

# Environmental Excellence Panel

## Agenda

## Date

Thursday 28 January 2021

## Members of the Environmental Excellence Panel

Cllr K S Kelly  
(Chairman)

Cllr N J Brennan  
(Vice Chairman)

Cllr D J Britcher  
Cllr B Cook  
Cllr J F Fisher  
Cllr K E Lawrence

Cllr J Leggett  
Cllr G K Nurden  
Cllr S M Prutton  
Cllr J M Ward

### Conservative substitutes

Cllr P E Bulman  
Cllr D King  
Cllr S Lawn  
Cllr K G Leggett MBE  
Cllr I J Mackie  
Cllr N C Shaw  
Cllr J L Thomas

### Liberal Democrat substitutes

Cllr D M Thomas  
Cllr S C Beadle

### Labour substitute

Cllr N J Harpley

## Time

6.00pm

## Place

To be hosted remotely at  
Thorpe Lodge  
1 Yarmouth Road  
Thorpe St Andrew  
Norwich

## Contact

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If any member wishes to clarify details relating to any matter on the agenda they are requested to contact the relevant Officer.



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## Public Attendance

This meeting will be live streamed for public viewing via the following link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZciRgwo84-iPyRlmsTCIng>.

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## **A G E N D A**

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	The Chairman will move that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining items of business because otherwise, information which is exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by The Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, would be disclosed to them.	
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Trevor Holden  
Managing Director

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AT MEETINGS

When declaring an interest at a meeting Members are asked to indicate whether their interest in the matter is pecuniary, or if the matter relates to, or affects a pecuniary interest they have, or if it is another type of interest. Members are required to identify the nature of the interest and the agenda item to which it relates. In the case of other interests, the member may speak and vote. If it is a pecuniary interest, the member must withdraw from the meeting when it is discussed. If it affects or relates to a pecuniary interest the member has, they have the right to make representations to the meeting as a member of the public but must then withdraw from the meeting. Members are also requested when appropriate to make any declarations under the Code of Practice on Planning and Judicial matters.

Have you declared the interest in the register of interests as a pecuniary interest? If Yes, you will need to withdraw from the room when it is discussed.

Does the interest directly:

1. Affect yours, or your spouse / partner's financial position?
2. Relate to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to you or your spouse / partner?
3. Relate to a contract you, or your spouse / partner have with the Council
4. Affect land you or your spouse / partner own
5. Affect a company that you or your partner own, or have a shareholding in

If the answer is "yes" to any of the above, it is likely to be pecuniary.

Please refer to the guidance given on declaring pecuniary interests in the register of interest forms. If you have a pecuniary interest, you will need to inform the meeting and then withdraw from the room when it is discussed. If it has not been previously declared, you will also need to notify the Monitoring Officer within 28 days.

Does the interest indirectly affect or relate any pecuniary interest you have already declared, or an interest you have identified at 1-5 above?

