

# Warwickshire Waste Partnership

Wednesday 18 December 2024

## Minutes

### Attendance

#### Committee Members

Councillor Heather Timms, Chair (WCC)  
Councillor Alison Livesey (RBC)  
Councillor Richard Baxter-Payne (WCC)  
Councillor Lorraine Grocott (SDC)  
Councillor Bhagwant Singh Pandher (WCC)  
Councillor Will Roberts (WDC)  
Councillor Sue Markham (NBBC)

#### Officers

##### North Warwickshire Borough Council (NWBC)

Rob Bellamy, Interim Head of Streetscape

##### Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (NBBC)

Katie Wickett, Neighbourhood Services Contract Manager

##### Rugby Borough Council (RBC)

Claire Owen, Chief Officer for Operations and Traded Services

##### Stratford District Council (SDC)

Craig Bourne, Environmental and Operational Services Manager  
Julie Lewis, Head of Environment and Neighbourhood Services

##### Warwickshire County Council (WCC)

Mark Ryder, Executive Director for Communities  
Andrew Pau, Head of Waste and Country Parks  
Ruth Dixon, Lead Commissioner - Waste Strategy and Contracts  
Tamalyn Goodwin, Waste Strategy and Contracts Manager  
Nicole Conway, Democratic Services Officer

### 1. General

#### (1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Margaret Bell (NWBC), Councillor Tim Sinclair (WCC), Councillor Jill Sheppard (NBBC), Councillor Sarah Millar (WCC). Alastair Blunkett (NBBC), Rachael Savage (RBC) and Zoe Court (WDC).

## **(2) Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

None disclosed.

## **(3) Chair's Announcement**

None.

## **(4) Minutes of the previous meeting, including matters arising**

Minutes from previous meeting 4 September 2024 were approved as being an accurate record. There were no matters arising.

## **2. Waste Management Performance Data Q2 24/25**

Andrew Pau (Head of Waste Management) discussed the report and highlighted the following points:

### Provisional Performance Q1 & Q2 (Household Waste).

The report compared quarters 1 and 2 for this year compared to last year.

Overall, there was an increase of the amount of total household waste managed in quarters one and two when comparing 2023/24 to 2024/25. This was up 1,200 tonnes or 0.9%. This was in line with housing growth.

Residual waste had increased by 500 tonnes. Energy recovery from waste was up by 4,500 tonnes, while landfill was down by almost 4000 tonnes. The aim was to have landfill below 10% and the landfill rate for Warwickshire in 2023/24 was 5.7%, this was in line with national trends.

Recycling and composting figures were steady when comparing the two years. Recycling figures were up while composting numbers were down. It was speculated that this could have been due to the growing season not being as prolific as the previous year. Overall recycling and composting had increased by 700 tonnes and there was no change with the percentage achieved.

### Estimated Performance for year 2024/25 (Household Waste).

This report is a comparison of waste data for all Warwickshire local authorities over the past three years. The amount of predicted 'residual waste' per household 24/25 is predicted to be 414kg with 'all waste' per household predicted at 886kg. This is a lower figure than the previous year even with residential growth. Overall, a good performance. Final audited data for each local authority for the year 2023/24 is expected to be published early in 2025. Projected performance over the whole financial year is expected to be steady.

In response to Mark Ryder, Executive Director for Communities, Andrew Pau advised that the main driver for the large swing between landfill and energy waste was driven by Warwickshire County Council. The council wanted to reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill and that meant maximising the waste being sent to energy recovery. Andrew noted that there were minimum tonnages on the main landfill contract, however this figure was reducing by 10% each year and as that amount reduced, more waste could be moved away from landfill. Andrew continued, advising that the aim was to drive this below 5%. It was noted that landfill would still be required for waste not suitable for energy recovery, such as bulky residual waste from HWRCs.

One of the HWRCs was separating bulky residual waste from black bag residual waste and sending some of the black bag residual waste to energy recovery. Andrew drew attention to the landfill tax increase taking place in April 2025 (a rise of £22.45 per tonne) this change will mean the Council is incentivised not only by environmental factors, but financial factors as well.

