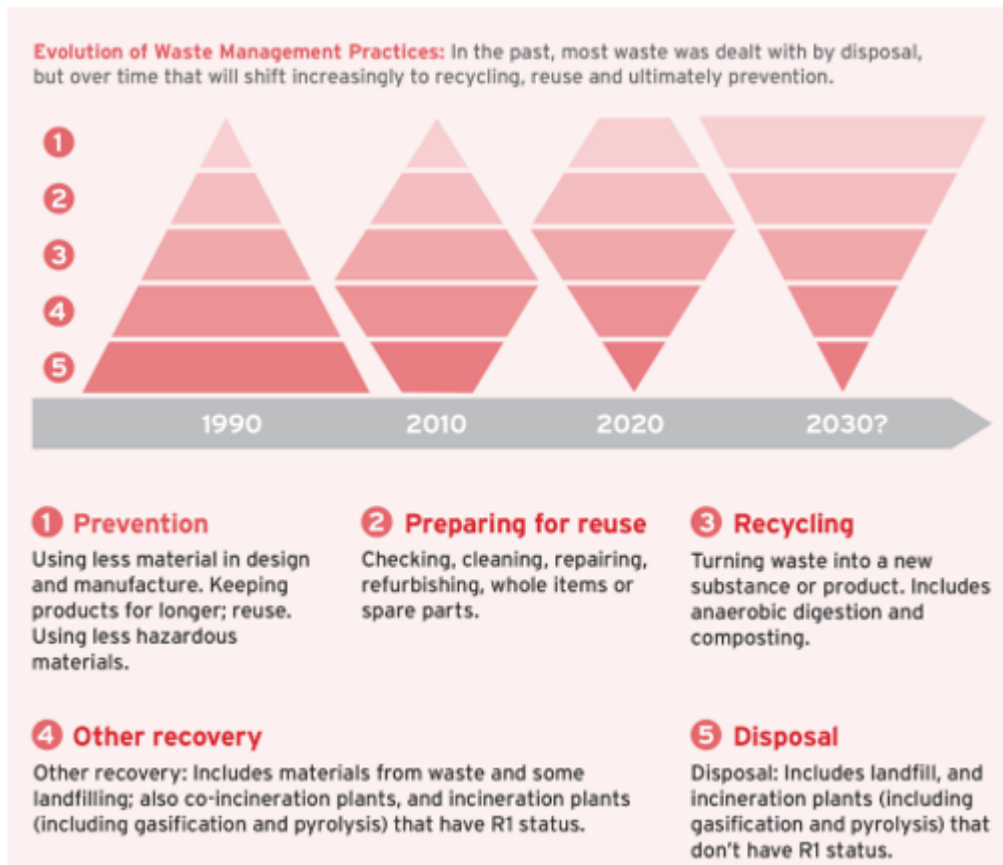
This Strategy addresses all the waste managed by West Northamptonshire Council, collected by our kerbside collection services, and at our network of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs). This waste includes "household waste", which is the waste we collect from households, street sweepings, litter, and waste received at HWRCs, as well as commercial waste from our trade waste customers, and waste from clearing up fly-tipping incidents.

The Strategy includes all the waste streams we collect – residual waste, commercial, recycling, garden waste for composting, food waste, clinical waste, items of bulky household furniture, waste electrical items and batteries. We have also included our street cleansing service in this Strategy as it is intrinsically linked to the waste service as a whole.

Context

Waste management has evolved over the last 40 years to become more focused on waste prevention, reuse and recycling (Figure 1) and our Resources and Waste Strategy will build on this as we plan for the next 15 years.

Figure 1 Evolution of Waste Management Practices



Waste legislation and statutory guidance is frequently subject to change (Appendix C). In December 2018, the Government published its Resources and Waste Strategy for England, detailing its proposed approach for how it will preserve material resources by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy in England. At the time of developing this Strategy, the final details of how the national strategy will be implemented are still unknown. Therefore, in producing our Strategy for West Northamptonshire, we have taken a flexible approach to ensure that any future government requirements can be accommodated once they are known.

Vision & Ambition

Members and Officers have developed a Vision for how we would like to see the Council’s Waste Services developing in the future (Figure 2). In this Strategy document we provide more details of the ten principles of this vision, explaining why each is important and setting out how we plan to achieve them. Each year of the Strategy we will produce an Action Plan, detailing progress made, and the projects and actions planned for the forthcoming year, which will contribute to achieving the vision.

Figure 2 Resources and Waste Strategy Vision



Working with our residents, elected members and contractors we will implement the Strategy through the annual action plan and review and report on the progress we have made. The Strategy Action Plan will:

- look at ways to reduce non-recyclable waste and move waste up the hierarchy
- identify best practice waste collection systems to provide efficient services (such as waste tracking, route optimisation and data driven decision processes)
- explore technologies used for treatment of this waste, including emerging technologies and the roles they play in providing cost-effective, long-term collection, processing and treatment solutions, and
- include key projects required to help implement the vision.

2. 'Provide appropriate, harmonised waste services'

Kerbside Waste Collection Services

West Northamptonshire Council currently (2023) operates a comprehensive kerbside household waste collection service, providing residents with a convenient and reliable way to reuse, recycle or dispose of their household waste. These kerbside waste collection services are delivered by a range of operating models (via a commercial waste collection organisation, a joint venture and by directly employed staff). This is because as a new authority formed in 2021, West Northamptonshire Council has adopted the waste collection and disposal arrangements from its predecessor authorities. As a result, there are some differences in the way waste is collected across West Northamptonshire. Further details about the current kerbside collection services are provided in Appendix A.

Our aim for West Northamptonshire's kerbside waste collection service is to ensure that all residents can recycle the same range of materials regardless of whether they live in a house, terraced house or flat. This work will include investigating the relative merits of different collection frequencies (in terms of recycling performance, cost, carbon emissions and customer service) and consider the collection containers used, taking into account the space available at the property for wheeled bins. Residents' services will be tailored where appropriate, so that services are suitable for different housing types.

Harmonising services will be a gradual process, due to the existing contractual arrangements, with long term objective that from 2028 we have one delivery method to provide appropriate, harmonised kerbside waste collections across the whole of West Northamptonshire.