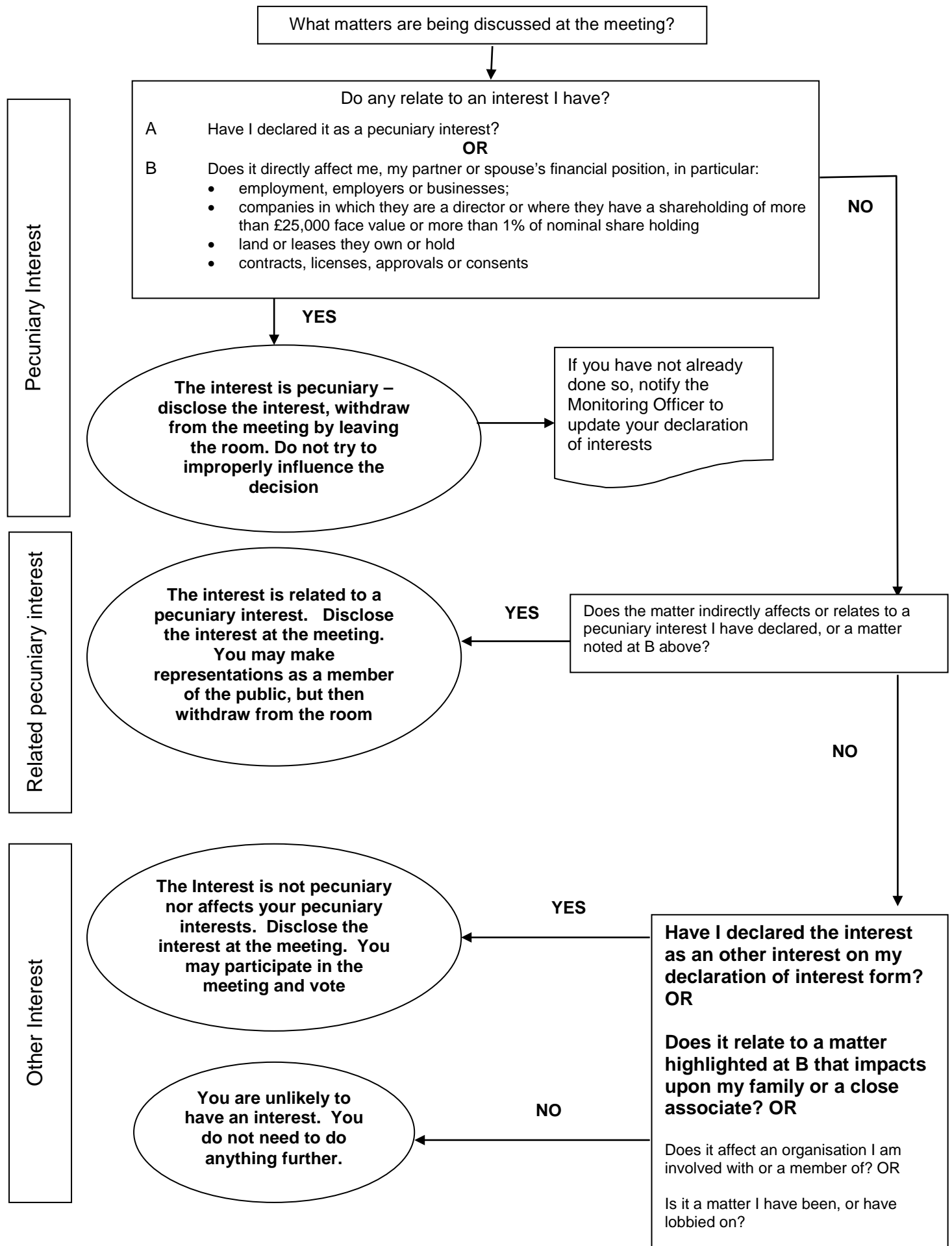
If yes, you need to inform the meeting. When it is discussed, you will have the right to make representations to the meeting as a member of the public, but must then withdraw from the meeting.

Is the interest not related to any of the above? If so, it is likely to be another interest. You will need to declare the interest, but may participate in discussion and voting on the item.

Have you made any statements or undertaken any actions that would indicate that you have a closed mind on a matter under discussion? If so, you may be predetermined on the issue; you will need to inform the meeting, and when it is discussed, you will have the right to make representations to the meeting as a member of the public, but must then withdraw from the meeting.

**FOR GUIDANCE REFER TO THE FLOWCHART OVERLEAF  
PLEASE REFER ANY QUERIES TO THE MONITORING OFFICER  
IN THE FIRST INSTANCE**

# DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF



Minutes of a meeting of the **Environmental Excellence Panel** held by video link on **Thursday 26 November 2020** at **6pm** when there were present:

Cllr J Leggett – Chairman

Cllr D J Britcher

Cllr K S Kelly

Cllr S M Prutton

Cllr A D Crotch

Cllr K E Lawrence

Cllr J M Ward

Cllr J F Fisher

Cllr G K Nurden

Cllr N Brennan, Cllr S Lawn and Cllr T Mancini-Boyle were also present for all or part of the meeting.

In attendance were the Assistant Director Regulatory, the Assistant Director Community Service, the Infrastructure Delivery Officer, the Community Safety and Intervention Lead, the Environmental Protection Manager, the National Management Trainee and the Democratic Services Officers (DM & LA).

