
Briefing Paper – Place Scrutiny Committee – 31 January 2024

Members Waste Working Group Update

Resources and Waste Strategy

The Resources and Waste Strategy was approved by Cabinet at the November 2023 meeting. Cabinet noted the involvement and input of the Members Waste Working Group and thanked members of the Group.

Implementation of the Action Plan (Appendix A) has commenced and some of the key projects are making good progress, including:

- Undertaking a waste composition analysis of residual waste to better understand what materials residents are putting into their general waste bins and how more could be prevented or recycled;
- Commencing procurement of key contracts, including for Household Waste Recycling Centre Services and Residual Waste Treatment (see below);
- Supporting the local community food larder network to help reduce food waste and promoting the use of the separate food waste collections;
- Working with colleagues in the WNC Assets team to identify opportunities to develop waste infrastructure.

The strategy document is currently being formatted prior to publication on the Council's website.

DEFRA's Simpler Recycling

In October, DEFRA made an announcement about a 'simpler recycling' programme, which replaces their previous 'consistency of collections' proposals. The announcement clarified DEFRA's current position on waste collections, including the materials that it will require local authorities to collect for recycling, that food waste should be collected from all households and that a charge can be made for the collection of garden waste. These 'reforms' require WNC to make minimal changes to its waste collection systems.

At the same time, DEFRA commenced consultation on other proposals, including that residual waste should be collected at least fortnightly. Until the consultation concludes and the final guidance is published, it is not clear whether DEFRA will **require** local authorities to collect residual waste at least fortnightly or if it is just their preference.

The resources and waste strategy action plan included the intention to develop a business case for the introduction of 3 weekly residual waste collections and the outcome of DEFRA's consultation may mean this approach is not possible. Also, there is a potential significant financial implication for the Council if residents in the Daventry area are required to have their residual waste collected fortnightly.

Procurement of Key Contracts

In October, the Members Waste Working Group met to discuss in more detail the specification for the new contracts for the treatment of residual waste and the Household Waste Recycling Centre services. The outputs of these discussions are being taken into account along with the results of the consultation in the development of the specifications for these two key contracts.

The procurement of these contracts will commence early in 2024, with the procurement process taking the majority of the calendar year. It is anticipated that the contracts will be awarded around December 2024, to allow 3 months mobilisation prior to contract commencement on 1 April 2025.

Members Waste Briefing

In November, officers from the waste team welcomed members to the first 'all member' waste briefing. The event was open to all members to find out more from waste officers about how the waste and cleansing services might change in the future to align with the Resources and Waste Strategy and also to raise any local issues or ask any questions.

We plan for this to be a regular six-monthly event open to all members, since we recognise that all West Northants residents use our waste services and this provides members an opportunity to give feedback to officers or our contractors, specific to the waste services in their area.

Appendix A – Resources and Waste Strategy 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		✓	✓	✓			✓			

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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			✓		✓				✓	

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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		✓	✓		✓				✓	