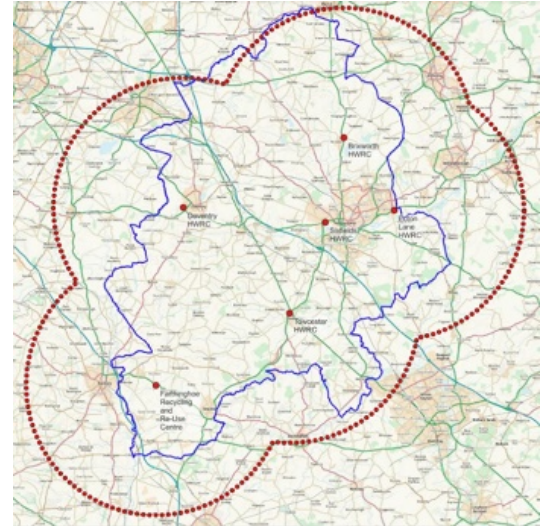
What did our residents say?

- 67% of respondents agreed/strongly agreed that all households should have their waste collected in the same way and the same frequency.
- We also asked which bins were usually full by collection day. Only 21 % of residents' general (residual) waste bins were full on collection day. Whereas 38% of respondents said their recycling bin was full by collection.

Household Waste Recycling Centres

Our network of six Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) also form an important part of our waste collection services. Residents can bring a wide range of waste materials for reuse and recycling to all six sites. Non-recyclable (or residual) waste is accepted at all sites except Farthinghoe, which is for reusable or recyclable waste only.

Further information about the HWRCs is provided in Appendix A .



Currently, our residents are well served with access to HWRCs with 99 % of residents living within 10 miles (as the crow flies) of a site. However, our sites vary in age and size, with some being split level, allowing easy access to the skips for the various materials accepted and other sites use metal ramps to enable residents to access skips.

As part of implementing this Strategy and improving waste services in West Northamptonshire, we will consider options to invest in the HWRC infrastructure. This may result in the number or location of sites changing.

The arrangements for delivering these services are due to change in 2025 when the contracts expire, so other aspects such as the operating hours and the reuse services will be considered and aligned with the implementation of this Strategy.

The objectives of any investment and changes to these services would be to increase the amount of material that is collected for reuse and recycling, to improve the accessibility of these services and improve services for our residents.

What did our residents say?

- Our residents said they would like to see more reuse options at our HWRCs, with 80% of respondents saying that they would donate items and 42% of residents saying they would buy items.
- The majority of respondents said they would like the ramps to be removed and the sites re-developed into split-level for ease of use.
- The majority of respondents would like the opening days and times to be reviewed and increased to enable increased access.
- 59% of residents agreed that the sites should be restricted to West Northamptonshire residents.

3. Develop services that prevent waste first and reuse, recycle and recover energy where possible'

When considering how to deal with the 183,500 tonnes of municipal waste managed in West Northamptonshire each year, the Council will apply the waste hierarchy when making key decisions.

The “waste hierarchy” (Figure 3) prioritises waste management options according to what is best for the environment. It gives top priority to preventing waste in the first place. When waste is created, the best options are to reuse it, then recycle it, then recovery, and last of all disposal (e.g. landfill).

In 2021/22 of the total waste collected by West Northampton through its kerbside services or its network of Household Waste Recycling Centre:

- 3% was reused
- 47 % was recycled
- 38 % had energy recovered from it
- 12% was landfilled



Figure 3, The Waste Hierarchy

Waste Prevention

Not only does preventing waste result in the best environmental outcomes, it also saves the Council and therefore our residents, the most money through avoided waste collection and disposal costs.

The impact of waste prevention initiatives can only be measured by looking at the tonnage of residual waste collected per household (and business) and seeing a decline over time.

The Council will consider ways to enable waste prevention, including:

- Promotion of home composting
- Providing advice on how to reduce junk mail
- Facilitating the use of real nappies rather than disposables
- Promotion of food waste prevention through meal planning, using up leftovers and use of community food larders
- Promotion of repair cafes, hiring rather than buying and establishing libraries for the loan of certain items
- Promoting behavioural change such as use of refill shops/options and avoiding products that are heavily packaged
- Restricting residual waste capacity by providing smaller bins or by collecting residual bins less frequently

Waste Reuse

Reuse includes activities such as upcycling, selling or passing on secondhand furniture and clothes, and re-purposing waste objects into something useful. Residents will engage in many reuse activities without any involvement or encouragement from the Council: for example, selling unwanted items online, taking clothes and bric-a-brac to a charity shop and reusing shopping bags. There are, however, ways in which the Council can facilitate and further encourage reuse, through education and communication activities, and we will increase our focus on this area, by including targeted projects in the annual action plan.

Recycling

Recycling involves converting waste material into something which can be used again. It can become the same thing, for example recycling glass bottles into more glass bottles or something different, for example, recycling plastic bottles into fleece jumpers. Composting of garden waste and anaerobic digestion of food waste is included in recycling as new, useful products are made from the waste materials. In the case of food waste, compost like material and renewable energy are produced.

The Council offers comprehensive kerbside recycling services to most households and to our commercial customers, collecting a wide range of recyclable materials. Additional materials can be recycled at HWRCs. We will continue to promote and invest in these services, exploring opportunities to expand them to more households and to collect more materials when this becomes possible.

Energy Recovery

There will always be waste that cannot be recycled and which requires safe and cost-effective disposal. Residual waste has a high caloric value, meaning that it contains energy which can be released to generate partially renewable energy. Energy can also be recovered from organic waste through the creation and capture of biogas during composting and anaerobic digestion. Consequently, the Council has a preference for generating energy from residual waste rather than disposing of waste in landfill.

Disposal to Landfill

The last waste management option is landfill, where the waste is buried and allowed to slowly rot down over time. Less energy is recovered because the waste is not burnt and there is the potential for pollution of the atmosphere and ground water, although modern landfill sites are very carefully managed and monitored. Also, when waste is landfilled, the resource can only be used once (with no option to recycle or recover energy). For these reasons, landfill will be the last option that is considered for the disposal of waste. However, there will always be some waste where landfill is the only permitted option because it is not suitable for treatment or recycling, and there may also be some residues after energy recovery that require landfilling.

Government Targets

The UK government recognises the importance of waste reduction and through its 2023 Environmental Improvement Plan set a target to halve residual waste produced per person by 2042.

Although a national target, the Council will aim to contribute to the achievement of this target by implementing waste reduction policies and projects, details of which will be included in the annual action plan.

What did our residents say?

- The consultation highlighted that there is a lot of scope for the Council to enable waste prevention and recycling and this is something that our residents would support.
- For example, 45% of residents would like to use reusable nappies, 55% of residents would like to donate to or use community larders and 33% would like to compost at home.

