



**Melton
Borough
Council**

Scrutiny – Waste Strategy

5 October 2021

Introduction

- Leicestershire Joint Municipal Waste Strategy covered the period up to 2019
- New strategy coincides with national 'refresh' of waste management agenda
- New Environment Bill and Waste Management Plan for England introduces a number of changes with implications for Melton Borough Council and authorities across Leicestershire
- Objectives are twofold:
 - Help the nation meet Climate Change and CO2 objectives
 - Make it easier for residents to reduce, reuse and recycle
- The Leicestershire Waste Strategy is being compiled to include all new legislative requirements and expected statutory duties that will be required over the next 10 years.



The Waste Strategy

Led by Leicestershire County Council, representatives from all districts and boroughs and being compiled by Friths Resource Management, the strategy will cover the following elements:

1. Collection frequencies, methods and materials across the County
2. Disposal options and transportation implications
3. Environmental benefits (Co2 emissions, reduction of waste to landfill, decrease in amount of waste produced)
4. Enhancement of 'circular economy' and inverting the waste hierarchy
5. Affordability and sustainability
6. Flexibility of service and 'future proofing'
7. Engagement and communications



Inverting the pyramid.



Legislative changes

The Environment Bill and Waste Management Plan sets out how waste management can contribute to overarching climate change and environmental objectives.

The changes are driven through the principle of making it easier to reduce, reuse and recycle whilst reducing cost to the public and making it easier to access services.

There are three main proposals with implications for Melton:

1. Free weekly food waste collections
2. Free garden waste collections
3. Separated and standardised recycling collections

Additional factors such as deposit return schemes and increased requirements on packaging manufacturers will impact upon the overall waste arisings.

Weekly food waste

- Driver is to reduce the amount of food waste in the general waste bin and therefore going to landfill
- Weekly collections to reduce odour and for customer convenience
- Evidence shows high tonnage for first 6 months before levelling off as buying habits are changed
- Option of collecting with the same vehicle as general/recycling (new vehicles needed)
- At least three additional rounds required.
- Most likely of the proposed changes to be adopted
- Current timescale is for 2023/24 implementation, but this is unlikely to be maintained by Gov't.



Free garden waste

- Service is currently chargeable in Melton - £75 per bin per year.
- Waste contract ensures fixed income of circa £190k regardless of number of subscriptions
- Service (Green Waste Club) fully run and operated by Biffa
- Government wishes to standardise garden waste collections for customers
- Theory is that large amounts of garden waste going into general waste bin and therefore to landfill.
- Melton currently has around 10,000 subscribers. A free service would need to be offered to all 25,000 properties across the borough.
- Service would require additional two rounds (team and vehicles) to ensure coverage
- Least likely of proposals to be adopted



Redesigned recycling

- Aim of change is to standardise recycling collections nationally
- To ensure there is less differentiation between collection areas.
- Also, aim is to improve the quality (and therefore income) of materials collected
- Will likely involve splitting out the glass/metals/paper into separated waste streams
- Would require implementation of additional receptacles
- Likely to involve significant change for each household
- Casepack contract (LCC) could cause difficulties with this proposal



Financial implications

- Current Government guidance states that New Burdens funding will be available to cover all new costs incurred as a result of the legislation changes
- Significant additional cost burden expected as a result of the proposals:
 - Food waste: £450k p/a plus implementation of £500k
 - Garden waste: Loss of £190k income, additional cost burden of £350k per year
 - Recycling: Cost increased by £200k p/a plus £500k implementation costs
- Cost assumptions are estimates based on current contract costs

MTFS currently has £150k slated for trial of Food Waste



Timescales

- October 2021 – 3rd reading of Environment Bill
- October/November 2021 – Finalised options appraisal for Waste Strategy consultation
- December 2021 – Cabinet report for agreement of options for consultation
- January 2022 – Waste Strategy consultation
- March 2022 – Finalised Waste Strategy
- Early 2022/23 – Environment Bill Receives Royal Ascent
- Q1 2022/23 – Guidance relating to new collection proposals expected



End