In reply to Mark's supplementary question, Andrew advised that there were maximum tonnages on the contracts for the energy recovery facilities. There was some discussion around the W2R energy recovery contract tonnages.

The Partnership noted the Waste Management Performance Data report for the first and second quarters, 2024/2025.

#### **4. Food waste collection plans (inc NBBC waste composition)**

Katie Wickett (Neighbourhood Services Contract Manager, NBBC) discussed food waste collection plans. She advised that monthly meetings had been taking place. NBBC had completed an external review on the introduction of food waste collections. RBC were moving ahead with procurement of food waste vehicles. NBBC carried out a waste composition audit in October 2024 and were waiting for the report. NBBC were in the process of compiling a business case for procuring routing software to support the food waste collections and a report was planned for Cabinet in spring 2025 on procurement of vehicles and food waste containers.

Claire Owen, Chief Officer for Operations and Traded Services at RBC, added that they missed the last meeting and wanted to be included in the procuring of routing software. Katie advised that they were under the impression that each local authority had to go into software procurements separately but would contact Claire offline to discuss further.

Clarification was given by WCC on food waste collection from the incoming government, confirming that previous timetables for the roll out of collection of food waste from April 2026 would continue. It was noted that separate collection of food waste was preferred for energy recovery via anaerobic digestion. Whatever the collection method, weekly food waste collection should be taking place from all households on or soon after April 2026. It was observed that there could be a potential supply chain issue as all authorities around the country are aiming to meet the April 2026 deadline. Rugby BC aimed to proactively address future needs by expediting the procurement of containers and vehicles. It was also confirmed that businesses and schools were expected to separate waste from April 2025 with micro businesses to come online by April 2027.

It was noted that further details would be discussed in a later agenda item.

#### **5. Waste Partners Update**

##### Warwick District Council (WDC)

Councillor Will Roberts added to the report:

- Plastic film collections (plastics including various types of plastic bags, confectionary wrappers and plastic film and lids) at the kerbside had gone well and was popular with residents.

Julie Lewis added that flexible plastics (not just film) had gone very well and Sherbourne were planning to roll this out to all of the county in the future.

### North Warwickshire Borough Council (NWBC)

Rob Bellamy added to the report:

- The optimisation exercise to consider possible collection service changes in light of the Simpler Recycling capital funding had been completed. A report would be finalised in January 2025 and once approved, the recommendations will be implemented later in 2025.
- Ongoing work taking place regarding future food waste collections and a review of the recent simpler recycling documents.
- No further fires from lithium batteries reported therefore the comms seem to be working.

### Rugby Borough Council (RBC)

Claire Owen nothing additional to add to the report.

### Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (NBBC)

Katie Wickett added to the report:

- Subscriptions for garden waste service for February 2025 had opened.
- Waste Operations Manager and Service Manager posts had been filled, commencing in early 2025.
- There was a department name change from Waste and Transport to Neighbourhood Services.

### Stratford District Council (SDC)

Julie Lewis advised there was nothing to add to the report but wanted to draw attention to items from it. It had been two years since the implementation of the 123+ service and it has been very successful. Missed bin collections were low and coffee pod collections (at no cost to the council) continued to be successful.

**Resolved:** The Waste Partnership acknowledged the updates on the various waste activities taking place in each area since the last partnership meeting in September 2024.

## **3. Update on the Resources and Waste Strategy for England**

Ruth Dixon (Lead Commissioner – Waste Strategy and Contracts) shared a presentation with the group and highlighted some areas that have been updated with the change of central government.

Extended Producer Responsibility Ruth gave an overview of this and what this means and highlighted the following points:

- November 2024, all local authorities (LA) were advised of financial compensation from DEFRA, with the first payment for quarter one and two due in November 2025, Quarter 3 due in January 2026 and quarter four due in March 2026.
- LAs will need to feedback via an online form by January 2025.
- Data for future years will be provided by LAs.

### Simpler Recycling:

- April 2025 all business and schools should have food waste collections. Discussions had been taking place with schools and Educaterer's about this.
- April 2026 all households should have a weekly food waste collection without charge. It was noted that biowaste (food and garden) could be collected but no charge could be made.