4. 'Support local waste prevention and reuse initiatives and Increase Waste Education.'

As discussed earlier, waste prevention is at the top of the hierarchy and should be considered before any of the other options below it.

Waste Prevention has the best environmental outcomes of all waste treatment options. The waste does not have to be collected and treated, saving the emissions (including carbon) associated with those activities and the costs of providing them and preserving valuable resources.

There are many commercial, charitable and voluntary sector organisations, who work in the field of waste prevention either directly or indirectly. They often work outside the scope of West Northamptonshire Council, but they carry out great work and help to reduce the amount of waste that the Council is required to collect for either reuse, recycling or disposal.

Waste prevention initiatives often have other knock-on benefits to the wider community than just preventing waste. For example, charities who collect items of unwanted furniture for reuse prevent those items from becoming waste but also provide cheaper furniture for those on low incomes, who cannot afford to buy new.

Another example of waste prevention is the network of community larders. They take unsold food and groceries from local supermarkets and businesses, which would otherwise be wasted. The food is sold at a heavily discounted rate to members of the community larder, who are on a low income. This helps them to provide nutritious and affordable meals for their families.

Through this Resources and Waste Strategy, the Council wishes to promote, support and facilitate waste prevention activities undertaken by outside organisations to enable them to grow, reach more residents and therefore have a greater impact.

This work has started in our support and promotion of the Community Larder network in West Northamptonshire. In the annual action plan, we will provide details of the other projects we wish to work with and facilitate.

Waste Education

Raising awareness about waste and recycling issues is an important part of this Resources and Waste Strategy and will contribute greatly to its successful implementation.

Waste Education can take many forms but includes;

- Speaking to school children about waste and recycling, who may pester their parents into action and who will become the citizens of the future.
- Increasing awareness of the reasons why it is important to reduce and recycle waste and not to drop litter, so that behaviour is changed, good habits are formed, and it becomes a way of life.
- Ensuring that all residents know how to correctly take part in the recycling services provided by the council means that they run more efficiently, and we reduce the cost of contamination in recycling containers.
- Empowering West Northamptonshire’s residents to be ‘responsible consumers’ helping the Council to achieve its recycling targets and reduce waste and therefore the cost of waste services.

Waste education is a theme which runs through the Resources and Waste Strategy and will feature heavily in the annual action plan.

What did our residents say?



5. 'High Performing Services'

The Council, working with its residents and communities, can contribute significantly to the effectiveness of protecting and conserving the environment, by increasing the amount of material that is recovered for reuse, recycling and composting and working towards a circular economy.

There are some challenges which need to be considered as part of aspiring to have high performing services, such as increasing waste tonnages due to population growth, contaminated recyclables and financial constraints.

In delivering this Strategy we will explore ways in which services can be high performing, finding solutions to the challenges and learning from best practice elsewhere.

Wardell Armstrong case study on high performing authorities.

The best performing authority in minimising residual waste generation is East Devon. Here dry recycling and food waste collections are offered weekly, with residual waste only collected once every three weeks. In addition to restricting the frequency of residual waste collected, bin capacities have been reduced to 180 litres, providing a nominal weekly allowance of just 60 litres. The Council does not collect any loose waste or additional bags, however it does provide a one-off chargeable collection of residual waste should residents request an additional collection.

Targets

We have set targets which take account of our current performance, the Council's ambition and central Government's national targets as follows:

West Northamptonshire Targets

- Increase the amount of waste that is recycled and composted from 47 % to 50 % by 2030.
- Reduce waste to landfill from 12 % to 10 % by 2028.
- Become net zero in Carbon emissions within directly delivered Council activities by 2030.
- Contribute towards West Northamptonshire becoming net zero in Carbon emissions by 2045.

National Targets

- Reduce residual waste tonnage by 24 % by 2028.
- Halve residual waste generated per person by 2042.

We believe that these targets are challenging and achievable and take account of constraints, such as costs and availability of markets for recyclable materials.

We will report on progress made on these targets as a part of the annual Action Plan, where we will also review them for subsequent years. We will identify areas for continuous improvement, involving residents, businesses, and communities in waste management plans.

What did our residents say?

- 68% of our residents told us that they believe high recycling performance is very important and in doing so protect the environment.
- However, customer service is also a priority for respondents.

6. 'Value for Money'

West Northamptonshire Council's services are provided using public funds and the Council is responsible for ensuring that it provides 'value for money services' by securing the services and products that it procures achieving best value and by maximising the efficiency of delivering all services. Our residents can help us provide waste services at the lowest cost by reducing the amount of waste they produce, and we will encourage and enable them to do this. Likewise, we will support our residents in putting the right materials in the right containers, which in turn reduces the overall costs of the management of waste.

The formation of West Northamptonshire Council brought together three waste collection areas (Daventry, Northampton and the South) and the waste disposal functions, which means decisions about waste services can be made holistically, for the whole geographic area and take into account waste collection and disposal costs.

Efficient Services

Like other Council services, the efficiency of delivering waste services is a key consideration in keeping costs as low as possible. Benchmarking with and learning from other similar authorities, taking into account factors such as geography (rural / urban mix), demographics and population size will help the Council ensure the cost and quality of its waste services are at least comparable with other similar authorities.

Optimising waste collection rounds across the whole of West Northamptonshire as existing contractual arrangements end, will help to reduce the mileage covered by our waste collection vehicles and consequently reduce the amount of fuel used, the associated costs and carbon emissions.

When new waste services are procured, or decisions are taken about changes to services, the cost implications for the whole waste system will be considered – something which was difficult prior to becoming a unitary authority. When the specification for the new Household Waste Recycling Centre services is developed, consideration will be given to controls which help ensure that only waste which should be disposed of for free can be disposed of at no charge, to help minimise the costs to the residents of West Northamptonshire.

Savings

As well as reducing carbon emissions, preserving natural resources and other beneficial environmental impacts, moving the management of waste up the waste hierarchy can help save money. However, this is not a universal rule, since very high recycling performance may come at an increased cost. Therefore, the targets included in this Strategy balance the need for the services to be efficient.

When making decisions about waste services, customer satisfaction is an important consideration, although it is recognised that any change to a waste collection service may

negatively impact on customer satisfaction until residents become used to the changes. However, waste services are only one of many essential services delivered by the Council, which is why the cost of waste services should be kept as low as possible, whilst maintaining acceptable service standards.

