



CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting to be held remotely* on
Monday 23rd of September 2024
at 9:30pm

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

B Anderson
E Bromley
P Carlill
R Downes
K Dye (Chair)
N Harrington
O Newton
A Rae
M Rafique
A Rontree
M Shahzad
P Stables
J Tudor

Note to observers of the meeting: To remotely observe this meeting, please click on the 'To View Meeting' link which will feature on the meeting's webpage (linked below) ahead of the meeting. The webcast will become available at the commencement of the meeting.

<https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1210&MId=12608&Ver=4>

*This is being held as a remote 'consultative' meeting. While the meeting will be webcast live to enable public access, it is not being held as a public meeting in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.

**Governance Officer
Toby Russell/Helen Gray
Tel: (0113) 37 86980/ 88657**

A G E N D A

Item No	Ward/Equal Opportunities	Item Not Open		Page No
1			<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>To receive any apologies for absence.</p>	
2			<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>To disclose or draw attention to any interests in accordance with Leeds City Council's 'Councillor Code of Conduct'.</p>	
3			<p>NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <p>To receive and note the minutes of meeting for the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee held on the 22nd of July 2024.</p>	5 - 14
4			<p>OPEN FORUM</p> <p>At the discretion of the Chair, a period of up to 15 minutes may be allocated at each ordinary meeting for members of the public to make representations or to ask questions on matters within the terms of reference of the Committee. No member of the public shall speak for more than five minutes in the Open Forum, except by permission of the Chair.</p> <p>Please note: Members of the public are asked to submit a video of their question or statement to climate.emergency@leeds.gov.uk by 5pm on the 19th of September 2024.</p>	
5			<p>WORKING GROUPS UPDATE</p> <p>To receive a verbal update on the progress of the Committees' working groups to date</p>	

6

LEEDS HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION STRATEGY UPDATE

15 -
28

To receive a verbal update/presentation regarding relevant national policy, strategy and legislation; together with a draft strategy for managing household waste in Leeds in a way that meets national Simpler Recycling requirements and helps Leeds residents to reduce the amount of waste they produce that is not re-used or recycled.

The report of Chief Officer (Environmental Services) that was submitted to the Scrutiny Board (Environment and Communities) for the meeting on the 19th of September 2024 is appended for information.

7

UPDATE ON NATURE AND TREE-PLANTING INITIATIVES IN LEEDS

29 -
30

The report of the Chief Officer, Climate, Energy and Green Spaces provides an update on woodland creation and on the programme of tree planting related initiatives. In addition, an update is provided on biodiversity net gain as well as an update on practical initiatives such as the establishment of wildflower areas in collaboration with Butterfly Conservation in Roundhay Park using seed sourced through Natural England in order to provide areas of managed habitat for native butterflies and other invertebrates which links to the conservation work undertaken at Tropical World.

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DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

To note the date and time of the next meeting as Monday the 4th of November 2024.

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Climate Emergency Advisory Committee

Monday, 22nd July, 2024

PRESENT: Councillor K Dye in the Chair

Councillors B Anderson, E Bromley,
P Carlill, R Downes, N Harrington, A Rae,
M Rafique, A Rontree, M Shahzad and
P Stables

12 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals against the inspection of documents.

13 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

The agenda contained no exempt information.

14 Late Items

No late items of business were added to the agenda, however, supplementary information was circulated to Members prior to the start of the meeting. This was the report and appendix for Agenda item 8 – Leeds Food Strategy Update – report on progress.

15 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

16 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor O Newton.

17 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on the 17th of June 2024, be approved as a true and correct record.

18 Matters Arising from the Minutes

The following matters arising were raised:

Minute 7

The information regarding social worker electric vehicle trials and schools and other relevant sites climate adaptability plans, referenced in the Directors Update of Children's and Families that was presented to the Committee on the 18th of March 2024, had still not been received and was to be followed up again.

Minute 9

The figure for the customers on the waiting list for the Leeds PIPES rollout, referenced on page 10 of the agenda pack, was agreed to be provided back to Members. This had not yet been received and was agreed to be pursued.

Minute 10

An update from the Deputy Chair of the West Yorkshire Transport Committee, West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) was provided in relation to the WYCA local

transport plan scoping consultation, referenced on page 12 of the agenda pack. It was outlined that the consultation had been delayed due to the General Election and the sensitive nature of pre-election periods. The consultation had opened on the 15th of July 2024 and local residents and interested parties were encouraged to have their say on the initial proposals.

(Councillor M Rafique and Councillor A Rae joined the meeting during consideration of this item)

19 Open Forum

No matters were raised under the Open Forum item.

The Chair encouraged suggestions from Members for future submissions to showcase climate action work. It was noted that Horsforth Climate Action had been contacted and intended to provide a future submission to the Open Forum.

20 Leeds Food Strategy Update

This report provided the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee with an update on the progress of the Leeds Food Strategy. The Senior Project Manager, Climate, Energy & Green Spaces team, attended the meeting to provide a presentation to Members on the Strategy and the work undertaken since the Committee last considered the Food Strategy on 27th November 2023.

The Chair introduced the item, noting a previous update had been provided to the Committee on the 27th of November 2023. The Leeds Food Strategy covered a vast scope of topics and issues and Mission 3 – Sustainability and Resilience was most relevant to the Committee's remit.

Andrew White, Senior Project Manager, presented the report and highlighted the following information:

- The was the third update provided to the Committee as Officers had also attended a Working Group. The presentation was to particularly focus and follow up on discussions from the 27th of November 2023 meeting.
- A report for the strategy was due for submission and consideration by the Executive Board in September 2024. The contents of the presentation the Committee were to focus on key areas of progress and challenges that required consideration, as well as providing an overview of the three missions; 1. Health and Wellbeing, 2. Food Security and Economy, 3. Sustainability and Resilience, which linked to the Council's three pillars.
- The background was outlined as, from 2006 to 2010 a Food Strategy was in place, at a Council meeting in September 2014 Feed Leeds had made a deputisation and Public Health had been tasked with building partnerships, the Leeds Food Partnership was established in 2017, a National Food Strategy was launched in 2020, following a consultation, the Leeds Food Strategy had been approved by the Executive Board in 2023 and this report was the draft annual update.
- The aim was for the strategy to run long term, in line with the Climate Emergency Declaration and the carbon neutrality by 2030 ambition. The associated targets were also long term and still in development; the revised document was to be published following submission to Executive Board.

