


## LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST

Meeting / Date	<b>Cabinet</b> <b>5<sup>th</sup> October 2023</b>	
Report Title	<b>Waltham Forest Recycling Strategy 2024-34</b>	
Cabinet Portfolio	Councillor Clyde Loakes, Deputy Leader (Climate and Air Quality)	
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Wards affected	All	
Public Access	<b>Open except for Appendix 5</b> , as listed below, which is EXEMPT in accordance with section 100 (A-H) of the Local Government Act 1972 and Schedule 12A as amended, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 2 paragraph 3, as it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding the information) and disclosure would not be in the public interest	
Appendices	Appendix 1 – Draft Recycling Strategy Appendix 2 – Policy for Developers Appendix 3 – Equalities Screener Appendix 4 – Reduction and Recycling Plan (RRP) Appendix 5 – Financial Breakdown (exempt) Appendix 6 – Consultation Results Report	

### 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines the context to the Recycling Strategy, an overview of the key themes and how the Strategy has been developed, and the key actions identified.
- 1.2 The main actions include introducing a separate food waste collection to all residents to improve recycling. And reducing the frequency of residual waste collections from households that have their own individual bin from weekly to fortnightly, which will increase the capture

of dry recycling. Waltham Forest has published its own Climate Action Plan, with a vision to be the UK's Leading Borough for Collective Climate Action. The Plan incorporates a commitment of "Consuming Less, Recycling More", and targets an increase in the recycling rate to 50% by 2030.

- 1.3 The Council's new Recycling Strategy will be an important step in improving waste management in the borough, including increasing recycling performance and working towards meeting the Climate Action Plan.
- 1.4 Climate Scrutiny Committee have endorsed the Recycling Strategy to proceed to Cabinet on 14 September 2023.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS – Cabinet is recommended to:**

- 2.1 Consider and take into account the Consultation undertaken with Residents as set out in this report and detailed in Appendix 6
- 2.2 Agree to introduce separate food waste collections to all residents and reduce the frequency of residual waste collections from households that have their own individual bins from weekly to fortnightly.
- 2.3 Subject to Cabinet's decision at 2.2, Cabinet is recommended to approve and adopt the Waltham Forest Recycling Strategy 2024-34 Appendix One.
- 2.4 Agree to vary the Neighbourhood Services Contract with Urbaser SA to give contractual effect to the changes necessary as a result of adopting the Waltham Forest Recycling Strategy 2024-34.
- 2.5 Approval for the one off spend of £1,625,946 and the on-going costs of £937,617 as outlined in the financial implications section 7.1.4.

## **3. PROPOSALS**

### **3.1 Background**

- 3.1.1 Processing and disposing of waste has a direct impact on the climate.
- 3.1.2 Furthermore, all things we use and consume generate carbon emissions throughout their production, transportation, use and disposal.
- 3.1.3 Therefore, minimisation of waste is a key step that all of us, individually and collectively, can take to reduce carbon emissions.

- 3.1.4 Key ways that the council can minimise waste in Waltham Forest include measures to encourage reduction of consumption, repairing and reusing what we already have and by increasing recycling rates.
- 3.1.5 Waltham Forest Council has developed a new Recycling Strategy that will shape the waste services it offers to residents. This is our first Recycling Strategy which will clearly set out our intentions for improvement.
- 3.1.6 The Strategy covers the period 2024-34 and explains the strategic direction that the council will take in managing its waste and recycling services over the coming decade.
- 3.1.7 The need for a new Recycling Strategy is driven by the climate emergency response, increasing demands from our residents as well as by policies adopted at both a national level and by the Mayor of London. The Recycling Strategy is consistent with policies already adopted by the council in its Climate Action Plan. The Consultation with residents in October 2022 sought residents' views on the options identified. Feedback from that Consultation has been considered to help inform the recommendation for development of the proposed Recycling Strategy.
- 3.1.8 Timeline of actions leading to the proposed Recycling Strategy:
- (a) Consultation with residents - October 2022
  - (b) Draft strategy put together to include the options considered and results from the consultation
  - (c) Draft Recycling Strategy presented to Climate Emergency Scrutiny Committee - November 2022
  - (d) Work undertaken to develop the strategy taking into account scrutiny recommendations and comments
  - (e) Work undertaken in consultation with Urbaser regarding changes required and costings arising from any proposed variation to the Environmental Services Contract which is a contract which is not due to be relet until 2027.
  - (f) Scrutiny committee September 2023
- 3.1.9 The further draft Recycling Strategy is attached as Appendix 1.