### **49 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies were received.

### **50 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2020 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **51 PROGRESS REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY DELIVERY PLANNING**

Members considered the report of the Infrastructure Delivery Officer who, with the aid of a presentation, updated the Panel on the progress with the Environmental Strategy delivery work and invited Members to give their feedback on some readily deliverable projects.

In presenting the report, the Infrastructure Delivery Officer made reference to the Government's recent announcement of its 10 point plan for the Green Industrial Revolution which outlined the ambitions of the Government and a briefing note was currently being prepared on this to share with Members.

The Infrastructure Delivery Officer drew attention to the five readily deliverable projects identified in the Action Plan following a detailed

evaluation and priority assessment, these being: tree planning and biodiversity, electric charging points, single use plastic free council and beyond green energy supplier and procurement strategy with further details of each project detailed in the report. Scoping work to fully define the projects and assess budget implications and resources for delivery was now taking place together with the development of a timeline and phasing plan for each project. With the exception of the tree planting project, the phasing plan for the four projects would be divided into two main tranches: phase one to deliver actions that the Council could itself implement and Phase two looking at how the Council could support others (businesses, community groups, partners and town/parish councils) to become greener. The Infrastructure Delivery Officer highlighted potential actions which could be taken in each of the phases for the four projects. She also shared a timeline for roll out of top five priorities with the initial stages in phase one underway and with phase 2 projected to get underway by 2023.

With regard to the tree planting scheme, this was a very ambitious project and potentially resource intensive. Two options for the formulation of the necessary budget had been drafted and Members' views were sought on these options. Utilising the budget assessment in option 1 would provide an estimated budget figure within 1-2 months whereas the more detailed feasibility study to assess full cost implications would take 3-6 months to establish a budget; this was also dependent on the appointment of the recently approved member of staff to help with implementation of the Strategy.

Members' views were also being sought on the driving forces informing the choices underpinning the ambition to plant 130,000 trees – one tree per resident and if these related to Carbon capture / carbon sink, biodiversity enhancement or environmental action / community engagement or other drivers. This information would help influence the mechanisms for delivery for example the species and mix of trees planted and the planting options and locations.

The Infrastructure Delivery Officer then went on to outline what had been achieved to date on delivery of the Environmental Strategy despite the impact of COVID. These included 500 trees planted at woodlands in Rackheath, successful funding from the Infrastructure Investment Fund for biodiversity work along the Bure Valley Railway, conservation grazing of heathland and wildlife sites at the new country park in Horsford / Felthorpe, funding of 1,219 trees to be planted by tree wardens and 15 large standard trees planted on public open spaces.

With regard to the need for strong communication and outreach of delivery of the Environmental Strategy, the Infrastructure Delivery Officer outlined a number of potential options including a goal thermometer on the website, the hosting of planting events and bio blitz activities at the country park, staff volunteer days, work with local schools / businesses to get involved in

planting / funding tree schemes and strengthening links with community groups and environmental organisations to promote collective goals.

Officers would now be focusing on the recruitment of the Environmental Coordinator, securing funding to facilitate the resource delivery of the five main objectives and continuing to develop relationships with stakeholders. Members were invited to comment on the budget options for the tree planting scheme, the drivers informing the choices underpinning the ambition to plant 130,000 trees and guidance on the five priorities identified.

Discussion then took place and members thanked officers for the presentation and the work undertaken to date. They welcomed the proposals and the five priorities identified. With regard to the budget options, it was felt that having regard to the timescales involved, there would be merit in seeking a fully explored and evaluated budget mindful of the need to ensure that the Council continued to secure value for its residents in addition to fulfilling its ambitions for the environment. They felt that there was insufficient information available at this time to comment in detail on the proposals or express preferences but in general they felt there was merit in an approach which incorporated all three driving forces: carbon capture / carbon sink, biodiversity enhancement and environmental action / community engagement perhaps in equal thirds, as all had value. Mindful of the diverse nature of the district it was felt this called for a flexible approach to identifying the right trees in the right location, including heritage trees if possible. They supported a wide range of approaches to delivering the projects including working with town/parish councils many of whom may already own woodlands or land suitable for planting, and with developers, in particular, management companies to help secure ongoing management, although it might be more difficult to secure the cooperation of developers in more rural areas with small scale developments. They acknowledged the need to liaise with the County Council who was also embarking on an ambitious tree planting proposal and establish how this was being rolled out. There was a need to monitor tree loss and ensure provision was made for ongoing management. Community engagement was felt to be an essential element of the proposals and an option to look at schemes whereby residents could collect, plant and maintain a donated tree could be explored.