- The strategy was in partnership with Food Wise Leeds and there were seven internal Officers working on the strategy from Public Health, Financial Inclusion and Climate, Energy and Green Spaces, and also a steering group managed the implementation of the three missions.
- Since November 2023 wording revisions had been made to aid clarity for the strategy's purpose and the original 15 objectives had been reduced to 12. There were 16 key performance indicators (KPI) which were still in development and linked in with other Council services.
- There were four objectives, with related actions to support the work on health and wellbeing, as part of mission 1.
- There were four objectives, with related actions to support the work on food security and economy, as part of mission 2.
- There were four objectives, with related actions to support the work on sustainability and resilience, as part of mission 3, this mission was the most specific to the work of the Committee.
- Areas of progress for mission 3 were noted as, raising the profile of nutritious, climate friendly food options and support for community growing initiatives, including work alongside Incredible Edible. Work for the 'right to grow' initiative was ongoing to understand implementation options.
- Limiting food waste, including a hierarchy of waste model, was integral to the strategy; utilising food waste linked to a number of partners. Work on the waste strategy was ongoing, with issues of brown bin provision and capacity around the city and quality standard requirements noted. A Council catering mark award was in development with a public consultation having been conducted.
- Challenges to the strategy's implementation were limited influence on supply chains, decreased funding for Food Wise, limited engagement methods, staffing issues and accuracy of carbon calculations.

During discussions the Committee discussed the following:

- The wording for KPI 5, which related to food environment, was queried as the measure may not be quantifiable and may be better as a percentile measurement. In response, this KPI had been developed alongside local planning policy to address obesity and food related ill health, particularly to reduce the availability of unhealthy takeaway foods around schools but the KPI was to be refined prior to its use.
- The material consideration that planning decision makers would use to restrict hot food takeaways on a class usage basis and a map identifying takeaways was available to scope levels on concentration in a given area. Further information was agreed to be provided back to Members to expand on this matter. There was an aspiration for this guidance to be applied to all areas, and not just focus on secondary schools and inner city areas.
- Ward Members could work with planning and licensing to understand concentration and provision of hot food takeaways in their area and could attempt to utilise Cumulative Impact Area (CIA) policy where necessary.
- As other Local Authorities had similar planning policies in place, outcome data was noted to be of interest to Committee Members, however data was not yet available.

- KPI15 related to internal procurement where the Council held strong influence whereas KPI9 related more to business advice and support, where there was less strength of influence. It was noted that KPI15 was currently guideline for Council procurement processes, covering a vast scope of contracts and commissions, with monitoring framework in place. KPI9 was for businesses supported by development services in order to encourage better sustainability practises and stringent performance monitoring.
- For KPI7, referring to the percentage of children eligible for free school meals, it was clarified that this indicator was specific to mission 1, Health and Wellbeing. Data indicated that eligibility and take up were fairly low, but further breakdown of data was anticipated when the report was submitted to the Executive Board.
- It was noted that the KPIs lacked baseline data that can be measured against, which was required for sound progress monitoring and accountability. In order to track the three missions of the strategy, there was existing data, but the methodology required further scrutiny.
- A sensible approach to limiting takeaways was required as it was dependent on the type of food and there was also the option to use a delivery apps to order unhealthy food from outside of the immediate locality. The economic implications, given this rise in the gig economy over recent years was discussed. These issues were considered to be more within the planning system's sphere of influence.
- WYCA were outlined to be working on a similar agenda, and although work was somewhat linked, the strategy focused on the Council's remit.
- The focus on internal procurement processes was supported, however, the ability to influence sustainability measures for commercial businesses and alternative providers was queried. This was done through providing information and signposting to climate friendly options, reducing waste and understanding the carbon footprint of food, as well as the work towards Leeds being a sustainable destination.
- Work to connect local farmers to local businesses had been explored but contact had been limited and economic interests and the dynamic nature of procurement raised challenges. Members suggestions were encouraged to connect the service with local growers and farmers.
- To promote the right to grow initiative, more information had been added to the Council's website, supported by Incredible Edible.
- As creating community gardens and local food networks required time, effort and training, the availability of support packages was limited due to Council's financial constraints but links to relevant organisations and charities were made.
- Incredible Edible was considered an umbrella organisation that could support community growing initiatives and provide advice and support to then allow new organisations to become sustainable. There was an issue regarding future funding plans to support these models as previously secured lottery funding had come to an end. Community Committee funding was noted to be a potential option for funding support.
- Community growing initiatives could be linked to community events and food banks to support social connections. The Council and University of Leeds had help discussions on this topic which fed into a food aid network map. The

allotment development plan and WYCA climate grants were considered appropriate vehicles for improving project links.

- There were stark social, education, health and wellbeing opportunities within community growing initiatives and existing networks were to be celebrated, which may encourage more projects to come to fruition.
- Using brown bins for food waste was problematic as there were associated service supply, infrequent collection and financial issues; expectations needed to be managed. It was noted that the domestic food waste plans had been set by the previous Government and funding was available and further information and developments were anticipated.
- A waste strategy report was due for submission to the Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board where information on the logistics of waste collection, in support of new plans, were anticipated.
- To reduce food waste, freeze drying or fermenting seasonal foods was suggested as a potential option, which was agreed to be explored. Discussions had been held with the University of Leeds to identify where food waste could be utilised to create other products such as juice or bodywash.
- Methods to encourage composting were funding dependent but Food Wise were running a community composting project. It was noted that this would be particularly beneficial in outer areas.

The Chair summarised discussions, noting, that some discussion points would be interesting to bring forward for consideration at Working Group meetings, such as procurement, waste strategy and the KPIs relating to sustainability. All Director's updates scheduled for the 2024/25 municipal year had been requested to focus on procurement models.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report, and the progress made to date, as well as the longer term ambitions for partnership, engagement and policy alignment, so that the Leeds Food Strategy delivers for the city, along with Members comments, be noted.

21 Update on work to implement and update the Leeds Flood Risk Management Strategy

The report of the Executive Manager, Flood Risk and Climate Resilience, City Development provided an update on the implementation of the Leeds Flood Risk Management Strategy. This update examined the implementation of the Strategy over the last 12 months and provided a summary of the measures that are set out for the years ahead.

Jonathon Moxon, the Executive Manager, Flood Risk and Climate Resilience, City Development, outlined the following information to Members:

- The strategy was developed and covered by the Highways and Transportation department within City Development but was governed by the Food and Water Management Act, which required a Flood Risk Management Strategy.
- The strategy had been considered at the Scrutiny Board for Investment and Inclusive Growth on the 28th of February 2024, as a statutory update and was brought to the Committee annually with the increasing role to address climate resilience. Flood risk was the most significant climate change risk posed in Leeds.