Waste services that are delivered via a contract will continue to be subject to competitive procurement processes to help ensure the best value providers. As contracts expire and new arrangements are secured, there may also be economies of scale as the geographic areas of West Northamptonshire are considered as one.

Income generation

Some of the materials that are collected at the kerbside and at the Household Waste Recycling Centres have a monetary value. For the Council to secure the highest value for these materials it is important that reusable items which are in good condition, and co-mingled dry mixed recyclables collected at the kerbside should be free from contamination.

Like the majority of local authorities, West Northamptonshire Council levies a charge for the collection of garden waste, ensuring that only those who use the service, pay for it. The charges have been harmonised across the Council area, and income is used to contribute to the rising costs of providing the waste collection services.

The Council offers a paid for 'bulky waste collection' service for items which residents may find difficult to transport to the Household Waste Recycling Centres. We recognise that when residents want to dispose of something they would rather it was quick and convenient. We will review this service to increase reuse of furniture and white goods and ensure sufficient capacity so that the service is responsive to resident's requests. This may increase income and help reduce fly tipping.

West Northamptonshire Council also offers a (chargeable) waste service for commercial customers to dispose of their trade waste and recycling. This is a local service, offering recycling services for a wider range of materials than other traditional waste management companies. Expanding this service will help increase the Council's income and increase recycling.

Finally, by developing its own waste facilities, the Council may be able to sell any spare capacity to generate an income which could help to subsidise the increasing costs of waste management. For example, the Council may decide to develop a Materials Recycling Facility which can sort West Northamptonshire's Dry Mixed Recyclables (DMR) and possibly have space for other Councils' material. Developing waste facilities requires significant investment and is a long-term project but may be beneficial in keeping West Northamptonshire Council's waste service costs low and generate an income.

What did our residents say?

62 % of our residents said that it is very important that we reduce service costs, although 87% prioritise customer satisfaction over cost.



7. 'Invest to become self-sufficient'

The majority of West Northamptonshire's waste infrastructure was established decades ago and there have been many changes in the waste collection systems and population of the area since.

Even relatively simple waste facilities such as Household Waste Recycling Centres and Waste Transfer Stations are designed with a tonnage throughput in mind and population growth in the area means these facilities are operating at close to capacity.

The Council doesn't own any waste treatment facilities such as anaerobic digestion facilities for food waste, open windrow composting facilities for green waste, materials recycling facilities for sorting dry mixed recyclables or energy from waste facilities for treating residual waste. This means it is currently reliant on commercial waste management companies to process these waste streams and the Council may be able to achieve better value for money by investing in its own waste processing infrastructure.

Although West Northamptonshire is fortunate to be well served by commercial waste facilities within reasonable distance for some waste streams, as part of implementing the Resources and Waste Strategy, consideration will be given to potential opportunities for the Council to develop its own facilities. This approach may have non-cashable benefits such as long-term security of capacity, control over operating parameters and risks and certainty of processing costs. However, detailed business cases would be required to determine the risks and financial viability since the investment required in these facilities can be significant.

There is also a potential opportunity for the Council when considering the development of waste treatment facilities, which is to sell any spare capacity at a commercial rate, and this would help reduce the cost of the facility for West Northamptonshire Council and our taxpayers. Neighbouring authorities may be interested in co-development, which may reduce costs and enable economies of scale and a partnership arrangement is another option to consider and take into account in a business case.

Since developing a detailed business case can cost a considerable amount and also take time, the options most likely to offer the best opportunities have been identified with the help of independent experts (Wardell Armstrong). These options are outlined in Appendix B and will be the focus of an initial waste infrastructure review.

8. 'Future proof for national requirements'

One of the objectives of the Resources and Waste Strategy is to provide a clear vision regarding the principles for the waste service, to inform decisions regarding changes to the service as they evolve.

By having a set of principles with a supporting action plan that is reviewed regularly, the Council will be able to take into account of:

- Changes in legislation and statutory guidance;
- Changes in market conditions, for example changes in the value of materials or treatment capacity that are likely to have a long-term impact;
- Changes in local policies or politics.

We will also 'build in' flexibility by:

- Using research, including the work completed to develop this Strategy to inform decisions on how we deliver services and the specification for our services;
- Considering partnering with other local authorities to provide resilience and share risks;
- Using data and trends to forecast what might happen in the future, for example how growth in West Northamptonshire might affect the waste collected;
- Ensuring the terms and conditions of our future contracts allow for changes.

Future Service Delivery and Emerging Technologies

As part of implementing the Resources and Waste Strategy, West Northamptonshire Council will engage with the industry to benefit from their expert knowledge on the best technologies being used for specific parts of the waste management system. We will do this as part of informal 'market testing' prior to making decisions about changes to services or procuring new services.

Whilst we wish to embrace advances and improvement in technology, we are also mindful of the importance of using established and reliable options when making multi-million-pound investment decisions and spending tax payers' money.

9. 'Work with Partners to Improve Street Cleansing'

Litter within our Council area is unsightly, it has a negative effect on the perception of the area, and it is also hazardous to the environment and wildlife. Litter is a sign that people do not respect their local environment which can then lead onto other issues.

Street cleaning, including picking up litter, places a significant financial and resource burden on local authorities, and a poor local environment can discourage inward investment which could result in suppression of property prices, damaging local economic growth. Therefore, it is in everyone's interest to tackle this issue.

West Northamptonshire Council has a statutory duty to keep 'relevant land' clear of litter and refuse, as far as is practicable. Tackling litter is a wider issue than just clearing it up, and prevention is better than cure. Through implementing this strategy, we will help to educate our residents and communities to not drop litter which will help to keep the area clean and tidy and save valuable resources which can be spent on other essential services.

Enforcement activities compliment education activities to help the "war on litter" and colleagues in the Council's Environmental Protection Team have suite of powers that can be used to deter littering and fly-tipping and to require business owners to clear litter from a designated area around their property.

The Waste Team will work with other teams within the Council with the objective of reducing fly tipping, addressing this anti-social behaviour through education and enforcement.

The Council is not the only organisation responsible for keeping West Northamptonshire litter free. There are many other organisations who have a role, and in some cases, a statutory responsibility, including educational establishments, National Highways, Town and Parish Councils, Network Rail, private land owners and businesses. In addition to this, there are many voluntary organisations operating in West Northamptonshire who take an active interest in litter and fly-tipping issues, undertaking litter picking activities and educational work.