Officers undertook to work up some more detailed proposals incorporating the preferences referred to above, including all three elements of the potential driving forces: carbon capture / carbon sink, biodiversity enhancement and environmental action / community engagement (perhaps one-third each).

### **RESOLVED**

to note the report and, subject to the views detailed above, officers be requested to develop options for progressing the projects and the costings involved for report back to the Panel.

### 52 FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

The current work programme was noted as follows:

28 January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recycling Initiatives</li><li>• Waste Contract Procurement</li><li>• MRF Contract Update (date tbc)</li></ul>
25 March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Waste Contract Procurement</li></ul>

It was noted that an all Member briefing on progress on the Waste Contract Procurement would be held in December.

### 53 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

#### RESOLVED

to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the remaining business because otherwise, information which was exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, would be disclosed to them.

### 54 EXEMPT MINUTES

The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2020 as updated with the amendments agreed at the meeting on 8 October (set out in the agenda) were noted.

*The meeting closed at 7.15pm.*



## **RECYCLING INITIATIVES UPDATE REPORT**

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**Portfolio:**

Environmental Excellence

**Wards Affected:**

All

**Purpose of the Report:**

This report presents to the Environmental Excellence Panel a follow up to the report presented to Panel on 8 October 2020 which outlined proposals the Council could explore further to achieve a 60% recycling rate by 2025. This report notes the recommendations made by the Panel and provides further context around the current circumstances and national direction for achieving consistency in recycling collections. It

also details what would be needed to achieve a 60% recycling rate. Taking current circumstances into account, a short-term action plan has been prepared with proposed work streams being presented to Panel.

### **Recommendations:**

1. Panel to support scoping of reducing residual waste work streams, as outlined in Section 4 that will contribute to increasing the Council's recycling rate and are outside of the Government proposals.
2. Panel to support commencement of behavioural change work streams as in section 4.2, that will contribute to increasing recycling rates, reducing residual tonnage and reduce contamination rates and are outside of the Government proposals.
3. Panel to note current situation and to support participation in the Government's consultations to inform the consistency requirements for food and garden waste collections in preparation for introduction in 2023.

## **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Broadland District Council has articulated an aspiration to achieve a 60% recycling rate by 2025, an uplift from the current rate of 49.6% (2019/20).
- 1.2 A short term plan has been developed which will lay the foundations for achieving the 60% aspiration and will prepare the councils for new Government requirements as a result of consultations due to take place in spring 2021.
- 1.3 The proposed work plan will allow the councils to prepare for the implementation of the changes set out by government in 2023 regarding consistency in waste collections, the deposit return scheme, and extended producer responsibility.

## **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 In October 2020, the Environmental Excellence Panel requested that officers explore further proposals in the following areas:

- Behaviour change
- Extending food waste collection (including publicity for food digesters)
- Providing smaller bins for some residents
- Text messaging to residents
- Improving communication (leaflets, stickers etc.)
- Kerbside Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) collections

- Incentives for garden waste

2.2 From a national perspective, central Government has given an indication of the intended direction which will impact on Waste Collection Authority activity, predominantly through the Resources and Waste Strategy (RWS) 2018. However, the Environmental Bill, currently going through parliament will also set at least one long-term target around resource efficiency and waste reduction. The potential measures under the RWS are summarised below:

- A 65% recycling target to be achieved by 2035
- Introduction of household food waste collections from 2023
- Introduction of household non-chargeable garden waste collections
- Earlier separation of materials, for example separate kerbside collections for glass etc.
- A review of recycling credits and two tier working (the separation between Collection and Disposal authorities).
- Introduction of deposit return schemes, such as for glass bottles
- Extended producer responsibility for packaging

2.3 It is expected that central Government will consult on these changes in spring 2021 with a view that this will inform subsequent statutory guidance for local authorities. From the Council's perspective, any new measures will be subject to the Technical, Environmental and Economic Practicability (TEEP) test, which may allow exemptions providing Councils can justify their reasoning based on TEEP criteria.