- Globally and within the UK, extreme weather events were becoming more prevalent. Floods and droughts as well as the unpredictable nature of storms had increased. In 2023 global temperatures were 1°C higher than average temperatures measured from 1850-1900.
- Data for weather events in Leeds over 2023 was outlined, with a stark increase in the number of storms and heavy rainfall. Rainfall data was available at a street level but was generally presented at a catchment level. The West and Northwest of Leeds had experienced the highest levels of rain over the last year.
- There was a dedicated team working on incidents and impacts, some, including contractors, were on call on a 24/7 basis. Around 190 hotspots were managed around the city to protect vital infrastructure and communities.
- Unprecedented high levels of rain fall impacted farmers and growers and sports and recreation facilities. The West Yorkshire Flood Programme worked with sports clubs to advice of methods, such as soil health and drainage measures, to alleviate the pressure of floods and high rainfall.
- A map was displayed that was used to track locations where incidents had occurred, with ten categories for incidents informing monitoring framework.
- Severe rainfall on the 6th of May 2024 had begun in Northwest Leeds, with the average rainfall for the month occurring in one hour. This had serious implications at Horsforth Railway Station and Low Lane, with the road being closed by Yorkshire Water to repair surfaces and drainage systems. The impact was largely due to capacity issues of complex, integrated sewer and drainage pipes.
- Different drainage and sewer systems were the responsibility of a range of Authorities, with better integration models required to limit future impacts. Impact on highways was a major consideration for flood management and response.
- A statutory role of the service was consultation responses for planning applications which was a strong tool for adaptability and surface water management, however, resource limitations were noted for technical appraisals. Not all Local Authorities followed this model and the number of planning applications in Leeds was significant.
- Leeds Flood Alleviation Schemes (FAS) were developed under delegated powers from the Environment Agency and focused on main river schemes and were considered a good, consistent delivery model.
- Leeds had delivered FAS1, with notable alleviation and flood defence projects completed or in development at Otley, Farnley Beck, Wortley and Meanwood, Potternewton and Wharfedale.
- The Farnley Beck scheme cost was approximately a £1.5million investment and focused on de-culverting.
- The Sheepscar Beck scheme was due to be completed in Autumn 2024, with funding provided by a range of parties which had been complicated as there were over 1,000 owners of the beck who owned adjacent land; repairs were also complex as the original brickwork was bespoke and some of the beck was in a conservation area.
- The cost for the first stage of the Wortley Beck scheme was to be approximately £20million, with substantial work required. A number of options were under consideration, including a large storage reservoir.

- The goal of the strategy was to target the areas of greatest risk. Funding challenges were noted with reliance on partner and external funding acquisition which required business cases and monitoring of changes in grant funding rules.
- A video link was shared to Members to watch outside the meeting, which detailed the experience of flood victims in Otley and the difference a flood defence scheme made for a community.
- An asset management team monitored completed flood defence infrastructure, this included technical contracted workers and innovative kit.
- An operational base was located at Stourton, including an incident room to monitor flood incidents as well as storing critical equipment and spares.
- Communication and engagement work was through campaigns, community events and there was an information board to provide clarity on the scheme in Otley.
- Leeds FAS was done in a phased approach, with FAS2 nearing completion which was to provide a defence against a 1:200 year flood event, which would be comparable to the Boxing Day 2015 flood. A lot of the infrastructure were considered active structures which required intense monitoring.
- Calverley Flood Storage, and other nearby works, were developed in partnership with Bradford Council and protected the railway line near Kirkstall Forge.
- An animation was shown to Members to display how Calverley Flood Storage operated, holding back up to 1million meters² of water from housing and infrastructure and flooding into areas closer to the city centre. The work included tree planting, a large embankment and automated gates. Stringent carbon targets had been set against the scheme as carbon mitigation saved money in the long term and also the effects of responding to severe flood events had high carbon output.
- Nature based solutions, including, soil aeration, hedge and tree planting, glass conversion, buffer strips and earth bunds, complemented engineering works by reducing water flow. By 2027, 750,000 trees were to be planted, in partnership with the Forest Association.
- Long term flood risk protection measures were the development of the Aire Resilience Company, in partnership with the Rivers Trust, aspiring to become a legal entity, leveraging private business investment.

During the discussions the following matters were considered:

- Partnership working models and funding allocation to bring forward schemes was queried, in response it was outlined that the service held responsibility and led the Leeds FAS, with powers granted by the Environment Agency. The programme board involved the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water and Network Rail who all contribute towards funding, with staff secondment arrangements between agencies.
- Funding arrangements were mixed, through Environment Agency grants, CIL allocation and WYCA business growth. Projects over £100million required approval from the Treasury.
- The river Wharfe catchment began near Tadcaster, determined by the Environment Agency, and the Council had tied into this model, with developments at Harewood Bridge and in Otley and also participated in the

Wharfedale Flooded Communities programme to determine where further infrastructure was required, as well as involvement with the Wharfe Flood Partnership.

- Beaver introduction projects were in discussion, with an event planned in September 2024 to discuss options with relevant partners. Introduction was being considered in the Aire valley at Broughton Hall in Skipton.
- Difficulties contacting Yorkshire Water to resolve issues were noted and whether Elected Members could have a direct contact for senior officers was queried. In response it was outlined that a phone call was required for Yorkshire Water to log issues and Members were welcome to email the Flood Risk Management team to pass on information. Improving lines of communication were raised at partnership meetings.
- Following the flooding in Horsforth on the 6th of May 2024, proposals for improving drainage, gullies and grates to limit future impacts were complicated as surface water fed into combined sewers and may cause issues elsewhere. A solution was suggested as consideration of where excess water will travel to in order to manage the separation of systems. This issue was agreed to be discussed outside of the meeting.
- Although it was expected for the West and Northwest of Leeds to experience higher rainfall, given its geography and topography, the level of rainfall had been unprecedented in comparison to previous data. The reason for this was unclear but it was suspected to be changing weather patterns caused by climate change.
- The 1:200 year flood incident measure was explained as the likelihood of an incident occurring based against recent data and the measures needed to be in place to limit impact. It was noted that standards and measures were changing due to the cascading effect of climate change and a more dynamic approach was needed. The Boxing Day 2015 flood was considered a 1:200 year flood incident.
- Funding for the Aire Resilience Company and maintaining future nature based solution provision was not yet secured and would have to be sought through private and public funding streams. Funding for this mitigation work was hoped to become independent and long term but there were no set mechanisms for accessing funding. This topic was to be examined further by the Committee through a future item or at a Working Group.
- The services input into the planning process for new developments in areas considered high risk, was providing technical appraisals for flood risk assessments, also considering any impact of proposed tree removal.
- Under the Land Drainage Act, removing trees within 9 meters of watercourse required permission from the relevant authority, which in Leeds would be the Council. Any unconsented removal of trees was enforced by the Environment Act, overseen by Environmental Enforcement.
- It was confirmed that the Otley scheme was based against a 1:25 flood event model, the overall cost and the works required for added protection was to have a large impact on resident amenity as high walls were needed. There was the ability to revisit plans at this location, and also measures that could be implemented upstream, as there were wide implications if severe flooding occurred in the future.