## **3.2 Local Context**

- 3.2.1 In 2021/22 Waltham Forest achieved a recycling rate of 32%, which is broadly in line with the London average recycling rate of 30 to 32%. WF's recycling rate has increased over the last four years, as well as being the highest of the seven North London Waste Authority Boroughs.
- 3.2.2 In 2019, Waltham Forest declared a Climate Emergency and established London's first Climate Emergency Commission. The

Commission reported in 2021 and made recommendations on Waste and the Circular Economy:

- Work creatively with customers, traders, schools and businesses to reduce levels of waste to support the London Councils LEDNET target of reducing consumption-based emissions by 66% by 2030.
- Maximise capture rates of food and dry recycling through weekly collection and move to fortnightly residual waste collection.
- Prevent waste and strengthen the local circular economy by providing opportunities for residents to share, borrow and repair through a directory of circular economy services.
- Run targeted communications campaigns to increase recycling rates and reduce contamination from domestic waste.

3.2.3 Waltham Forest has now published its own Climate Action Plan, with a vision to be the UK's Leading Borough for Collective Climate Action. The Plan incorporates a commitment of "Consuming Less, Recycling More", and targets an increase in the recycling rate to 50% by 2030. It contains actions to:

- (a) Reduce food poverty and food waste. We will redistribute surplus food to minimise avoidable food waste, via the Food Distribution Hub to community provisions such as food banks, social supermarkets, community kitchens, and community cafes. Reducing food waste is good for climate but it also helps households save money and face the cost-of-living crisis.
- (b) Consult residents on introducing separate food waste collection and increasing recycling through fortnightly residual waste collection – Develop a new collection strategy based on the results of the survey on improving and expanding the recycling collection system. We will combine any changes with new communication campaigns and a strategy for flats, where it can often be hardest to recycle.
- (c) Increase and support access to reuse and repair initiatives – To promote a culture of reuse and repair, we will help re-establish Repair Cafes by helping to find the skills that are in highest demand, like electricians. We will add to the network of water refill stations to cut the use of single use plastic bottles and add to the materials that can be accessed for reuse at our Household Waste & Recycling Centres.
- (d) A Library of Things in every neighbourhood – We will build on the first Library of Things in the borough, and test and scale to ensure access for residents across the borough. The right model will differ by neighbourhood: they may be formal systems hosted in a physical location, like a Library, or less formal systems, for example organised through a resident WhatsApp group.
- (e) Continually seeking to expand opportunities to recycle the more difficult items. This will build on recent successes of

items such as small mixed electricals, coffee pods and mattresses expanding residents' ability to recycle more.

1.1.2 The Mayor of London has also set targets to increase recycling, both from households and businesses, by 2030:

- i. The Mayor's household recycling target is 50% (which matches Waltham Forest's target).
- ii. London's current non-household recycling rate is estimated to be 48%, while the Mayor's target is 75%
- iii. If both of these targets were to be achieved, it would increase the overall London recycling rate from 41% to 65%, in-line with the UK Government's target (below).

1.1.3 London Local authorities have developed their Reduction and Recycling Plans (RRPs) setting out key actions for cutting waste and boosting recycling. The RRP's are used to drive and promote local activity that will play an important role helping to achieve the Mayor's London-wide targets. This is set out in Appendix 4.

## **1.2 National Context**

1.2.1 The UK Government wishes to achieve greater consistency in the range of materials that are collected for recycling by English local authorities, and in the way their local services are designed.

1.2.2 The Environment Act 2021 aims to increase the proportion of England's municipal waste that is recycled, helping to meet a new UK-wide municipal recycling target of 65% by 2035, and improve the quality of materials collected for recycling.

1.2.3 The key requirements on local authorities are:

- (a) To collect a core set of recyclable materials for recycling. Waltham Forest Council already meets the initial requirements but may need to accept a wider range including plastic film in its recycling, perhaps as soon as 2024, but certainly by 2027; and
- (b) To separately collect food waste, weekly. The council will need to change its current mixed food and garden waste service to meet this requirement.

