

## Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

### **Briefing Note: Thurrock Recycling Rate – Strategic Roadmap to 50% Recycling Rate by 2031: Place O&S Discussions**

**Purpose of the briefing note:** To update the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committee on the Place O&S discussions and recommendations regarding the Thurrock Recycling Rate – Strategic Roadmap to 50% Recycling Rate by 2031 briefing note.

- 1.1 At the Corporate O&S meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025, Members received a report on the Corporate Plan Performance Management and Assurance Report, Quarter 2 2024/25. As part of this report Members queried “how it has been concluded that a 30% recycling target is good and rated green.” Following further discussion, the Committee recommended that the Place O&S Committee consider this area in more detail and report back to Corporate O&S.
- 1.2 Subsequently, a briefing note on this issue was presented to Place O&S on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025. It outlined that the 30% target referred to the Council’s current recycling rate and not the long-term goal of the Council, which was committed to increasing recycling rates in line with the Waste Strategy, with a target of reaching a 50% recycling rate by 2031. The briefing note described the key strategic roadmap to achieving this goal by detailing key initiatives such as weekly food waste collections, improvements at household waste recycling centres (HWRCs), infrastructure upgrades, and community engagement programmes.
- 1.3 The Place O&S Committee, raised the following points:
  - a. Members enquired as to when kerbside collections for small electrical items would be introduced. It was confirmed this would be April 2025.
  - b. Members queried how the proposed re-use shop would work. Members heard how staff at the HWRC would be given training to enable them to look at items and see if they could still have a purpose and therefore if the item was reusable.
  - c. General recycling was discussed as some households overfill their recycling blue bin and therefore use their refuse bin for additional

recycling. It was commented that some families may require a larger bin, however if residents were not recycling, as a final outcome, enforcement matters could be considered.

- d. Members raised concerns as to whether the HWRC would receive an upgrade to the site to enable it to support new roles. Officers explained there were no current plans to upgrade the site, however officers were researching options.

1.4 Overall, the majority of Place O&S Committee Members were satisfied with the roadmap and noted the briefing note.

**For any questions regarding this briefing note, please contact:**

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