- Existing flood defence infrastructure was thought to have reduced the impact of high rain fall and the occurrence of severe flooding. The city centre scheme had been used nine times since its completion. A communication had been sent to Elected Members in January 2024 that a serious flood could be expected which did not come to fruition likely due to both existing infrastructure and luck.
- As the Council had received blame for the flood in Horsforth in May 2024, the ongoing work of the service and the multitude of factors that lead to a flood was to be communicated back to residents, along with the fact that defences and drainage involved a wide scope of agencies.
- Some Members had visited the site at Calverley Flood Storage and it was welcome to see the bat houses that had been included in the scheme to promote wildlife.
- Better links with partners was required to provide suitable defences for businesses and communities along the river Wharfe as there was some concern raised for the lack of plans and upstream prevention measures in place. This was agreed to be reported to the Wharfe Flood Partnership.
- Members thanked the service or their significant, highly important work.

RESOLVED – That the report, along with Members comments, be noted, to help inform implementation of the Strategy and its further development to be considered at the next strategy update due to take place in 2025.

22 Date and Time of Next Meeting

As the Chair had requested to seek holding physical meetings where possible, the Governance Officer agreed to look into suitable meeting dates to be held in the Civic Hall, in consultation with Members.

A visit to the Arium was scheduled for Members, with a diary invite to be sent out in due course.

RESOLVED – To note the date and time of the next meeting as Monday 23rd September 2024 at 9.30am.

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Leeds Household Waste and Recycling Collection Strategy Update

Date: 19th September 2024

Report of: Chief Officer (Environmental Services)

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Environment and Communities)

Will the decision be open for call in?

Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?

Yes No

Brief Summary

This report provides the Scrutiny Board with a further update on relevant national policy, strategy and legislation; together with a draft strategy for managing household waste in Leeds in a way that meets national Simpler Recycling requirements and helps Leeds residents to reduce the amount of waste they produce that is not re-used or recycled.

In particular, the report seeks the views of the Board in relation to the proposed way forward for kerbside collection of household waste in Leeds, through a “3-bin” approach to provide residents with the opportunity to recycle more at home without the need for more bins.

Recommendations

The Board is asked to note and comment on:

- a) the updated national position in relation to implementing the national Resource and Waste Strategy, revised/new recycling collection requirements set out in the Environment Act (2021) and the associated Simpler Recycling policy.
- b) progress made so far in Leeds in meeting the Simpler Recycling requirements; including the recent introduction of glass bottles and jars as items now accepted in the green, household recycling bins;
- c) the option presented for a “3 bin” approach for inclusion within the Leeds Household Waste Strategy, including adding food waste to the list of items allowed in the brown bin.

What are the main issues to be aware of and consider?

1. Regular updates on the development of an updated Waste Strategy for Leeds have been provided to the Scrutiny Board, as summarised in Appendix A.
2. Following a Working Group meeting in October 2022, at the November meeting, the Board agreed that “...any future Leeds Waste Strategy would need to ensure it fulfilled the requirements of the Government’s National Resources and Waste Strategy”.
3. At the July 2023 meeting, a detailed update was provided that included the latest position of the national strategy and implementation of the associated Environment Act (2021). This included news of the delay of the Extended Producer Responsibility scheme for packaging to 2024, food waste collections to 2025, and Deposit Return Scheme for plastic and metal drinks containers to late 2025 (all these have since been pushed back at least a further year by Government; see section 8 for the revised implementation dates).

Updated national context.

4. The national Resource and Waste Strategy was published for consultation in 2019.
5. The related Environment Act (2021) includes the following key sections that will have the greatest impact of how household waste is managed:
 - Producer responsibility obligations and responsibilities for disposal costs.
 - Deposit return schemes.
 - Separate collection of household waste.
6. Each of these key sections have significant implications in terms of new ways waste will be collected and processed which will impact on the consumer/householder, the producers of packaging, the bodies that collect waste (e.g. councils), those who sort the waste and those who actually recycle/use the separated materials.
7. The Act included a requirement for councils to offer separate (i.e. not in the black bin) kerbside collections of the following waste streams:
 - (a) glass (a new requirement);
 - (b) metal;
 - (c) plastic;
 - (d) paper and card;
 - (e) food waste (a new requirement);
 - (f) garden waste (a new requirement).
8. The Act allows for the option of combining (co-mingling) the collection of items (a) to (d), and items (e) and (f). However, it stipulates that food waste must be collected at least once a week.
9. Initially titled “Consistency of Household Recycling”, the Government’s overarching policy was relaunched in late 2023 as “Simpler Recycling”.
10. The Government has made clear through the new Simpler Recycling approach that it expects councils to minimise the number of different bins that households have to sort their waste into, and to keep residual waste collections to at least fortnightly.

11. In [May 2024, DEFRA published further updates and announced that:](#)

“Today the government has set out how the drive to better and simpler recycling will work, listening to councils who want to avoid streets cluttered with bins while doing what is best for the local community. Councils will be allowed to collect plastic, metal, glass, paper and card in one bin in all circumstances. Similarly, food and garden waste will also be allowed to be co-collected.

This will reduce confusion over what items can be recycled, as people will no longer have to check what their specific council will accept for recycling. It will also reduce complexity for councils and other waste collectors, ensuring they retain the flexibility to collect recyclable waste in the most appropriate way for their local areas.”

“This means that local authorities and other waste collectors in England will provide a minimum of three bins to households: residual (black bin bag), dry recyclable and organic waste.”