To create a truly 'Clean and Green' West Northamptonshire all interested parties need to work together. The Council will adopt a coordination and facilitation role in bringing the organisations and other Council colleagues with a responsibility and interest in litter together to combine efforts to bring about the best outcomes.

What did our residents say?



10. 'Embed our aim to reduce our carbon emissions and improve sustainability in all decisions'

The build-up of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases are causing the atmosphere to warm, creating global changes to the climate.

Following its declaration of a climate emergency, the Council has adopted ambitious targets to achieve net zero emissions of 'carbon' (carbon dioxide and other gas implicated in global warming, measured as tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent warming potential). These are for the Council to achieve net zero in its own operations by 2030 and for West Northamptonshire as a whole to achieve net zero by 2045.

The Council's handling of waste falls under the 2030 target, whereas emissions from the waste itself, as it is generated by the residents and business of West Northamptonshire and visitors to the district, falls under the 2045 target.

The implementation of this Resources and Waste Strategy can help contribute to achieving these targets by reducing waste, increasing recycling, and considering carbon emissions in our choice of vehicle fuels, collection methods and waste treatment options.

The Waste Hierarchy and Carbon Emissions

Reducing Waste

By reducing the amount of waste we create, we reduce our carbon emissions and we use resources more sustainably.

By making informed decisions about our choice of purchasing items, such as considering how a product is packaged or using refillable and reusable resources, we can all help to reduce the amount of waste produced.

Recycling

Recycling helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing energy consumption. Extracting and mining raw materials to produce new products requires far more energy (producing more CO₂) than manufacturing products from recycled materials.

When we reuse products made of recycled paper, plastic, glass and metal, or buy less new/package items, we reduce the amount of energy required in manufacturing and transporting items.

Using a disposable water bottle a day for a year, results in the same climate pollution as driving 147 miles in a diesel or petrol car.

The average person bins around 131kg of food each year (25% of what they buy). This results in the same climate pollution as driving 876 miles

If the average person throws away even half the paper they use in a year instead of recycling it, they increase climate pollution by the same amount as driving 526 miles.

Waste Disposal and Treatment

In 2020, the waste management activities of the Council contributed 105.6 kt of CO₂ in West Northamptonshire. The majority of these emissions was from closed landfills which were filled with waste decades ago, but the waste within them is still decomposing and emitting greenhouse gases.

The long term impact of disposing of waste in landfill highlights the importance of moving waste up the hierarchy. This Strategy aims to reduce the amount of waste disposed of in landfill through community engagement, education, and through use of alternative collection and treatment solutions.

Transport of Waste

Waste is transported from the point it is collected from a resident's house to its final treatment point. Currently our fleet of refuse collection vehicles is powered by diesel, and many of our waste cleansing service vehicles are powered by electricity.

In implementing this strategy, the Council will consider the carbon emissions associated with transporting waste and cleaning our streets.

When considering changes to our waste services, we will seek to minimise these emissions by optimising our waste collection routes to help shorten journeys for street collection and cleaning vehicles

To help reduce carbon emissions, we will consider the use of alternate fuels in our vehicles and also ensure our electricity is generated from renewable sources, as set out in the Estates Climate Strategy.

West Northamptonshire Council has secured funding to develop an electric vehicle strategy which will help inform decisions about the use of electric vehicles in our waste collection fleet. However, we recognise that electric vehicles are not the only solution and all alternative fuel options will be considered, such as biodiesel, hydrogen and Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil.

What did our residents say?



11. 'Align service development with our corporate values'

As a relatively new unitary Council, there are a wide variety of policies, strategies and plans which will be developed over a number of years to reflect the objectives, culture and ambitions of West Northamptonshire Council. Some of these plans have been developed and adopted, whilst others are in development. However, all plans should be coordinated and consistent, to ensure the Council's resources are targeted to achieve its overall desired outcomes.

The Council's vision is to make West Northamptonshire a great place to live, work, visit and thrive and has adopted six priorities to achieve this (Appendix D). More information is available on the Council's website (www.westnorthants.gov.uk).

Waste Services closely align to the 'Green and Clean' priority, and also help to deliver aspects of 'Thriving villages and towns', 'Growth and Prosperity', 'Robust Resource Management', and 'Improved Life Chances'.

There are also a number of strategies which the Council is in the process of developing, or which have recently been adopted. This Resources and Waste Strategy is aligned with these and will help deliver aspects of them (Appendix D).

In the same way that waste services can positively contribute to the delivery of the wider council's strategies, so can other council services contribute to the delivery of this Resources and Waste Strategy. For example, the Council's specifications for works or services could include the requirement to use reused or recycled materials (for example, as proposed in the Construction and Maintenance Climate Strategy); education colleagues can promote our sustainable waste management approach; and public health colleagues can ensure that disposable vapes are not part of smoking cessation measures.

The implementation of the Resources and Waste Strategy will also benefit from coordination with Town and Parish Councils who are the 'grass roots' of Local Authorities representing the needs of their local communities and helping to communicate and deliver service initiatives.

12. Conclusion

The objective of West Northamptonshire's Resources and Waste Strategy is to provide a set of principles which will inform and guide decisions related to our waste services to result in a sustainable and resilient waste management system.

The principles are:

1. To provide appropriate, harmonised waste services;
2. To move waste up the waste hierarchy;
3. To support local prevention initiatives and increase waste education;
4. To deliver high performing services, recycle more and achieve other targets;
5. To ensure waste services are value for money;
6. To invest in West Northamptonshire's waste infrastructure to support performance and value for money;
7. To consider future changes when designing services;
8. To work with partners to improve street cleansing;
9. To consider carbon emissions and sustainability in our decisions regarding waste services;
10. To align waste services with West Northamptonshire's wider values and strategies.

By prioritising reduction, reuse, and recycling, the environmental impact of waste can be minimised. The increased emphasis on education and awareness will empower West Northamptonshire's residents to be 'responsible consumers' and 'waste champions', helping the Council to achieve its recycling targets and reduce the cost of waste services.

We recognise the importance of involving local businesses and community organisations to achieve shared goals, drive innovation, implement best practice and help overcome challenges. We will implement this strategy by working together with our residents, industry experts, community stakeholders and other council services, to achieve our aim of a clean, green West Northamptonshire.

We will implement the strategy through the actions set out in the Action Plan (section 14) and we will monitor progress and performance, review and update the action plan annually.