1.2.4 Many local authorities charge residents a subscription fee for their garden waste service. The government has consulted on requiring that free garden waste services are provided. As Waltham Forest's mixed food and garden service is provided free of charge, this does not necessitate any change in the authority's approach, although it could limit the options available in the future.

- 1.2.5 The Government's proposals also include two overly consulted pieces of legislation that have been regularly delayed:
- a. Requiring packaging producers to pay for collections of packaging waste. The new system of "Extended Producer Responsibility" (EPR) is likely to provide the council with new funding to support its collection services from the 2024/25 financial year.
  - b. A deposit return scheme for plastic and metal drinks containers. This is likely to remove a lot of cans and bottles from the council's collection system when introduced, which is planned for 2024. It should reduce waste and littering of these items but will remove relatively valuable material from the recycling the council collects.
- 1.2.6 The Office for Local Government (Oflog) will be monitoring Council's performance allowing for comparison on certain metrics between individual authorities, their CIPFA nearest neighbours and all local authorities with relevant responsibilities. Oflog will aim to "increase transparency, foster accountability, and help drive the improvement of local government performance." Three measures will be reported upon:
- Household waste and recycling rate
  - Residual household waste measured in kg/hh
  - Recycling contamination rate
- 1.2.7 It is not current Government policy to make recycling compulsory for householders through primary legislation. Making recycling compulsory for householders and thereby providing local councils with the powers to enforce, is a move that would create a real step change in municipal recycling levels and a positive outcome for the climate. Waltham Forest continues to lobby for recycling to be made compulsory.
- 1.2.8 In the Government's net zero announcement in September 2023 there was a reference to "not forcing people to have seven bins". This was later clarified by DEFRA stating "Government will introduce Simpler Recycling (formerly known as Consistency in Recycling), a plan which scraps the top-down approach, ensures a requirement to recycle with seven bins will not happen and brings forward a smarter approach that responds to feedback and forges a new path on reuse and recycling. The new Simpler Recycling system will be outlined "shortly" and will ensure all homes in England recycle the same materials, ending the confusion and postcode lottery over what can and can't be recycled."

We have considered the Governments recent announcements fully and do not consider it has any material bearing on the recommendations within this Cabinet Report and our Recycling Strategy. Not least because the sole focus of those announcements does seem to be on an alleged '7 bin' solution, which was never under consideration in Waltham Forest anyway.

### **1.3 Strategy Overview**

- 1.3.1 The council's new Recycling Strategy will be an important step in improving waste management in the borough, including increasing recycling performance and working towards meeting the Climate Action Plan.
- 1.3.2 The council will improve services by offering separate food waste collections to all households in the borough, including all flats. Please note that different dwelling types will require different collection methodology.
- 1.3.3 A key and proven way to enable improvements is to reduce the frequency of residual waste collections from households that have their own individual bin from weekly to fortnightly. Modelling indicates that the bin capacity available to households under fortnightly collections will be more than sufficient, provided that households use the capacity and range of recycling opportunities available to them on their doorstep. This measure has been effective in increasing recycling in most local authority areas in London and around the country. Without this change, recycling performance is unlikely to improve.
- 1.3.4 The strategy also proposes formalising established council policies prohibiting the presentation of waste outside the bin and on contamination of recycling. These measures are necessary to make the introduction of fortnightly residual waste collections effective in driving up recycling.
- 1.3.5 The new strategy includes plans for better communication with residents about how to manage waste, and close collaboration with the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) and others involved in managing waste locally.
- 1.3.6 As part of the strategy, the council will seek to improve its own waste management, by reducing single use items used on council premises, making sure all council premises recycle, and seeking to redistribute any surplus food from council eateries.
- 1.3.7 The proposed timeline of next steps, if the Recycling Strategy is approved:
- Communications on proposed changes summer 2024
  - Delivery of new vehicles ready to collect separate food waste October 2024
  - Continuation of communications until fortnightly collections are implemented
  - Commencement of fortnightly collections after separate food waste implementation