12. In May 2024 the Government also published the much delayed statutory commencement regulations/statutory instrument relating to the Managing Waste sections of the Act which set out commencement dates as follows:

Waste stream(s)	New requirements by:
Glass, metal, paper and card, plastics (except plastic film*)	31 March 2026
Food	31 March 2026
Garden	31 March 2026
New requirements for minimum collections of residual waste	31 March 2026
Plastic/metal drinks containers (national Deposit Return Scheme)	October 2027

(* Plastic film to be added to the plastics waste stream by 31 March 2027)

13. The latest position for each of the key national mechanisms to enable the funding and delivery of the above requirements is:

a. Packaging reforms: Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):

The implementation of the proposed scheme has been put back a further year to 2025. However, DEFRA has continued the development of the fee-based scheme, and producers of packaging are now required to provide data/returns to DEFRA on the amounts and type of packaging they are using. Fees will be payable from 2025 and DEFRA has informed Councils to expect notification in November 2024 of the indicative amount of on-going revenue funding they will receive from 2025/26 to pay for the collection, processing and recycling of packaging (including glass). Under the plans, fees charged to producers will be modulated to further incentivise change and payments to councils subject to efficiency and effectiveness challenge.

b. Food waste:

In March 2024, DEFRA provided councils with a share of the one-off capital allocation to support the purchase of infrastructure required to collect food waste, i.e. refuse collection vehicles, bins and caddies. Leeds has been allocated £7.1m. The Government has committed to providing councils with ongoing, new burden revenue funding to pay for the collection of food waste, but has yet to provide any information on how much that would be. An update is expected

following the Spending Review in November 2024. In terms of collection models/options, as highlighted in sections 5-8, the expectation from DEFRA has moved towards the comingled collection of organic garden and food waste where that makes the most sense locally and supports the Simpler Recycling aims. The future requirement remains for a weekly collection where food waste is included, despite fortnightly comingled garden/food collections being successfully delivered already in places such as Hull, East Riding and the Manchester area.

c. Plastic and metal drinks containers: Deposit Return Scheme (DRS):

The scheme will be for single use, polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic bottles and steel/aluminium cans (restricted to bottles/cans of between 50ml-3 litres). Indications are that DEFRA are looking at a deposit value in the region of 20p per container/item. As well as improving recycling rates for these items, the main aim is to reduce litter, and to combat the effects of plastic pollution. In terms of impact for Leeds, we will need to factor in the reduction in plastic bottles and drinks cans from our green bins and the effect on collections, as well as the net cost of the recycling materials sorting contract and future EPR payments. DEFRA has announced the further delay of the scheme, pushing back the planned implementation to October 2027.

14. As the above updates demonstrate, there still remain uncertainties about timescales and a critical lack of detail about the revenue funding to be allocated to councils to meet new burdens.

What does this mean for household waste in Leeds?

15. A paper outlining an option for a “3 bin” solution as part of a Household Waste Strategy for Leeds is provided in Appendix A.

16. It proposes an incremental way forward to improve the options available to residents to recycle more from their home through their kerbside collections, but in a way that makes that is simple as possible for the customer and minimises the need for more bins or containers inside and outside the house.

17. The proposed way forward would include the addition of food waste to the items allowed in the brown bin, in a similar way glass has recently been added to the green bin list. This would be part of a incremental approach towards all households being able to recycle food waste, starting with the opportunity for up to 80% of households to begin the habit of recycling food waste and without the need to present another, separate bin or container.

18. Crucially, the proposals would lead to the council meeting the new, national Simpler Recycling requirements, improve recycling rates, be deliverable within the resources known to be available at each stage and make the most of existing resources and infrastructure.

19. The proposals would result in the following kerbside bin collections in Leeds:

Bin colour	Waste accepted	Frequency
BLACK	Non-recyclable household, residual waste	90% fortnightly

		10% weekly
GREEN	Glass, metal, paper and card, plastics	90% fortnightly 10% weekly
BROWN	Garden and food waste	80% fortnightly* 20% weekly (food only)

* note: current Simpler Recycling requirements are for the weekly collection of waste with food waste included in it. The frequency of comingled garden and food collections in Leeds will be reviewed and increased to weekly once sufficient funding is confirmed and the necessary infrastructural and contractual changes can be made. The proposals assume that garden waste collections will remain free in Leeds.

20. The appended paper provides a possible timeline, including modelling assumptions for waste flow changes and impact on recycling rates, towards meeting the full Simpler Recycling requirements. The timeline can be summarised as follow:

Waste stream(s)	New requirements by:	Achieved in Leeds by:
Glass, metal, paper and card, plastics (except plastic film*)	31 March 2026	1 st August 2024
Food	31 March 2026	April 2025 - 80% of households to have fortnightly collections offered; April 2026 – solution for remaining 20% of households 2027 onwards – all collections increased to weekly
Garden	31 March 2026	April 2025 - 100% of households that have a sufficient size garden/demand.
New requirements for minimum collections of residual waste	31 March 2026	Leeds already delivers a minimum of fortnightly residual bin collections..
Plastic/metal drinks containers (national Deposit Return Scheme)	October 2027	Subject to implementation of the national scheme,

21. Information previously provided to the Board showed how waste flows would be affected as the different elements of the Simpler Recycling requirements are delivered. The latest modelling as referred to in the appendix predicts that the amount of residual waste presented in the black bins across Leeds would reduce by around 20% when glass and food waste are removed. There would a further, albeit lesser, effect when the national Deposit Return Scheme is introduced for plastic and metal drinks containers, probably reducing green bin (and litter bin) contents more than the black bins.

22. In terms of glass, the Council recently took the opportunity to add this to the list of materials accepted in the Leeds green, recycling bin. This means that Leeds is already

fully meeting the Simpler Recycling requirements in relation to kerbside collection of the specified dry recyclable materials (i.e. glass, metal, paper and card, and plastics).

23. The first collection of glass in the green bin were made on August 1st 2024. An analysis of the first few weeks of data show that the amount of waste being collected in the green bins has risen by just over 30%, with about 700 tonnes of glass being separated and sent for remelt and recycling in August. We would expect that figure to rise as more residents become accustomed to using the green bin for glass and we do further targeted work to change behaviours focussing on those residents still using their black bin for glass.
24. Further analysis will be done once more data has been gathered, and over a longer period. This will tell us how much of the glass in the green bin has been diverted from bottle banks and how much from the black bins. We will also have better information on how much of the sorted glass is remelted and recycled.
25. As the Simpler Recycling requirements include for councils to deliver a minimum fortnightly residual bin collection, the predicted future reduction in black bin waste will mean a redesign of the routes based on the revised, reduced tonnages whilst maintaining the minimum, fortnightly scheduled collection. Ideally this would be implemented at the same time as food waste collections are introduced, with food waste currently accounting for 29% of black bin contents/tonnages.

RECOMMENDATIONS

26. The Board is asked to note and comment on:
- a) the updated national position in relation to implementing the national Resource and Waste Strategy, revised/new recycling collection requirements set out in the Environment Act (2021) and the associated Simpler Recycling policy;
 - b) progress made so far in Leeds in meeting the Simpler Recycling requirements, including the recent introduction of glass bottles and jars as items now accepted in the green, household recycling bins;
 - c) the option presented for a “3 bin” approach for inclusion within the Leeds Household Waste Strategy, including the addition of food waste as an item allowed in the brown bin.