13. Glossary

Anaerobic digestion (AD)	Biodegradable material (typically food) is enclosed in a container and oxygen is removed, encouraging the material to break down. This produces biogas, which is a renewable energy and can be used to generate heat and electricity. AD can produce solids/liquid known as digestate which can be used as fertiliser.
Circular economy	A circular economy keeps resources in use for as long as possible, extracting the maximum value from them whilst in use, then recovering and regenerating products and materials at the end of each service life.
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.
Composting (windrow)	Green waste is placed in long heaps, called windrows, normally outdoors. The windrows are turned mechanically every so often to expose air. At the end of 16 weeks, the compost weighs around half of the original waste and is distributed for agricultural and domestic use.
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.
Dry Mixed Recyclables (DMR)	Mixed recyclable materials that are collected at the kerbside, including for example, paper, cardboard, cans, plastics, glass.
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
Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC)	A building or site where household waste can be deposited by residents for recycling, reuse or disposal.

Joint Venture (JV)	Joint Venture. An arrangement between two parties to pool resources to achieve a common goal.
Materials Recycling Facility (MRF)	A specialised plant that receives, separates and prepares recyclable materials for marketing to end user manufacturers.
Organic (Green) Waste	Organic material such as food and garden waste.
Recyclates	Any material that is able to be recycled.
Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF)	Fuel produced by shredding and dehydrating solid waste via waste conversion technology.
Relevant Land	Relevant land is land which is open to the air on at least one side, in our direct control and to which the public have access.
Renewable Energy	Materials and energy which in its production does not rely on fossil carbon such as gas or coal.
Unitary Authority	A council established in place of, or as an alternative to a two-tier system of local councils.
Waste Recovery	Includes the burning of waste to produce energy.
Waste Transfer Station (WTS)	A building of site for the temporary holding of waste prior to loading to larger vehicles for transport to processing facilities.
WEEE	Waste electrical and electronic equipment, is equipment which requires electric currents or electromagnetic fields in order to work properly.

14. Action Plan

No	Action	When?	Contributing to Strategy Principles										
			Support Local Waste Prevention Initiatives	Develop Services that prevent waste first and reuse, recycle and recovery energy where possible	Embed our aim to reduce our carbon emissions and improve sustainability in all decisions	High Performing Services	Value for Money	Work with Partners to improve Street Cleansing	Provide appropriate, harmonised waste services	Future proof for national requirements	Invest to become self-sufficient	Align service development with our corporate values	
1	Undertake a Waste Compositional Analysis of Residual was to evaluate what residents are putting into their general waste bins and how more that could be prevented or recycled.	By March 2024		✓		✓					✓		
2	Organise a series of Repair Cafes to facilitate the repair and therefore reuse of broken electrical items.	Launch by Spring 2024	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓
3	Review and Update WNC's Litter Charter produced in 2021.	March 2024							✓	✓			
4	Continue to support and facilitate voluntary litter picking organisations through the provision of equipment and regular liaison.	On-going					✓	✓					✓
5	Facilitate a series of discussions with National Highways on co-ordination of works to tackle litter on the highways network.	On-going							✓				
6	Adopt a WNC wide approach to street cleansing including graffiti removal	Nov 2024							✓	✓			
7	Collaborative working with regulatory services to take action against fly-tipping.	On-going							✓				✓
8	Produce a business case for the introduction of 3 weekly collections for residents who live in houses across West Northamptonshire.	March 2024				✓	✓			✓			
9	Consider how textiles can be collected at the kerbside across the whole of WNC	June 2024		✓	✓	✓				✓			

No	Action	When?	Contributing to Strategy Principles									
			Support Local Waste Prevention Initiatives	Develop Services that prevent waste first and reuse, recycle and recovery energy where possible	Embed our aim to reduce our carbon emissions and improve sustainability in all decisions	High Performing Services	Value for Money	Work with Partners to improve Street Cleansing	Provide appropriate, harmonised waste services	Future proof for national requirements	Invest to become self-sufficient	Align service development with our corporate values
10	Produce a programme to introduce recycling services to flats	July 2024		✓	✓	✓			✓			
11	Undertake an options appraisal for service delivery method	March 2025				✓	✓		✓			
12	Review levels of communication with residents on waste services to ensure everyone knows how to correctly take part in the service.	Ongoing		✓		✓			✓			
13	Develop the specification for the new HWRC services contract, including consideration of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of sites and locations More Reuse and Recycling only sites? Reuse Shops on site? Consider controls at HWRCs, as part of new arrangements for HWRC services. 	Jan 24		✓		✓	✓			✓		
14	Undertake a HWRC mystery shopper exercise to determine level of help and advice given to customers.	June 24		✓		✓						
15	Support and promote the local Community Food Larder Network	Jan 24	✓		✓							✓
16	Benchmark with other, similar councils	Nov 24			✓	✓	✓					
17	Run a contamination campaign to reduce contaminants in DMR and secure highest value	On going		✓		✓	✓					
18	Expand commercial waste services	On going		✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	
19	Undertake route optimisation in geographic areas.	Review in Nov 24			✓		✓				✓	

No	Action	When?	Contributing to Strategy Principles									
			Support Local Waste Prevention Initiatives	Develop Services that prevent waste first and reuse, recycle and recovery energy where possible	Embed our aim to reduce our carbon emissions and improve sustainability in all decisions	High Performing Services	Value for Money	Work with Partners to improve Street Cleansing	Provide appropriate, harmonised waste services	Future proof for national requirements	Invest to become self-sufficient	Align service development with our corporate values
20	Undertake a feasibility study to develop a Materials Recycling Facility	June 24			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
21	Review Bulky Waste Collections with a view to providing more collection slots and to increasing the amount of reuse of furniture and white goods.	June 24	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			
22	Undertake a review of the council's waste infrastructure with a view to developing a business case where there are opportunities.	March 24			✓	✓	✓		✓			
23	Undertake a feasibility study on biogas and compost production	Nov 2024		✓	✓		✓				✓	

Appendix A – Current (2023) Waste Collection & Street Cleansing Services

West Northamptonshire Council currently operates a range of household waste collection services, providing residents with a convenient and reliable way to reuse, recycle or dispose of their household waste. As a new authority formed in 2021, West Northamptonshire Council has adopted the waste collection and disposal arrangements from its predecessor authorities. This means that there are some differences in the way waste is collected across West Northamptonshire.