#### **1.4 Strategy Development and Resident Engagement**

- 1.4.1 The development of the strategy has been informed through consideration of the national, regional, sub- regional and local context described above.
- 1.4.2 The collection method in WF has remained largely the same for the last 15 plus years. With vast advancements in what can be recycled from residents doorsteps we also now need to amend what we collect and how we collect it. Up to 85% of what is presented by residents can now be recycled, meaning that the residual black bin is no longer the most important bin for residents as the focus moves to the dry recycling green bin and the separation of food waste for collection (currently part of the fortnightly organic waste service).
- 1.4.3 A separate food waste collection trial is taking place to just over 7,500 properties in the south of the borough; There have been a number of measurable positives to be noted as a result of this trial. Firstly that participation from residents has remained consistently high throughout, capturing more food waste for collection than when it was disposed of through the mixed organic service. Secondly, for those residents taking part in the trial a reduction in the contamination of their dry recycling was measured and has also remained consistent throughout. Both this and the above point demonstrate that there is a willingness from residents to drive a change in current practice.
- 1.4.4 The strategy has also been informed through mathematical modelling of a range of different options for how we might collect waste from households in the borough in future, to understand their likely performance in terms of recycling, carbon and financial performance.
- 1.4.5 Furthermore, a survey of residents was conducted – see Section 6.
- 1.4.6 The strategy's development has been further informed by wider survey with a range of council stakeholders, including officers, the Deputy Leader for Climate & Air Quality and Climate Scrutiny.

## **1.5 Strategy Vision and Targets**

- 1.5.1 The council has proposed the following vision regarding the management of waste and recycling in Waltham Forest: *“To achieve high recycling and composting rates and contribute to a circular economy whilst reducing the borough’s carbon emissions, creating economic value for businesses and social value for residents by fostering a repair and re-use culture and waste minimisation alongside a sharing economy”*
- 1.5.2 The council proposes to adopt the following targets to realise its vision:
  - (a) To increase the recycling rate to 50% by 2030
  - (b) To increase reuse by 2% by 2030



- (c) To offer a separate food waste service to all properties in the borough by 2024
- (d) To reduce residual waste to 606 kg/household/year by 2030
- (e) To reduce the carbon intensity of Waltham Forest's waste and recycling service to 40 kg carbon per person, contributing to the achievement of its wider net zero target

## **1.6 Key Themes and Policies**

1.6.1 The council recognises that, in order to succeed in achieving its vision, it will need the support and participation of residents and businesses from across the borough, who will need to adapt to changes in the collection services offered and make full use of the recycling services available. The council recognises its role in encouraging and informing residents to help them reduce their waste and manage what remains in the most environmentally sustainable way.

1.6.2 This section provides an overview of the key themes and policies that will guide the council's actions in achieving its vision and targets for the Recycling Strategy. These actions will be taken forward by council teams as the Strategy is implemented. The full detail behind these points is provided in the draft Strategy document (Appendix 1 to this Cabinet Report).

### **1.6.3 Communications and Behaviour Change**

- (a) Dedicate funding to ongoing communication campaigns to increase recycling rates and reduce residual waste, targeting resources in areas of lower performance.
- (b) Ensure residents always have access to information regarding Waltham Forest's waste and recycling service and how to recycle, particularly at key points, such as when moving into the area.
- (c) Continue to deliver waste education programmes to schools in the borough and work with residents to reduce contamination and increase participation.
- (d) Work with residents to ensure recycling is at the forefront when sorting their waste and to lobby government to make recycling a compulsory policy.
- (e) Introduce a formal kerbside contamination policy, enabling the council to enforce against contamination of recycling.
- (f) Formalise and enforce "No Side Waste" and "Closed Lid" policies for residual waste to ensure ambitions to recycle are not undermined.
- (g) Work with NLWA to ensure that Reuse and Recycling Centre (RRC) policies are joined-up.

### **1.6.4 Waste Prevention**

- (a) Continue to support NLWA's waste prevention initiatives including 'Not a Minute to Waste'.
- (b) Prioritise waste prevention during any communications campaigns – for example, when rolling out food waste collections, highlight the role/benefits of prevention.
- (c) Promote composting to community groups, estates, schools and faith groups.
- (d) Continue to support Real Nappies for London.
- (e) Continue to support and assist in expanding drinking fountains and re-fill network to reduce single use plastic bottles.
- (f) Reduce residual waste capacity at kerbside by reducing collection frequency to fortnightly.
- (g) Support and encourage residents to reduce their food waste by 50%.
- (h) Continue to find ways to encourage the reduction, reuse and repair of items. Seeking solutions at both a local and national level.