DRAFT LEEDS HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS STRATEGY

CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY BOARD ON A “3-BIN” APPROACH TO MEETING NATIONAL SIMPLER RECYCLING REQUIREMENTS

Introduction

The main ways the council currently helps residents to responsibly dispose of their household/domestic waste and recycle where possible are:

- Kerbside collection through the refuse service – residual waste (black bins), dry recyclable waste including glass (green bins) and free garden waste (brown bins).
- Eight free-to-use Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs) open 7 days a week all year round.
- A network of bring banks, mainly for glass but also small electrical items, batteries, textiles and cardboard.
- One free annual collection of unwanted bulky items per household, with further collections bookable for a small fee and further free collections for households in receipt of housing support.
- Operation of the online Leeds Accredited Waste Carrier scheme, enabling residents to find responsible and council checked local waste removal companies/people.

In addition, the council directly supports the reuse of unwanted items to avoid them becoming waste in a number of ways, for example:

- Partnership with Revive for 3 dedicated re-use shops at Kirkstall and Seacroft HWRCs and in Hunslet.
- Payments to local re-use charities to support them in the collection and re-use and resale of unwanted furniture and other household items, diverting them from waste disposal.
- Contract with Seagull Paints to collect and recycle paint from the HWRCs.

This paper focusses on the kerbside collection of household waste. It proposes an incremental way forward to improve the options available to residents to recycle more from their home through their kerbside collections, but in a way that makes that as simple as possible for the customer and minimises the need for more bins and sorting of waste materials in the house. Crucially, the proposals will lead to the council meeting the new, national Simpler Recycling requirements, improve recycling rates, be deliverable within the resources known to be available at each stage and make the most of existing resources and infrastructure.

National context:

The Government has made clear through its new Simpler Recycling approach that it expects councils to minimise the number of different bins households must sort their waste into, and to keep residual waste collections to at least fortnightly. Following consultations that started back in 2019 and the approval of the Environment Act (2021), DEFRA announced in May 2024:

“The government has set out how the drive to better and simpler recycling will work, listening to councils who want to avoid streets cluttered with bins while doing what is best for the local community. Councils will be allowed to collect plastic, metal, glass, paper and card in one bin in all circumstances. Similarly, food and garden waste will also be allowed to be co-collected. This will reduce confusion over what items can be recycled, as people will no longer have to check what their specific council will accept for recycling. It will also reduce complexity for councils and other waste collectors, ensuring they retain the flexibility to collect recyclable waste in the most appropriate way for their local areas.”...“This means local authorities and other waste collectors in England will provide a minimum of 3 bins to households: residual, dry recyclable and organic waste.”.

Simpler Recycling delivers the updated waste collection and recycling requirements set out in the Environment Act (2021). We still await publishing of the final exemptions and statutory guidance for Simpler Recycling, together with critical detail on the promised funding. However, on May 14th 2024 the Government published the

much delayed statutory commencement regulations/statutory instrument relating to the Managing Waste sections of the Act which set out commencement dates as follows:

Waste stream(s)	New requirements by:
Glass, metal, paper and card, plastics (except plastic film*)	31 March 2026
Food	31 March 2026
Garden	31 March 2026
New requirements for minimum collections of residual waste	31 March 2026
Plastic/metal drinks containers (national Deposit Return Scheme)	October 2027

(* Plastic film to be added to the plastics waste stream by 31 March 2027)

Local Context:

In terms of what that means locally, Leeds has a number of challenges and opportunities in deciding on the best “Simpler Recycling” delivery option for its residents.

Practical challenges for bin storage and presentation:




































Leeds is a large city, both in population and geography. As well as inner city and suburban areas, it has many towns and villages. Many estates/neighbourhoods have very limited space for households to store bins, together with shortage of space/places to present bins for collection without causing obstructions on pavements. There are huge areas of terraced housing in places such as Harehills, Headingley, Hyde Park and Beeston, with no driveways and small or non-existent garden/yard space. Estates such as Miles Hill, Cottingley and Holt Park have been designed and built with little regard to how refuse wagons can safely manoeuvre to access bins for collection. Cars compete in such areas for precious parking space making access even more challenging. Leeds also has numerous high-rise flats and expanding city centre living, mostly served by large numbers of communal bins. Some of the villages in the outer areas of the city present similar presentation and access challenges.

The Council has invested in recent years in ways to improve access to bins and therefore the reliability of collections, including use of new Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) and the planned trebling of streets served by smaller, “hard to access” refuse collection vehicles.

The capacity for additional bins/collections is therefore already limited, with households perhaps better served by having the option of an extra recycling (green) bin rather than being required to have additional colour bin(s) and further collection days.

Three bin solution – the options:

Leeds has opportunity to build on the existing infrastructure and approach to how household waste is collected across the city, potentially to deliver the 3-bin and customer-based solution aspired to through Simpler Recycling. This could be delivered as shown in the table below:

	Option 1a	Option 1b	Option 2	Dense Housing Areas Option 1	Dense Housing Areas Option 2
Residual	 Fortnightly	 Fortnightly	 Fortnightly	 Weekly	 Weekly
Glass					
Plastics					
Metals					
Card/ Paper	 Fortnightly	 Fortnightly	 Fortnightly	 Weekly	 Weekly
Garden			 Fortnightly and Seasonally (option to charge)		
Food	 Fortnightly (all year around)	 Weekly (all year around)	 Weekly	 Weekly	 Weekly

There are three significant, interdependent factors that will ultimately determine which option the Council chooses, and whether an incremental approach to get to that option is required. These are:

- **Funding.**

Any changes/additions need to be affordable within existing budget provision plus any new burdens/EPR funding promised by Government. The additional funding required will be both one off capital (purchase of wagons, bins, depot expansion etc) and on-going revenue (operational/running costs such as staff/crews, fuel, net sorting and disposal costs for dry recyclables). Although specific capital funding for food waste collections has been confirmed and allocated (LCC has £7.14m which can be spent on fleet, bins and caddies), there is no budget approved by Treasury for the ongoing revenue requirements for food collections from 2026/27 and DEFRA have said that will be subject to future Government Spending Reviews. DEFRA have announced they will be distributing to councils a share of transitional funds from 2024/25. This should be paid in 2024/25 and, although no detail has been provided by DEFRA, we would expect to be able to use this to offset some of the set-up costs for Year 1 (e.g. caddy liners, bin/caddy delivery costs, and project management costs).

- **Depot requirements.**

Depending on the option(s) chosen, there could be a requirement for significant additional fleet/staff and therefore additional depot and welfare facilities. For example, to move to weekly food collection for the whole city would need accommodation for up to an extra 30 refuse collection vehicles/crews. Whereas an interim solution of a fortnightly co-mingled food and garden waste collection would require only 4 extra vehicles/crews by utilising existing infrastructure and could be accommodated within the existing depot and welfare/office facilities at Newmarket House.