Kerbside Collections

<p>South In House 41,800 households:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 900 are communal • Fortnightly residual waste collections (including batteries and WEEE) • Weekly residual bag collections (for terraced) • Fortnightly Comingled DMR (including batteries and WEEE) • Weekly food • Fortnightly chargeable garden 	<p>Daventry Joint Venture 37,000 households:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,200 are communal • 3 weekly residual waste collections (including batteries and WEEE) • Fortnightly Comingled DMR. • Weekly food • Fortnightly chargeable garden 	<p>Northampton Contract 100,709 households;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18,946 are flats • 37,187 are terraced • Fortnightly residual waste collections. • Weekly residual bag collections (for terraced) • Fortnightly Co-comingled DMR (including batteries and WEEE) • Weekly food • Fortnightly chargeable garden
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For most houses we provide wheeled bins for the collection of general household waste, mixed recycling and garden waste, which is an optional, chargeable service. Food waste caddies are provided for the weekly collection of food waste which is processed into compost like material and renewable energy. Recycling bins are collected fortnightly, and the general waste bin is collected either fortnightly or three weekly depending on location. Those who opt into the garden waste service have their bin emptied fortnightly with a one-week gap at Christmas. We also have a council-wide collection of small waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) and batteries, which are sent for recycling.

As standard, we issue one black general waste bin, one blue-lidded recycling bin, one indoor food waste caddy, one outdoor caddy and one brown lidded garden bin (if subscribed to the service) per house. Extra wheeled bin capacity is available in some circumstances, for example for large families, or where there is a medical need.

In areas of high-density terraced houses, (mostly in Northampton town), there is no space to store a wheeled bin and so green sacks for general waste are provided and collected weekly. Recycling is collected in either clear plastic sacks or recycling boxes, and food waste collection services are available too. Residents can still opt into the chargeable garden waste service, and the garden waste will be collected in sacks for composting.

Most flats have large, communal bins for their general waste, located in a bin store close to the entrance to the flats. In some cases, large, communal bins are provided for mixed recycling, but not in all cases. At present no food waste is collected from flats.

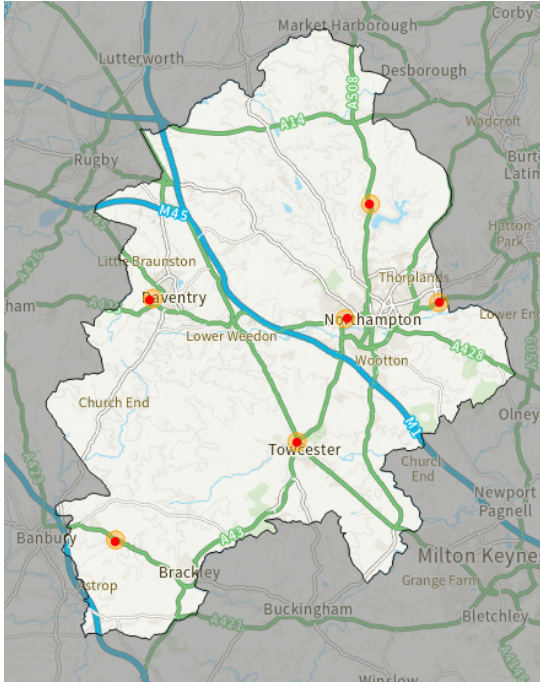
The frequency of residual waste collection currently differs across West Northamptonshire with most properties in the Northampton and South areas having a fortnightly collection and most in Daventry on a three-weekly schedule. Since its introduction in 2018, the 1,2,3 + Service in Daventry has resulted in reduced tonnages of general waste requiring treatment and disposal and increased recycling – especially food waste.

Specialist Services

Specialised collection services are also provided for other waste types such as bulky household waste (chargeable service), clinical waste and sharps.

Household Waste Recycling Centres

Our network of six Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) also form an important part of our waste collection services. Residents can bring a wider range of waste materials for reuse, recycling as well as non-recyclable waste for safe disposal at all but one site (Farthinghoe), which is for reusable or recyclable waste only.



Map showing network of 6 HWRCs in West Northamptonshire

Our residents are well served with access to HWRCs with 99 % of residents living within 10 miles (as the crow flies) of a site.

Two sites – Ecton Lane and Sixfields are licensed to accept trade waste and so businesses can bring their waste to site, have it weighed and pay for its treatment or disposal.

Sites are owned by West Northamptonshire Council but operated on our behalf by a contractor.

Our sites vary in age and size, with some being split level, allowing easy access to the skips for the various materials accepted and others using metal ramps to access the skips.

Items brought to the sites which are suitable for reuse are sold off site in all but one of the HWRCs. At Farthinghoe Reuse and Recycling Centre, only items for recycling or reuse are accepted. The items suitable for reuse are checked, tested (where necessary) put on display and sold back to members of the public, with the funds generated used for the running costs of the site.

Street Cleansing Services

West Northamptonshire Council has a statutory duty to keep ‘relevant land’ clear of litter and refuse, as far as is practicable.

To fulfill this duty and to comply with the Government’s Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse we have teams of street cleansing staff and specialist equipment deployed across West Northamptonshire, targeted in the areas where they are needed most. They undertake regular, scheduled cleansing work as well as responding to specific littering or fly-tipping incidents within an agreed timescale.

We have a network of litter bins, located in areas where litter is likely to be generated, which are emptied on a regular basis, although we also encourage our residents and visitors to take their litter home for recycling and disposal.

Resources and schedules are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that we are making the best use of our limited resources and using them most effectively.

At present these services are delivered by three separate teams, working in Northampton, the former Daventry District area and South Northamptonshire. Over time these services will be combined into one harmonised street cleansing services for West Northamptonshire.

Appendix B – Potential opportunities to invest in waste infrastructure

Household Waste Recycling Centres

Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) are provided by the Council for residents to take their household waste for reuse, recycling and disposal, and they complement the comprehensive kerbside collection systems.

The Council currently has a network of six HWRCs, which was established decades ago and has since had limited investment to improve the facilities on site. A business case to refresh the HWRC (Household Waste Recycling Centre) infrastructure is proposed, which may result in the number and location of facilities changing in order for these facilities to better meet the needs of the growing population, improve the 'customer experience' and to promote the reuse and recycling of waste brought to the HWRCs, thereby enhancing performance of the service.

Waste Transfer Station

Waste Transfer Stations are delivery points for waste that has been collected at the kerbside in a refuse collection vehicle, where the waste is bulked prior to onward transport to a treatment facility.