2.4 Through the Waste and Resources Strategy, the Government has committed to funding the net costs of new burdens on local authorities arising from any new statutory duties introduced to increase consistency in recycling. The Government will work with Local Government bodies to establish the formula for this funding. This funding will not be released until 2023 and it is not expected to be backdated.

2.5 The size of the Council's Recycling and Partnerships team has recently been increased and now consists of 2.2fte members of staff, with the temporary 1fte Recycling and Partnership Officer being made permanent. This increase in establishment will enable the team to move beyond the day to day priorities and statutory returns to deliver proactive and long-term projects. In addition, the apprenticeship role within the team will be revisited within the next 12 months, subject to a suitable and relevant qualification being available.

## **COVID-19 Impact**

- 2.6 The Recycling and Partnerships team has changed how it operates due to COVID-19. The usual public engagement activities have been put on hold, such as talks and events. Communal bin monitoring for contamination has also been impacted. The team now has a complete risk assessment, which will enable monitoring work to recommence subject to government guidelines.
- 2.7 National and local waste behaviour trends have begun to emerge as a result of COVID-19 and subsequent lockdowns. The Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC) conducted research on waste behaviour changes including increases in dry recyclables, particularly card and glass. They also documented the public being more conscious of food waste through an increase in planning and shopping lists being used. At a district level the effects of the pandemic have been seen by an increase in garden waste (with gardening starting earlier in the season), an increase in food waste and an increase in the amount of kerbside recyclables placed out for collection. Further data analysis will allow us to see if this trend is sustained, what material streams have been impacted the most and enable us to focus communications campaigns.

## **3 CURRENT POSITION**

### **Waste Collection Arrangements**

- 3.1 The procurement for a new Strategic Environmental Contract to include waste and recycling collections and street cleansing is currently underway, with the contract commencing in April 2022. Also included in the tender specification, and to prepare for a change in national policy, will be costings for the provision of district wide food waste collections and kerbside WEEE collections.
- 3.2 The current waste contract has capacity for a limited expansion of the food waste service to a further 1700 households. This is expected to take place during April 2021 and will be for properties adjacent to current rounds. It will be supported by a comprehensive communications campaign. Part funding of the capital costs for this expansion will potentially be covered by Norfolk County Council, subject to the approval of a business case.

### **Recycling Rates 2010-2020**

- 3.3 The overall recycling rate in Broadland has stagnated over the last 10 years since 2010/2011. Whilst the rate is still the highest recorded in the County, it has fluctuated from a low of 44.37% in 2013/2014 to 50.9% in 2016/2017. As shown in the table below, the total recycling rate in the last decade has decreased slightly from 50.25% (2010/2011) to 49.6% (2019/2020).

	2010/2011	2019/2020	Change	Comment
Overall recycling rate %	50.25%	49.6%	0.65% decrease	
Composting rate % (food and garden waste)	21.86%	27.6%	5.7% increase	
Dry recycling rate %	28.4%	21.9%	6.5% decrease	
Kg residual waste per household	436.02kg	429.45kg	6.57kg decrease	High of 467.31kg in 2013/2014.