#### 1.6.5 Circular Economy

- (a) Waste will be managed in a way that reflects the waste hierarchy – prioritising waste prevention and re-use, then maximising recycling and composting with energy recovery and disposal as a last resort.
- (b) Procurements undertaken by Waltham Forest will include criteria around contributing to Circular Economy as part of a Responsible Procurement Policy.

#### 1.6.6 Reuse

- (a) Support residents to repair and re-use items through the RRCs, including furniture and paint.
- (b) Continue to promote the council's preloved collection service to divert furniture to re-use.
- (c) Continue to support textile re-use through kerbside collection of textiles, on-street textile banks and charity shops
- (d) Facilitate the expansion of re-use, share and repair activities and infrastructure by supporting local community groups to develop these economies.

#### 1.6.7 Leading The Way –

Waltham Forest already offer the most comprehensive weekly kerbside collection of recyclable material in London as well as having Reuse and Recycling Centres which is the most of all the London boroughs.

- (a) For council buildings and at council events, apply the waste hierarchy principles to lead by example:
  - i. Reducing use of/banning single use items.
  - ii. Requiring separate collection of recycling.

- iii. Setting and reporting on recycling targets.
- iv. Redistribution of surplus food from council-run canteens.
- (b) Proposals have been taken forward to make the council's current Guidance for Developers on waste a formal planning Policy, so it must be considered in the design of new residential buildings.
- (c) Work with Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) licensing to improve waste management at HMOs.
- (d) Embed the waste hierarchy within the council's procurement policy.

#### 1.6.8 Collection Service

- (a) Commit to collecting food waste from all properties (as required by Environment Act 2021).
- (b) Continue to collect core dry recycling materials increasing captures of existing materials and look to expand the materials collected as NLWA allows, including plastic film.
- (c) Deliver a cost efficient and effective service.
- (d) Continue to collect additional materials (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), textiles and coffee pods) both and kerbside and through bring systems (with partners) and look to increase both participation and the range of materials.
- (e) Maintain high levels of resident satisfaction with the waste and recycling service delivered.
- (f) Maintain a free garden waste service for eligible properties.
- (g) Provide the same level of core service across all property types.

#### 1.6.9 End Markets

- (a) Continue to support NLWA to send material to facilities in North London and, where possible, ensure they are treated in the UK, reducing the carbon impact of onwards transportation.

#### 1.6.10 Carbon and Air Quality

- (a) Reduce residual waste and increase recycling (with actions to do so detailed in other policies), thereby reducing the carbon associated with Waltham Forest's waste management operations.
- (b) Expand use of alternative fuels for collection vehicles and waste transportation to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality.
- (c) Target increased collection and recycling of carbon-intensive materials such as WEEE and textiles to reduce the carbon associated with Waltham Forest's waste and recycling operations.

#### 1.6.11 Social Value

- (a) Continue to pay the London Living Wage to staff employed on the waste and street cleansing contract.
- (b) Require Social Value to be embedded within any waste and recycling contracts let.
- (c) Continue to work with charities and social enterprises on re-use and repair initiatives (supported by NLWA).
- (d) Help local groups to set up their own repair cafes and library of things and support existing community-led reuse/sharing platforms both physical and digital. Recognising the social benefits of giving residents easy access to items at low/no cost.

#### 1.6.12 Supporting Local Businesses

- (a) Expand a recycling-led commercial waste service, including food waste to contribute to the local authority collected recycling rate.
- (b) Continue to keep track of businesses without a collection contract in place or that are not applying the waste hierarchy.
- (c) Offer a service of separate collection of recyclables (and food waste) for non-domestic premises currently being served – schools (recycling only), places of worship (waste and recycling).
- (d) Where offering business support, the council will look to embed the principles of this Recycling Strategy.
- (e) Fund circular economy research/support for local business.