- **Fleet requirements.**

If a significant number of new collection vehicles were required (e.g. +30 for separate weekly food collections or weekly co-mingled food/garden collections) then a full order could not be placed until the required ongoing revenue/operational funding was confirmed by Government and a completion date for the extra depot facilities needed was confirmed. For food only collections a different type of refuse collection vehicle would be required, which would make fleet management more costly. For a comingled collection, a standard RCV could be ordered/used using the existing DEFRA capital allocation.

Preferred 3-bin option: Potential implementation plan/timeline (based on modelling of Option 1a moving to 1b):

This implementation plan and timeline (as shown in the appended table) sets out how it is possible to move incrementally to a position in Leeds where all the Environment Act (2021) and Simpler Recycling requirements are met by 2026 in terms of the collection of the 6 waste streams separate from the residual (black) bin; and through the three existing coloured bins (black, green and brown).

The only requirement that would not be met by 2026 would be for food to be collected weekly; instead the majority of the city would have its food collected fortnightly at this stage, in the same brown bin as the garden waste.

The final incremental phase of the plan would be developed to address this when Government funding for food collection is clear and the viability of weekly co-mingled collections better known/understood. There are a number of authorities across the country who already successfully collect garden and food waste together on a fortnightly basis and where it is shown to be effective.

Information and guidance on how Hull City Council currently delivers a fortnightly garden and food waste collection service through its brown bins can be found at [Hull brown bin recycling](#). Manchester's guidance can be found at [Manchester garden and food waste collections](#) and East Riding's at [East Riding brown bins](#).

This plan would result in significant reduction in the amount of residual (black bin) waste due to the transfer of glass and food to the green and brown bins. This is likely to enable the collections routes for black/green bins to

be reduced, and a preference for the implementation of revised residual/black bin routes to coincide with the introduction of co-mingled garden/food waste collections.

The customer benefits/headlines from the above approach would be:

- In 2025 the number of households with a brown bin collection would increase from 219k (60%) to 291k (80%).
- From 2025 the 291k households with a brown bin would receive a year-round fortnightly collection of garden waste and have the option to add food waste to the bin.
- From 2026, the 77k households who do not have a brown bin will be eligible for a weekly food waste collection should they wish one (subject to economic viability).
- From 2026 Leeds will be delivering the full set of the 7 waste streams required for collection by Simpler Recycling for all of the city with a max of 3 bins required by a household (with the outstanding requirement to move the co-mingled food waste to weekly).
- Leeds will continue to collect residual waste (black bins) on a minimum fortnightly basis, with weekly collections in the areas of most densely populated housing stock.

Financial implications:

Charging for garden waste collections.

A significant consequence of the Option 1 is that the co-mingling of food and garden waste in the brown bin initially appeared to restrict the ability for the Council to charge for the collection of garden waste. However, DEFRA have since indicated that there may be circumstances in which the garden provision within a co-mingled garden/food service could be chargeable, presumably with a free, food only collection service available to non-subscribers. For the purpose of this option and the waste flow and financial modelling involved, it is assumed that Leeds will continue to provide a free garden waste service.

Affordability.

The incremental changes required to move to meeting the Simpler Recycling requirements in full, must be achieved within the resources available at each stage.

As already stated, the most significant annual funding required to ensure sustainable affordability are the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) payments and, critically, the Food Waste new burdens funding. DEFRA have indicated that information will be provided on this funding in November 2024, following the Spending Review.

In the meantime, any further progress in delivery is reliant on using existing resources and infrastructure, and savings forecast to be achieved through the operational/financial modelling.

The modelling assumes that we will receive the ongoing new burdens funding committed to by DEFRA from 2026/27 for the cost of food waste related collections; and so the cost/funding related to how the remaining 20% of households receive a food collection service from 2026/27 and any future cost to increase co-mingled food/garden waste collections from fortnightly to weekly will be met in full as a new burden.

Increase in recycling rate:

The model for Option 1a (the 3-bin solution) forecasts the following improvements in the Leeds recycling rates:

- Current baseline rate = 35.4%
- Further expansion of fortnightly green bin collections and new weekly green bin collections = 36%
- Introduction of glass to the green bin = 39.2%
- Introduction of food to the brown bin and expand to all year round/to 72k extra households = 50.2%
- Introduction of separate food collections to remaining households = 52.3%

Risks/other considerations:

1. The affordability of the option to add food waste to the items allowed in brown bins from 2025/26 includes the assumption that the delivery of new 23 RCVs can be made in time.
2. The model makes a number of assumptions re the amount of food waste that will be put in brown bins and the how the expansion of the brown bins to 291k households and all year round will affect waste tonnages etc. A key assumption that has the greatest impact on the level of savings is that about 50% of the estimated food waste currently in the black bins will be put in the brown bin instead. Based on the best quality data comparator we have of a council who is delivering a fortnightly, comingled garden/food collection, this seems a realistic assumption. However it should be noted that the disposal costs would increase/decrease by approximately £0.4m for every 10% difference in that 50% assumption of the waste moving from black to brown bins.
3. The model assumes an overall reduction in black bin waste of around 20% (when added to the lesser effect of glass moving to the green bin). This will require the AWC routes to be redesigned on these new forecast tonnages from March/April 2025. It is assumed this will result in a reduction of 3 AWC routes, the savings for which will help fund the co-mingled garden/food waste collections.
4. The plan assumes that from 2026/27 we introduce a weekly separate food collection offer to the remaining 77k households without a brown bin, which includes households in flats/high-rise/terraced housing. The financial modelling assumes this has no net cost to LCC. Once funding has been announced by DEFRA, we can look at the options for how this is delivered, and whether that includes consideration of procuring this service.
5. DEFRA are aware of our preferred phased approach and we have sought assurances about their support for introducing fortnightly food waste collections as a step toward eventual full compliance with Simpler Recycling as a practical and financial necessity.
6. Due to the expected movement/change in tonnages, it would be necessary to coincide the introduction of co-mingled garden and food waste (brown bin) collections with the implementation of redesigned black and green bin routes citywide.

POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINES FOR 3-BIN SOLUTION TO DELIVER SIMPLER RECYCLING IN LEEDS

THREE BIN SOLUTION (BLACK/GREEN/BROWN)												
Key dates Action	Env Act 2021 Required Waste Streams						City re- cycle rate (%)	Extra RCVs needed	Key assumptions made in modelling			
	Green bin				Brown bin				Black Residual	Tonnage changes	Yield assumptions	
	Glass	Plastic	Metal	Card	Food							Garden
Fortnight					Weekly							
2024 - January Baseline position							219k households (Mar-Nov)		35.4	0	Recycling changes based on 23/24 full year tonnages.	
2024 – Mar-Jun 12k to AWC 20k to weekly green/black							219k households (Mar-Nov)		36	0	Extra 1,955t/year diverted from black to green	12k props increase in recycling yield to match AWC. 20k props increased to 60% capture rate of recyclates.
2024 - August Add glass to green bin							219k households (Mar-Nov)		39.2	0	9.119t/year of glass from black to green bin (80% capture rate). 1,149t existing glass in green bin becomes recycling.	100% of the glass is recycled. 70% of the glass is remelted
2025 - March Allow food in the brown bin, collect all year round and expand service from 60% to 80% of households.					291k households co-mingled collections		Increase by 72k to 291k households (all year round)	20% less black bin waste – remove 3 routes	50.2	22 (an increase of 4 on current brown bin fleet) (DEFRA capital allocation)	24,536t/year of food diverted from black bins to brown bins. Extra 10,093t/year of garden, based on 7,084 for additional props, 3,009t for Dec-Feb collections (8,589t diverted from black to brown, 752t 'new waste', 752t from HWRCs)	Extra 77k props with brown bin. Assumes 25% of the +3 months garden waste is diverted from HWRCs, 50% from black bins & remaining 25% is 'new waste'. Garden waste from new props (excl. the additional 3 months) is diverted from residual. Food assumes 84 kg/hh/yr diverted from residual.
2026 – by March Offer weekly food only to non-garden waste households.					291k households co-mingled collections	77k households food only in brown bin	291k Households (all year round)		52.3	Unknown at this stage (DEFRA)	6,522/year of food diverted from black to brown	Assumes 84kg/hh/yr food waste yield per household with a x% take up rate.
2027 onwards* Move remaining food collections to weekly					Weekly co-mingled and/or separate food bin collection to all 368k props		291k house holds		?	Unknown at this stage (DEFRA)	Further modelling on option to increase co-mingled collections to weekly to be undertaken with learning expected from introduction of fortnightly collections and from weekly trials by other councils already delivering fortnightly co-mingled garden/food collections.	

*A date to move to 100% weekly food collections is not possible to estimate until sufficient detail and commitment is received from DEFRA in relation to funding for the necessary additional depot facilities to cope with the required increase in fleet and staffing, and the annual operation/running costs for the weekly collection of food waste. The depot (capital) and annual collection cost (revenue) funding would need to be confirmed at least 2 years in advance of a possible start date to allow a site to be developed, fleet procured and staffing recruited etc. The annual revenue funding would need to be approved by HM Treasury, presumably as part of the national Spending Review/Budget process. DEFRA have estimated the national requirement to be about £1b/year.

Appendix B: Timeline of updates to Scrutiny on the development of the Waste Strategy

- As part of the Board's programme of work in 2022/23, a joint inquiry into Waste Services was undertaken with Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board.
- Most of the detail of this work was conducted through a joint working group, which reported to the respective Boards.
- The detail provided to the working group included information on the carbon impact of how environmental services are delivered in Leeds and the results of a comprehensive composition analysis of the types of waste being presented by residents in their black and green bins. Guest representatives from the materials recovery/sorting industry (HW Martins) also provided evidence and advice to the working group on challenges they face in sorting different materials and sourcing sustainable recycling markets.
- The Board also received updates on the national Resources and Waste Strategy (RWS) and the Environment Act (2021), and related consultation exercises being undertaken by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).
- At the Board meeting in March 2022, Members agreed that *"Given the outstanding information required to inform further scrutiny of the future design of local waste services it is recommended that the successor board progresses scrutiny of these matters in the next municipal year"*.
- Following discussion at the October 2022 meeting of the working group, Members agreed at the November 2022 meeting of the Board that *"...any future Leeds Waste Strategy would need to ensure it fulfilled the requirements of the Government's National Resources and Waste Strategy – the final details of which have yet to be confirmed"*.
- The report to the July 2023 meeting provided a further update on the critical progress of the RWS and requirements set out in the Environment Act (2021); in particular the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme, consistency of collections (inc separate food and garden collections) and the proposed national Deposit Return Scheme (DRS).
- The July 2023 report also provided a summary of current national timelines associated with the new requirements.

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Update on nature and tree-planting initiatives in Leeds.

Date: 23rd September 2024

Report of: Chief Officer, Climate, Energy and Green Spaces

Report to: Climate Emergency Advisory Committee

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

Parks and Greenspaces in Leeds make a contribution to mitigating climate change with around 2500 of the 4000 hectares of land managed for public access being either natural or semi natural. Inclusive within this landholding is 16 Local Nature Reserves and 50 Local Wildlife Sites with a wide distribution across all parts of the district. Elsewhere the City Council is in partnership with bodies such as the RSPB to manage significant nature sites such as the 400ha St Aidan's wetland.

In 2019 the council declared a climate emergency with a target of becoming the first net-zero city in the UK, which woodland creation and tree planting in the city will contribute towards. In 2020 the target of creating 1250 hectares of woodland tree canopy over 25 years was agreed at full council. Furthermore, at the beginning of 2024 Executive Board approved the principle of establishing a Special Purpose Vehicle (a Habitat Banking Vehicle (HBV)) so that the sale of habitat units can be undertaken by the HBV in line with the Environment Act 2021.

This report and presentation provides an update on woodland creation and on the programme of tree planting related initiatives. In addition, an update is provided on biodiversity net gain as well as an update on practical initiatives such as the establishment of wildflower areas in collaboration with Butterfly Conservation in Roundhay Park using seed sourced through Natural England in order to provide areas of managed habitat for native butterflies and other invertebrates which links to the conservation work undertaken at Tropical World.

Recommendations

- a) Note the presentations and provide comment.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 This report provides a review of work undertaken linked to woodland creation on Leeds City Council land along with progress on the delivery of BNG investment and the establishment of wildflower meadows linked to conservation priorities at Tropical World.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards Affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 2 It is requested that a regular update is provided on the progression of these initiatives.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 3 Extensive consultation has taken place on each individual scheme.

What are the resource implications?

- 4 There are no direct resource implications as a result of this report.

What are the legal implications?

- 5 There are no direct legal implications as a result of this report.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 6 There are no specific risk management implications as a result of this report.

Does this proposal support the council's 3 Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

7

Options, timescales and measuring success

a) What other options were considered?

- 8 Not applicable.

b) How will success be measured?

- 9 Not applicable.

c) What is the timetable for implementation?

- 10 Not applicable.

Appendices

- 11 None

Background papers

- 12 None.