Table 1: Recycling Rates in Broadland 2010/11 to 2019/20

### Reaching a 60% recycling rate

- 3.4 Based on the 19/20 figures Broadland would need to increase the total recycling tonnage by 5173t to reach 60%, this presumes there is no decrease in residual waste tonnage. This would require a combination of garden, food and dry recycling waste tonnage increases. To reach 60% a 21% increase in the total recycling tonnage collected in 2019/2020 would be needed.
- 3.5 A 5173t increase would generate an increase of £331,288.78 income to the council based on the 2019/2020 recycling credit rate of £64.04 per tonne. However, the cost of the large-scale service changes required to increase the recycling rate is significant as highlighted in the sections below.
- 3.6 Expanding the food waste service to the remaining households in Broadland would have an estimated capital requirement of £102,888 for the cost of the bins only and would cost £576,891 per year to operate after allowing for revenue income of approx. £356,888. This includes ongoing costs of containers, contract and disposal costs and would be a £311,244 increase to present spend. This is based on the current contract and disposal costs but does not include increases in the contract value due to the need to resource additional vehicles and staff. Expansions from 2023 as per the Consistency in Recycling Collection in England are expected to be funded through the new burdens funding, as per section 2.4. Consideration also needs to be given to the possibility of this being included in the new waste contract commencing in April 2022.
- 3.7 The garden waste service currently costs £53.50 per year for residents. Introducing free collections for all households would result in the loss of £1,498,579 in foregone revenue. Although these changes require capital investment, they would have the biggest impact in increasing the recycling rate. To reach 60% through expanding the garden waste service alone a 13,000t increase will be needed on the existing 11,404t collected in 2019/2020. This is a 114% increase in tonnage and will require all properties to have a garden waste service and maximum participation rates. The provision of free garden waste to all properties with a garden, as per the Consistency in Recycling Collection in England to be funded from 2023 through the new burdens funding, see section 2.4.

- 3.8 Behaviour change projects such as those outlined in Section 4, can produce a set of interventions to change the environment which influences people's behaviour. While projects are effective at issues such as reducing contamination and increasing recycling rates overall, it is highly unlikely they alone will result in a significant uplift in the recycling rate. However, they can result in an increase in recycling credits under the current arrangements, providing additional income to the Council.

### **Reducing residual waste**

- 3.9 To promote recycling, smaller residual waste bins of 180l capacity, equal to a reduction of 25% of current bin size, could be introduced. Reducing the amount of residual waste will in turn increase the recycling rate %. To implement wholesale across the district would incur costs of around £1.215m. However, it would be possible to trial a pilot project on new developments that would likely be cost neutral to the council as the developer or the new resident would bear the cost of the bins. Ideally, the pilot would take place on developments in areas where food waste collections already take place. The Council could also consider free garden waste collections for that development as an incentive.
- 3.10 Similarly, a pilot project for a three weekly residual waste collection could be implemented. For this to be effective and to allow economies in delivery, the pilot would need to take place across one collection round and may also require a commitment to weekly recycling collections in between. Costs would need to be considered in greater depth for this pilot as there could be a need for additional vehicle and staffing. As above, to allow for maximum opportunities to reduce residual waste, the pilot would also need to occur in tandem with food waste collection.

### **Recycling Credits**

- 3.11 The recycling rate for 2020/2021 is £64.04 per tonne, which is expected to increase to £65.96 for 2021/2022. The recycling credit system may be revised with the introduction of the new burdens funding. If this is proposed we would expect it to be included in the consultations taking place in 2021.
- 3.12 NEWs who operate the Material Recycling Facility (MRF) are proposing an increase above inflation in the amount paid per tonne - £35.45 per tonne, including contamination charge, for processing kerbside recyclables from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to take account the global reduction in values of recycled materials. This will impact on the cost to the council of processing dry recyclables collected at the kerbside. The MRF costs are still in discussion and an exact price increase has yet to be confirmed.

## **4 PROPOSED ACTIONS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION**

- 4.1 In order to begin work on improving recycling rates a draft short term work plan has been developed which includes the following work streams. It should be noted that activities may flex dependent on the outcomes of the Government

consultations, legislation change and new burdens funding including any changes to recycling credits. It is proposed that the medium and longer term activities be finalised when the Council has more information on these outcomes and when the economic impact of COVID-19 have been ascertained and further financial/ resources commitment can be agreed. The proposed work streams are:

#### 4.2 Behaviour change

- Utilise learning from COVID-19 national trends to adapt communication campaigns for best results. It is evident that behaviour change has taken place during the first lockdown and continues to regarding managing waste at home. This includes food waste management at home, increases in residual waste tonnage and increases in certain waste streams such as cardboard through online deliveries. It is the team's vision to target these new behaviours whilst they are still new and evolving.
- Work with the Norfolk Waste Partnership (NWP) and the Communications team on developing simple terminology and iconography to achieve targeted waste behaviour changes (reduce contamination and residual waste, and increase recycling)
- Increase food waste capture and participation for properties on the existing service. Linking to National campaigns and assets, such as WRAP's food waste action week in March 2021.
- Explore the development of an online survey across both districts to help identify barriers and opportunities on the services. The results from the survey will help to identify behaviour change as a result of the pandemic and inform campaigns such as reducing residual waste, using the correct bins and recycling right (increasing recycling and decreasing contamination).
- Develop a project focussed on reducing contamination and increasing recycling at communal bin sites. This will include targeted communication to problem areas.
- Target areas in the district linking to MRF data and feedback from the crew on reducing contamination. This will be developed around targeted communication until resources and the current climate allows individual bin monitoring on a wider scale.
- Promote national campaigns linked to behaviour change e.g. the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP).
- Investigate and implement a text messaging service and an email alert system for waste collections services.

#### 4.3 Engagement and developing partnerships

- Hold workshops with Youth Advisory Boards (YABs) to highlight our proposals and seek feedback from a young person's perspective.
- Continue engagement with, and contribute to achieve ambitions set by the Norfolk Waste Partnership
- Engagement with other relevant external organisations such as WRAP
- Consult with high achieving authorities in relation to learning from best practice. To hold meetings between both officers and members where appropriate.

#### 4.4 Reduce residual waste

- Investigate opportunities for a compositional analysis at both district and county level. A compositional analysis will help determine what material streams our communications and projects need to focus on.
- To pilot areas (both rural and urban) to introduce 180L residual bins for new developments. The areas and completion of this will be agreed with the waste contractor.
- Investigate 3 weekly collections on a pilot collection round

#### 4.5 Single use plastic

- Promote the reduction of single use plastic usage across the districts in line with the delivery of the Environmental Strategy and potential outcomes of Government consultations.
- To investigate the feasibility of a plan to work with local independent businesses and phase out single use plastics. It is expected that this will be partly covered through the extension of the producer responsibility system via the Environment Bill and consultations to take place in 2021 as per section 2.3.
- Further promotion of the water Refill scheme

#### 4.6 Investigate kerbside Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) collections. Consideration will need to be given to the new waste contract that will commence in April 2022.

#### 4.7 Respond to national consultations, these will be undertaken as individual Council's but it is planned to use a Norfolk Waste Partnership template to indicate a collaborative approach across Norfolk. This template can then be adapted as needed.



## **5 NEXT STEPS**

- 5.1 Officers will finalise the action plan to include outcomes, resource requirements, timelines and linkages with other departments.
- 5.2 Work will commence on the short-term work plan in collaboration with partners, including the Norfolk Waste Partnership and WRAP, with an early activity planned to be engagement with the local Youth Advisory Boards.
- 5.3 It is further proposed that a report is presented to Panel in autumn 2021. This will include any outcomes and findings of the activities contained within the work plan and will aim to provide further insight in plans to deliver consistency in waste and recycling collections nationally.

## **6 OTHER OPTIONS**

- 6.1 Panel may choose to continue with plans to achieve 60% recycling at the current proposed timescales. However, this will require significant initial capital and resource commitments with work to implement starting ahead of the govt. announcements on the direction of waste collections. If this approach is agreed any capital and ongoing costs that may have been secured through the new burdens funding in 2023 will not be provided retrospectively. The main funding expected is to provide food and garden waste to all properties, subject to TEEP.
- 6.2 Panel may decide against progression of any of these proposals. However, it would then be extremely unlikely that Broadland would be able to increase recycling rates and may even see a decrease. This would not be compatible with the ambitions set out in the Environmental Strategy.