1.6.13 Conclusion - The implementation of a Recycling Strategy will set Waltham Forest onto a track towards achieving the Climate Action Plan and attaining recycling rates of 50% by 2030. It will also bring the council into compliance with provisions in the Environment Act 2021 and will bring a range of other benefits discussed throughout the report.

1.6.14 To give effect to the Recycling Strategy it will be necessary to vary the Neighbourhood Services Contract with Urbaser SA in respect of the waste collection service and make other required changes. These changes will be undertaken in accordance with the change control provisions of the contract.

## 4. OPTIONS & ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Do nothing – Not recommended because, if the council did not act, then the borough would not increase recycling rates and reduce waste fast enough to meet our Climate Action Plan commitments, such as achieving 50% recycling by 2030. It would also become non-compliant with the requirements of the Environment Act.

- 4.2 Implement an alternative new recycling collection methodology – Development of the Recycling Strategy involved examining multiple possible household waste collection methodologies via mathematical modelling. The option that the council is proposing presents the most optimal solution in terms of value for money, practicability and improvement in recycling performance. This option was supported by a majority of Waltham Forest residents in the consultation (Section 6).

## **5. COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES (AND OTHER NATIONAL OR LOCAL POLICIES OR STRATEGIES)**

- 5.1 Waltham Forest has published a Climate Action Plan, with a vision to be the UK's Leading Borough for Collective Climate Action. The Plan incorporates a commitment of "Consuming Less, Recycling More". The Climate Action Plan targets an increase in recycling rates to 50% by 2030, alongside other interventions to reduce waste, encourage reuse and increase recycling. The Recycling Strategy builds on the Climate Action Plan's commitments and will help to ensure that the "Consuming Less, Recycling More" element is achieved.
- 5.2 Acting to reduce waste, encourage reuse and increase recycling has additional benefits, many of which complement other strategic priorities of the council. This includes reducing health inequalities, improving housing, reducing air pollution, promoting community groups, increasing social value, and supporting the local economy. See the full list of commitments, above.

## **6. CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 A consultation of residents was conducted from 23/09/22 to 21/10/22.
- 6.2 A total of 2,760 responses were received from residents.
- 6.3 The consultation outlined and sought residents' opinions on the options that had been considered as part of the modelling, the council's preferred option and residents' wider thoughts on how to improve waste and recycling services in the borough.
- 6.4 Residents were asked to what extent they agree or disagree with the council's proposals. A majority, 55%, agreed with the council's preferred option of moving to fortnightly collection.
- 6.5 Residents were asked whether they felt that the council is taking the steps overall to increase recycling. 63% agree that the council is taking the right approach.
- 6.6 Residents were asked about what could facilitate them to recycle more. Of the residents who have bins used solely by their household, a quarter were unsure exactly what can be recycled. Additionally, 10%

indicated that they only have a single bin in the house so do not separate waste and recycling.

- 6.7 Amongst residents who share communal bins with their neighbours, 34% indicated that they thought other residents do not use the bins correctly. Furthermore, 13% said they are not sure what can be recycled and another 13% stated that they do not have space to store recycling separately within their homes.
- 6.8 As part of the proposed Recycling Strategy (Appendix 1), the council is planning a number of communications and behaviour change interventions which will work to address the issues highlighted above.
- 6.9 The council also sought feedback on proposals to increase recycling at properties with shared communal bins. Just under half (49%) agreed that the council is doing the right sorts of things in this area, whilst a significant number were unsure (likely to be those who are unfamiliar with arrangements for communal bins).
- 6.10 A full report of the consultation results is provided within the Recycling Strategy – Appendix 6.