Currently the Council owns waste transfer facilities in Northampton and Daventry. Refuse vehicles are relatively slow and fuel inefficient, therefore, local waste transfer stations are helpful to ensure efficient use of crew time and fuel use.

Therefore, as part of implementing the Strategy consideration should be given to developing a business case examining the financial and non-financial benefits of the Council developing a waste transfer facility in the South area.

Materials Recycling Facility

A Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) sorts the recyclables collected from West Northamptonshire's residents as part of their kerbside waste collection service, into the different material streams, prior to onward transport for reprocessing.

During Covid, when Councils nationally were collecting more recyclable materials due to changes in shopping habits and lifestyle, it became clear that limited MRF capacity was pushing processing costs for these facilities up. There is also a change in the markets for recyclables towards high quality, cleaner material to enhance the value of these materials. Therefore, the option to develop a MRF is likely to be an opportunity worth exploring further, initially by completing a feasibility study, and considering the option of working with partners.

Other Facilities

The development of other facilities has not been ruled out, but these are currently thought to offer less opportunities. However, these options, such as our own food waste treatment plant or open windrow composting site for garden waste will remain under review in case market conditions change.

Appendix C – Summary of National Waste Legislation

In the UK, waste legislation and statutory guidance is frequently subject to change.

In December 2018, the Government published its Resources and Waste Strategy for England, detailing its proposed approach for how it will preserve material resources by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy in England. It was followed by a series of consultation papers on issues such as;

- a deposit return scheme for drinks bottles,
- additional responsibilities for companies who produce and use packaging material; and
- consistent waste collections across England.

The final details of these proposals are yet to be published and each of them will have an impact on how local authorities collect household waste and what waste there is to be collected and treated.

Current Key Waste Legislation

The Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) sets core principles and legal frameworks for waste management in the UK. Although this is EU legislation and the UK is no longer a member state, this is still the core governing legislation which has been subsequently enacted through national legislation. It places emphasis on the waste hierarchy (prevent, reuse, recycle, recover energy, disposal), and promotes sustainability in waste management.

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 is a legislative framework covering waste collection, recycling, recovery and disposal.

The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011, outline requirements for waste carriers, brokers and dealers to document and handle waste appropriately to set guidelines.

Appendix D – The Council’s Priorities and Key Strategies

The Council’s vision is to make West Northamptonshire a great place to live, work, visit and thrive and has adopted six priorities:

<p>Green and clean</p> <p>Environment and wellbeing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net zero carbon by 2030 • Host a Climate summit • Increased wildlife species and more trees • Increased electric charging and energy efficiency • Vibrant towns and villages • High quality parks • Accessible green space for all 	<p>Connected communities</p> <p>Transport and connectivity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved road, rail and bus networks • Completion of major roads projects • Improved road quality • Increased use of electric vehicles and charging points • Enhanced broadband and mobile connectivity
<p>Improved life chances</p> <p>Health, Social Care and Families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy, safe and protected Children • Increased aspirations in young people • Investment in new schools and provision • Adults supported to live independently • Care provided for those that need it • Reduced hospital stays and delays • Joined up and local services with health • Safe and secure accommodation for all 	<p>Thriving villages and towns</p> <p>Place shaping and homes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regeneration of our core town centres • Safer communities with less anti-social behaviour • Flourishing and supported small business • Sustainable planning for growth • Increased affordable housing and Council homes • Raised standards of privately rented homes
<p>Economic development</p> <p>Growth and prosperity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Published west strategic infrastructure plan • Framework for long term economic growth • Increased inward investment • Building on our rich heritage • Increased visitors to our attractions • Infrastructure benefits and investment through our role in regional forums and plans 	<p>Robust resource management</p> <p>Transparency and financial probity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council tax rises capped at £99 a year • Stable finances and rainy-day reserves • Robust scrutiny of spending • Open and transparent decision making • Financial prudence underpinning long term decisions and plans • Optimised debt management

[Key West Northamptonshire Council Strategies with links to waste services.](#)

	Links to Waste Services
Sustainability Strategy	<p>The Council has committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • achieve Net Zero on all Council operations by 2030 and those of residents and businesses by 2045 • take a community leadership role for Sustainability in West Northamptonshire • ensure all Council strategies and policies are aligned to and contribute to the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals <p>Waste Services can contribute positively to achieving the Sustainability Strategy by considering the Service’s Carbon Emissions and the alignment of the services we procure with the UN SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals).</p>
Anti-Poverty Strategy	<p>Waste Services contributes to the objectives of the anti-poverty strategy by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring any charges for waste services are reasonable; • recovering & reselling items which have been disposed of and that are suitable for reuse; • helping residents repair broken items; and • providing resources to help residents understand how to reduce their food waste.
Live your Best Life	<p>This plan is linked with the anti-poverty strategy and has ten ambitions, which the Waste Service can help deliver by enabling West Northamptonshire to be clean and green.</p>
Place Vision	<p>The Place Vision identifies opportunity for growth in West Northamptonshire and Waste Services can facilitate this by helping to make West Northamptonshire an attractive place to live and invest in.</p>
Local Plan	<p>A new West Northamptonshire Local Plan will guide development in the area up to 2041. It is currently in development. It is important that the Resources and Waste Strategy is consistent with the Local Plan and vice versa because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing growth will determine the tonnage of waste that the Council is required to collect, and waste collection rounds will need to take into account new locations for development; • Developers will be asked to work to a set of standards to ensure provision is made for efficient waste collection and treatment for all housing types and that developers

	<p>contribute reasonable costs towards managing waste and street cleansing;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of new waste facilities should be cognizant of growth areas and connectivity.
Assets Management Strategy	<p>This strategy, which is in development, will set out the principles that the Council will follow when managing, investing in and disposing of its assets. Waste facilities, including Household Waste Recycling Centres, Depots, Waste Transfer Stations are a Council assets and through the delivery of this Resources and Waste Strategy, additional facilities may be developed.</p>
Estate Climate Strategy	<p>This strategy will set out how the Council’s estate is managed to deliver net zero in operations by 2030, including large scale renewable energy deployment.</p>
Construction & Maintenance Climate Strategy	<p>This Strategy will set out how the Council’s conduct of its construction and maintenance operations will support achievement of the net zero goal, including supporting the re-use of buildings and building components, and recycling of arising at the highest practical point in the value chain.</p>
Fleet Climate Strategy	<p>This Strategy, which is at the initial stages, will consider all of the Council’s needs to move people and goods, and how this can be done in ways which support the net zero goal.</p>