## **7 ISSUES AND RISKS**

### **7.1 Resource Implications**

- An increase in the establishment for the Recycling and Partnership Officers has been agreed as stated in section 2.5. It is anticipated that staffing levels may be reviewed as work is progressing to check resource levels are adequate.
- The proposed work streams will have a resource impact on other areas in the Council, specifically linked to the Communications team and IT. Those teams will be involved in the development of any work streams to gauge ongoing resource need and for inclusion in their own workload planning.
- The new burdens funding will not be released until 2023 and this will not be backdated to cover the costs of any service changes that have already been implemented as per section 2.4. This fund is expected to cover the full costs for both implementation and ongoing. There is the risk that

implementing service, such as food waste collections to all properties across Broadland prior to 2023, may incur costs that could have been included under the new burdens.

- The procurement of the waste contract for Broadland is currently taking place. Until the contract is finalised we cannot guarantee what supplementary service changes the contractor can implement and what additional costs these may incur. See section 3.1.
- The current recycling credit scheme may be reviewed with the introduction of the new burdens funding as per section 3.11.

- 7.2 **Covid-19** –The economic impact of Covid-19 for local authorities in addition to the fluid situation regarding government guidance and staff deployment impacting on resource capacity will need to be closely monitored.
- 7.3 **Legal Implications** – The Government has given a clear indication on the ambitions for waste collection and recycling services in the future, however statutory guidance will not be available for local authorities until a period of consultation has been completed in 2021, subject to government adhering to their own timelines. If the Council chooses to proceed with these services too early, there is a risk they may not meet the statutory requirements once introduced.
- 7.4 **Equality Implications** – The activities contained within the work plan are designed to have a positive impact on the community including for those who may have one, or more, of the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. As the work streams are developed in greater depth including changes to services as per new legislation, an Equalities and Communities Impact Assessment will be completed for each area.
- 7.5 **Environmental Impact** – In reducing waste and increasing recycling the council is following the waste hierarchy (Prevention, Preparing for Re-use/repair, Recycling, Other recovery, and then Disposal) and reducing the amount for incineration. Recycling enables us to conserve resources by reducing the need for energy intensive production of additional resources using new materials. We are committed to increasing recycling and reducing waste as per the Environmental Strategy and Government requirements. For food waste anaerobic digestion is considered environmentally better than composting and other recovery options.
- 7.6 **Crime and Disorder** – Consideration has been given as to whether measures to reduce residual waste such as smaller waste bins, three weekly collections and chargeable side-waste collections could lead to an increase in fly-tipping. This would need to be considered in more depth and as part of the monitoring of any pilot schemes. However, evidence suggests that the measures Rochford council put in place did not result in a fly-tipping increase. Similarly, the local authorities that introduced 3 weekly collections did not see an increase.

## **8 CONCLUSION**

- 8.1 The aspiration to achieve a 60% recycling rate is a sound aspiration for the Council and aligns us with the policy direction that is being driven by Central Government. However, until we have a clearer picture of the exact statutory requirements and any associated new burdens funding, the Council risks an outlay of resources at a time of increased uncertainty in relation to the ongoing impact of COVID-19, demand on Council services and future spending reviews.
- 8.2 Instead the increase in staff resource in addition to the short-term work streams outlined in Section 4 of this report will strike a middle ground in allowing the Council to be prepared to test and/or adopt new waste collection measures while also working to increase the recycling rate in the meantime through a comprehensive behaviour change programme.

## **9 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 Panel to support scoping of reducing residual waste work streams, as outlined in Section 4 that will contribute to increasing the Council's recycling rate and are outside of the Government proposals.
- 9.2 Panel to support commencement of behavioural change work streams as in section 4.2, that will contribute to increasing recycling rates, reducing residual tonnage and reduce contamination rates and are outside of the Government proposals.
- 9.3 Panel to note current situation and to support participation in the Government's consultations to inform the consistency requirements for food and garden waste collections in preparation for introduction in 2023.

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION BY VIRTUE OF SCHEDULE 12A OF PART 1  
PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED) BY  
THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION) ORDER  
2006 (contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any  
particular person (including the authority holding that information))**

Pages 20 to 23 are not available to the public because the information is confidential as it includes exempt information about the financial or business affairs of a person