## **7. IMPLICATIONS**

### **7.1 Finance, Value for Money and Risk**

- 7.1.1 The change in Recycling Strategy is required under the Environment Act 2021. The implementation of a separate food waste collection requires additional resource from the waste contractor, Urbaser, to collect the food waste separate to the garden waste. The operational plan and change in contract price submitted by Urbaser which totals £1.7m (Exempt Appendix 5 – Table 1) has been scrutinised and contingent resources reduced to provide best value.
- 7.1.2 Including the operational cost from Urbaser and the disposal/treatment saving, there is an annual cost increase of £937,617.
- 7.1.3 As the operating life of the new vehicles extend beyond the current contract term, it is financially advantageous for the Council to purchase these at a cost of £1.4m (£215k annual charge is included in the annual cost increase as shown in 7.1.2) for the new food waste collection. These vehicles will be made available on renewal of the waste contract.
- 7.1.4 In addition to the operational cost, there are one-off costs to manage the implementation of the separate food waste service provide the infrastructure and promote the new collection arrangements. These are critical to the success of the scheme and will result in greater recycling which in turn will reduce the waste disposal/treatment costs. These one-off costs total £1,625,946 (Exempt Appendix 5 – Table 4).
- 7.1.5 All of the above is being funded from the corporate contingency included within the MTFS.

- 7.1.6 A breakdown of the costs are included in Appendix 5. This information is exempt from the public as it is commercially sensitive information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

## **7.2 Legal**

- 7.2.1 The Council has a statutory duty under section 45 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to arrange for the collection of waste.
- 7.2.2 The Environment Act 2021 operates as the UK's new framework of environmental protection. Given that the UK has left the EU, new laws that relate to nature protection, water quality, clean air, as well as additional environmental protections that originally came from Brussels, needed to be established. The Environment Act allows the UK to enshrine some environmental protection into law. It provides central government with powers to set new binding targets, including for air quality, water, biodiversity, and waste reduction.
- 7.2.3 The consultation process complied with the legal requirements to ensure that it provided full and adequate information for an intelligent response and an adequate time for a response. To complete this process, Members must conscientiously take into account the views expressed by those who have taken part in the consultations that have taken place as set out in Appendix 6 when making their decision. Consultation responses are not binding on members but need to be taken into account. Members must also be mindful of and take into account all of the options available to them as are set out in that consultation which also include options that were not specifically consulted on.
- 7.2.4 As part of these recommendations, an equality impact screening assessment has been prepared which did not identify any negative or adverse impacts of the proposal to move to fortnightly collections that could not be fully mitigated through the adjustments available for those who require larger bins. The Equality Act 2010 requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination and advance equality of opportunity. The Council must further consider its wider Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under s.149 of the Equality Act 2010 when making its decision.
- 7.2.5 The current Neighbourhood Services Contract with Urbaser SA will need to be varied to give effect to the Recycling Strategy. The changes will need to be undertaken in accordance with the change control process of the Contract. Regulation 72 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 allows for variations to be made to existing contracts in certain situations and where specific criteria apply. The required changes can be made in accordance with Regulation 72.

## **7.3 Equalities and Diversity**

- 7.3.1 The impact of the Recycling Strategy proposals on those with protected characteristics was considered during its' development and information gathered through the public consultation.

- 7.3.2 There are no specific implications for equality and diversity. An Equalities Analysis screening has been completed and there are no negative or adverse impacts identified (see Appendix3) through the consultation and screening of moving from weekly to fortnightly collections which cannot be fully mitigated by the other collection streams provided; weekly food waste, weekly comingled recycling and fortnightly garden waste collections. Additionally, larger bins are available for larger families and those with a medical need on an assessment basis.
- 7.3.3 Impacts on equality and diversity will continue to be considered through implementation of the Strategy.
- 7.4 Sustainability (including climate change, health, crime and disorder)**
- 7.4.1 Sustainability issues have been intrinsically considered as part of the Recycling Strategy development which helps to address the Climate Emergency and Climate Action Plan targets.
- 7.4.2 The Recycling Strategy highlights the importance of waste prevention in that it is the most preferred form of waste management in the waste hierarchy. Waste prevention is usually achieved through lifestyle changes, which can be facilitated through incentives that encourage behaviour change and these are outlined and discussed in detail and highlighting the benefits of such practices, including reduced energy consumption and resource use, and therefore reduced carbon emissions and pollution.
- 7.4.3 The circular economy model is set out in the Recycling Strategy to ensure that Waltham Forest is moving towards such behaviours. These could include both measures to improve the management of waste, to ensure it is reduced, re-used or recycled; and also changes in how new products are procured, with a conscious effort to choose those that maximise material lifespan, reuse and repairability.
- 7.5 Council Infrastructure**
- 7.5.1 There are no specific implications for Council infrastructure.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION (as defined by Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)**

None.