- LA should have dry recycling collection with a core suite of items that should be collected. Sherbourne already accepts these core items for the whole county. One item to note, flats should be included in this service provision.
- Boroughs had been allocated the capital funding for weekly food collections. Transitional funding and ongoing revenue funding were expected in the coming quarters.
- April 2027 micro-businesses are included.
- April 2027 all households and businesses should have plastic film included in recycling collections.
- Dry recycling guidelines state that paper and cardboard should be collected separately from glass, metal and plastic, unless authorities can demonstrate a reason otherwise, by one of the following – technical, economic, or environmental. WCC feels that the county can meet this on two possibly three of these reasons due to Sherbourne. Each LA is required to complete a mini-TEEP assessment and Sherbourne was willing to assist with this. This was to be kept on file rather than being submitted and it was thought that this would need to be updated annually.

Claire Owen added that it was understood that Sherbourne had engaged an external consultant to write an assessment on behalf of all authorities that use the Sherbourne facility.

#### Deposit Return Scheme, due to commence October 2027.

- This will be for plastic and metal drink containers (not glass) in a range of sizes.
- Deposit to be paid by consumers had not yet been determined.
- When returning receptacles, the deposit will be returned to consumers however it had yet to be decided how this was to be done, possibly as a voucher or back to a credit card.
- All nations to start at the same time, however Wales had indicated they did not want to be included in this.
- A Deposit Management Organisation would be set up and commence in 2025.

#### Other Waste Reforms

- Digital waste tracking, estimated to start April 2025. Paper dockets to be replaced by an online system.
- WCC advised that landfill tax charges will increase by 22% in April 2025. Ways in which to reduce landfill would be explored via the Household Waste Recycling Centres. Emissions Trading Scheme for Energy from Waste was due in 2028. This will mean paying a much higher rate for energy recovery from residual waste therefore how to manage this and reduce residual waste will be explored going forward.

Ruth invited questions from members.

In response Mark Ryder, Ruth advised that the guidance on effectiveness/efficiency wasn't clear nor is how each authority had been categorised. Each LA should check which other local authorities had been included in their category and compare the details (housing stock, deprivation levels etc) and if an LA thinks that they had been incorrectly grouped, to raise this with DEFRA via the feedback form so that adjustments could be made. It had been requested that wording be added to the categories so LAs could better assess their effectiveness and efficiency.

Katie Wickett asked if there was any detail on who would be enforcing Simpler Recycling. Ruth advised that this had been mentioned that it may fall to the LA environmental health team,

however it was suspected that this had not been decided, if they haven't approached LAs yet. Ruth added that she was unsure of any extra resources to fund this. The regulator (whoever that may be) should work with businesses to give advice. It was noted that details were vague at present.

Andrew Pau added, in response to Mark's original question regarding changes and what was needed to be done in response to national waste strategy, that the example set by SDC and WDC should be a benchmark for all LAs. The main priority is the setting up of the weekly food waste collection from April 2026. Food waste collections, along with the comprehensive recycling around the county puts Warwickshire in a stable position. The introduction of the deposit return scheme and impact of the emissions trading scheme will need to be kept in the forefront and adaptations should be made where needed.

Julie Lewis commented on the resources available to carry out the work that would be needed related to pEPR and that SDC had looked that the best way to spend the funding received and therefore would look at creating a post with this funding to do the work that is needed.

Mark Ryder added that he was mindful of the lack of guidance provided on how this new pEPR funding is to be spend. It was a good opportunity to improve services, invest in new technology and/or to make investments to make a difference and drive change.

## **6. Film Collection**

Item deferred to the next meeting.

## **7. Action on Climate change**

The Chair updated the partnership on action on climate highlighting a few occurrences that took place around the county.

## **8. Agenda item suggestions for next meeting**

No additional items were proposed for the next meeting. There would be an opportunity to review the agenda should any new items be raised.

## **9. Dates of future meetings**

The next Warwickshire Waste Partnership meeting will be held on 19 March 2025 via Teams.

The meeting rose at 14:54